



# NEWSLETTER



**Bumper Christmas and New Year Edition!**  
**Sundays 21/28 December 2025 and 4 January 2026**



## HEADLINES

- A Christmas Message from Rev Alan
- Christmas Services
- CAP Thanks
- Prayer for the Week from Rev Alan

*Read on to find out more...*

## SERVICES

**Suns 21/28 Dec**

**Sun 4 Jan - It's Lighthouse week!**



### ST PETER'S CHURCH

8.30am	Morning service (21 <sup>st</sup> ), <b>no service today (28<sup>th</sup>)</b> , morning service (4 <sup>th</sup> )
10.20am	Lighthouse at Parish Centre (4 <sup>th</sup> )
10.30am*	Worship for Everyone service (21 <sup>st</sup> ), parish-wide service (28 <sup>th</sup> )
	adult service with Twinklers (4 <sup>th</sup> )
6.30pm*	Parish-wide candlelit carol service with choir (21 <sup>st</sup> ), <b>no service today (28<sup>th</sup>)</b> , parish-wide service (4 <sup>th</sup> )

### SMITHILLS FELLOWSHIP

10am	Family carol service (21 <sup>st</sup> ), <b>no service today (28<sup>th</sup>)</b> , morning service with Lighthouse (4 <sup>th</sup> )
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### BARROW BRIDGE MISSION

10.30am	Family Nativity service (21 <sup>st</sup> ), <b>no service today (28<sup>th</sup>)</b> , morning service with Lighthouse (4 <sup>th</sup> )
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### ST ANDREW'S HOPE CENTRE

10.30am	Morning service (21 <sup>st</sup> ), informal service (28 <sup>th</sup> ), Communion service (4 <sup>th</sup> )
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\*Livestreamed, search YouTube for 'stpetershalliwell'  
**We are an accessibility-friendly parish**

## Rev Alan writes...

### Merry Christmas!

Merry Christmas and welcome to our Christmas special edition newsletter, the last until Sun 11 Jan, as our staff team take a well-deserved Christmas and New Year break. It's exciting to see how we have

moved forward in so many ways as we have grown

in our commitment to be **Jesus' Family on Jesus' Mission** throughout this year. I'm sure by now that you'll be familiar with our verse for the year: **"As for me and my house we will serve the Lord."** (Joshua 25:15).

I am so encouraged to see how many have stepped up in commitment to serve in the ministry and mission across our parish. We will be launching our verse for 2026 at all our services on Sun 11 Jan. We will celebrate Epiphany on Sun 4 Jan when Jesus was revealed to the world through the visit of the wise men - our reading will be Matthew 2:1-12.

I am full of excitement and expectation for 2026 and believe it will be a significant year in the life of St Peter's Parish. God is building us up and preparing us for greater things. We are growing stronger, we are better equipped, and more deeply committed to play our part in proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ across Bolton through our words and actions.

As I look back with so much gratitude for all we have achieved in 2025, I want to offer a huge **THANK YOU** to you all, and to wish you every blessing this Christmas and for the New Year.

Our Christmas services across all our fellowships continue this weekend and into Christmas week.



Coming up we have our **Parish-wide Candlelit Carol Service** this Sunday, 6.30pm at St Peter's.

Preparations have been going superbly for what



promises to be a magnificent service with a large choir, brass ensemble and instrumentalists enriching our worship as we recall the wonder of Christmas through our readings. Christmas Eve 4pm at St Peter's is our special **Family Christingle Service**. Both services are great opportunities to

invite your family and friends. Read on to find out more about our festive feast of Christmas services across all our fellowships.

## Christmas Services

**Christmas Eve, 4pm at St Peter's** is a special family Christingle service. It is a short and fun-packed service where we all get to construct our own Christingles and join together singing lively Christmas songs and getting in the mood for Christmas Day.

**Christmas Eve, 11.30pm at St Peter's** is our annual Midnight Communion service where we recall the birth of our saviour on this most holy of nights.

On **Christmas Day** we have these wonderful celebrations of Jesus' birth at all our fellowships:

**St Peter's** at 8.30am (Communion) and 10.30am **Smithills Fellowship** at 10am

**St Andrew's and Barrow Bridge** fellowships celebrate together at a special joint service at 10.30am at St. Andrew's (Hope Centre).

On **Sunday 28 Dec**, there will only be one parish-wide service in St Peter's at 10.30am – with Revs Craig Watson and Josh Openshaw - plus an informal 10.30am service at St. Andrew's (Hope Centre). There will not be an 8.30am or 6.30pm service today.



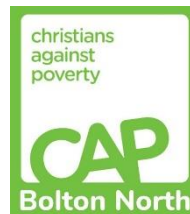
## Christmas Day Collection



The 2025 Christmas Day collection at St Peter's will be used to support the work of Oasis Children's Home in Kampala, Uganda. This is an NGO that envisions the improvement of the

life of orphans and other vulnerable children. Rev Alan has previously visited this orphanage. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this collection. If you prefer to donate online, please use this link <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/29745>.

## CAP Thanks



be delivered to them on Tues 23 Dec, together with some Christmas Dinner on Jesus hampers. We pray these gifts will bless them, help them and remind

them that God knows them, sees them and loves them. **Thank you so much** to my amazing team of supporters and befrienders and everyone who has supported CAP in any way at all during this past year, including donating money, vouchers and gifts.'

Sam Wolstencroft, our CAP Debt Centre Manager, says 'Our CAP clients and families enjoyed a wonderful Christmas party last week and our fab team of wrappers have now prepared bags of presents to



## Smithills Christmas Market

Profits from this year's market are again going to Urban Outreach to support the brilliant Christmas Dinner on Jesus initiative. The amount raised so far is **over £10,000** – Praise the Lord! Thanks for your support.



## Out and About New Year Treasure Hunt

**Sat 3 Jan, 9.30am, meet outside St Peter's**

All welcome. A short, 2-mile walk based on the cultural centre of Bury.

Try your luck with all the

clues. It's great fun for families and you can bring your dog as well! After the walk, why not enjoy lunch at Bury Market and do some New Year shopping? To avoid parking issues, we'll go initially to Radcliffe Metro station and then by tram to central Bury. Info from Dave Moffoot on 07767 055967.



## PrayerZone

**Weds 7 Jan, 7.30pm-8.30pm, St Andrew's (Hope Centre)**

Gather from across the parish for an hour of prayer and worship. Everyone welcome.

## Christian Meditation Group

**Thurs 8 Jan, 2pm-3pm, Parish Centre**

All welcome to join us for this session. More info from [j.wilde.1963@gmail.com](mailto:j.wilde.1963@gmail.com)



## Alpha: New Year Course Coming Up!

**Mon 12 Jan, 8pm-9.30pm, 3 Riversleigh Close, Barrow Bridge**

Join us for this series of group conversations that freely explores the basics of the Christian faith in an open, friendly environment.

Everyone's welcome. No matter your background or beliefs, you're invited. For more info, go to <https://alpha.org.uk/try-alpha>.

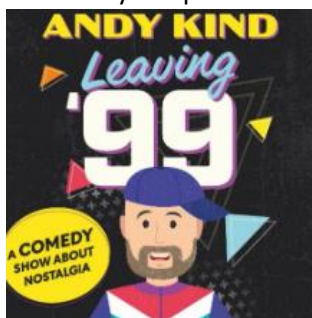
Email [dan@stpetersparish.info](mailto:dan@stpetersparish.info) to register.



## Andy Kind – Quinta 2027 Fundraiser!

**Sat 31 Jan 2026, doors 7pm, Old Links Golf Club (Chorley Old Rd, BL1 5SU)**

Cheer up the New Year and wash away the post-Christmas blues with a fun night out with comedian Andy Kind. Our first fundraiser for Quinta 2027! Tickets (only £15, incl pasties and peas served at 7.30pm) are available from the Parish Office.



## Ugandan Choir: Can you help?

**Thurs 22-Fri 30 Jan 2026**



We're delighted that the AYF choir from Uganda, long-term friends of St Peter's, will be back in Bolton in January. We're expecting 15 in the choir (12 young people aged 17 - 22, plus 3 adults) and need **hosts for their stay and support with transport needs**. Please contact Carolyn Rigby - [secretary@stpetersparish.info](mailto:secretary@stpetersparish.info) / 07790 287862 if you can help. It would be great if, as a parish, we could really get behind this visit and support the huge impact it could have on our Churches and local community. Thanks so much!

## 6.30 Refreshments and Reading Rota

We **urgently** need additional volunteers to join the refreshments rota for the parish-wide 6.30pm service in St Peter's. If you enjoy a brew at this service, please consider if you can serve on this rota and contact Mark at [fogg.mark09@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:fogg.mark09@yahoo.co.uk). Also, if you'd like to go on the 2026 reading rota for this service, please contact Sam at [samwolstencroft@cap.uk](mailto:samwolstencroft@cap.uk).

## Consultation on School Admissions Policy

Forward As One CE Multi Academy Trust, the admissions authority for St. Peter's Smithills Dean CE Primary School, is consulting on proposed changes to admissions at St. Peter's for entry in 2027-28 from **Weds 17 Dec - Weds 28 Jan (6 weeks)**.

A full copy of the proposed admission arrangements is available at <https://www.spsd.bolton.sch.uk/Our-School/Admissions/> and <https://www.forwardasone.uk/Admissions-Consultation-2027-28>.

Please send any comments by **Weds 28 Jan** to [enquiries@fa1.uk](mailto:enquiries@fa1.uk), or complete the online form at <https://forms.office.com/e/HIRQVKCShi>, or post comments to the Clerk to the Board of Trustees, Forward As One CE Multi Academy Trust, Newnham Street, Bolton, BL1 8QA. All responses will be considered before the Trust Board decides, as per the Admissions Code [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).



## We're Recruiting! Spread the Word

We're advertising again for a Youth and Children's Ministry Lead to join our amazing staff team. Please pray and share! Rev Alan would love to hear from anyone interested in exploring this great opportunity.



## Prayer for the Week

Rev Alan closes this year and opens the New Year with a prayer for us all. **See his prayer on the back page.**

## Parish Office Christmas Closure

The Parish Office will close at 12noon on Christmas Eve and re-open at 9.30am on Mon 5 Jan 2026.

*On behalf of our Vicar, Warden, PCC and Staff Team, we wish you all a blessed and peaceful Christmas time.*



**Prayer from our Vicar, Rev Alan**  
**A Prayer of Thanksgiving and Anticipation**



Dear Lord,

Thank you for your love for each member of our church family during 2025. Thank you that you have faithfully guided and supported us through good times and bad. That you have provided for all our needs. And that you have given us hope and a purpose.

As we look forward to 2026, help us to grow stronger and more committed as *Jesus' Family on Jesus' Mission*. Provide us with new opportunities to share your love and your hope-filled message of good news to a world so desperately in need of that message.

Equip us for your good works with all the resources we need, an enthusiasm driven by a passion to bring you glory, and all the energy to deliver your love with strength and joy.

We love you Lord and pray your blessings on everyone in our community this Christmas.

**In Jesus' Name, Amen**

**Coming up this week**

*Our regular activities are paused for the Christmas break and will resume from w/c Mon 5 Jan 2026*

Date & Times	Activity	Details	Location
<b>Mon 5 Jan</b>			
6pm-7.30pm	ABL Weight Management session	<a href="http://www.yhbolton.co.uk">www.yhbolton.co.uk</a> / 01204 205090	Parish Centre
<b>Tues 6 Jan</b>			
9.45am-11.30am	Tots on Tuesday	Julie 07835 014470	St Andrew's
10am-11.30am 6pm-7.15pm 7.30pm-9pm	Little Wiggles Toddlers Group Ignite KS2 Children's Group Tread Youth Group	<a href="mailto:office@stpetersparish.info">office@stpetersparish.info</a> <a href="mailto:ignite@stpetersparish.info">ignite@stpetersparish.info</a> <a href="mailto:tread@stpetersparish.info">tread@stpetersparish.info</a>	Parish Centre
<b>Weds 7 Jan</b>			
9am-1pm 7.30pm-8.30pm	Hope at the Hub PrayerZone	Drop-in community session, all welcome Parish-wide prayer and worship	St Andrew's
<b>Thu 8 Jan</b>			
8.30am-9am	Prayer Meeting	Julie 07835 014470	St Andrew's
10.30am-12noon	Oasis Coffee Morning and Service	Refreshments 10.30am, service 11.30am	St Peter's
2pm-3pm	Bolton Christian Meditation Group	<a href="mailto:j.wilde.1963@gmail.com">j.wilde.1963@gmail.com</a>	Parish Centre
<b>Fri 9 Jan</b>			
10.30am-12noon 10am-12noon 7pm-9pm	Friday Life Group Watercolours Class Stressbusters Badminton	<a href="mailto:denis.collier@gmail.com">denis.collier@gmail.com</a> Lucinda 07977 821119 Geoff 07835 388732	Parish Centre
<b>Sat 10 Jan</b>			
9am-12pm	INTERACT Performing Arts	Lucy/Emma 07896 724531	St Peter's Church

**Keep Connected**

**Parish Business Manager:** Amanda Blease

**E:** [amanda@stpetersparish.info](mailto:amanda@stpetersparish.info) / **P:** 01204 599900

**Finance Officer:** Elaine Vincent

**E:** [finance@stpetersparish.info](mailto:finance@stpetersparish.info) / **P:** 01204 599901

**Vicar:** Rev Alan Saunders

**E:** [alan@stpetersparish.info](mailto:alan@stpetersparish.info) / **M:** 07767 643444 / **P:** 01204 599909

**Warden:** Simon Scott

**E:** [wardens@stpetersparish.info](mailto:wardens@stpetersparish.info)

**Pioneer Minister:** Rev Josh Openshaw

**E:** [josh@stpetersparish.info](mailto:josh@stpetersparish.info) / **M:** 07534 309265

**CAP Debt Centre Manager:** Sam Wolstencroft

**E:** [samwolstencroft@capuk.org](mailto:samwolstencroft@capuk.org) / **M:** 07934 716509 / **P:** 01204 599903

**Caretaker:** David Park

**E:** [david@stpetersparish.info](mailto:david@stpetersparish.info)

**St Peter's Parish Centre**  
**347 Church Road, Bolton BL1 5RR**  
**[www.stpetersparish.info](http://www.stpetersparish.info)**



**St Peter's Halliwell**



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