



PARISH OF ST PETER'S, HALLIWELL

NEWSLETTER



Sunday 7 December 2025

HEADLINES

- Welcome to Advent!
- Our Christmas Services
- We smashed our target – 1,102 puddings!
- Prayer for the Week from Carolyn Rigby on behalf of Barrow Bridge

Read on to find out more...

SERVICES

Sunday 7 December
2nd Sunday of Advent
It's Lighthouse week!



ST PETER'S CHURCH

8.30am	Morning service
10.20am	Lighthouse at Parish Centre
10.30am*	Adult service with Twinklers
6.30pm*	Parish-wide service

SMITHILLS FELLOWSHIP

10am	Nativity at Smithills Open Farm
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BARROW BRIDGE MISSION

10.30am	Morning service with Lighthouse
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ST ANDREW'S HOPE CENTRE

10.30am	Morning service with Communion
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*Livestreamed, search YouTube for 'stpetershalliwell'
We are an accessibility-friendly parish

Rev Alan writes...

Welcome to Advent!

This week's newsletter presents a wonderful snapshot of our church life! It contains details of lots of opportunities to learn and grow as followers of Jesus, to worship God, to build friendships and community, and to help others. I'm so grateful to God for all he is doing amongst us and want to say a huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who is playing a part in the vast and rich ministry of our parish during this Advent and Christmas period. It's amazing!

Don't forget that Christmas is a time when people are more likely to accept an invitation to come to church than at any other time of year, so please be bold and grab the opportunity to invite your friends and family to join you. We've printed loads of flyers with details of our Christmas services and events so pick them up in church or at the Parish Centre.

PARISH OF ST PETER'S, HALLIWELL
"Transforming Bolton Together in Jesus' Name"

Join Us for our Christmas Services

Sunday 7th December
10:00_{am} Nativity with real animals at Smithills Farm

Sunday 14th December
10:30_{am} Lighthouse United Nativity at St Peter's Church
10:30_{am} Christmas Tree Festival Carol Service at Barrow Bridge Mission
10:30_{am} Carol Service with Johnson Fold School Choir at St Andrew's (Hope Centre)
2:00_{pm} Reflective Advent Service at Smithills Hall Chapel

Sunday 21st December
10:00_{am} Family Carol Service at Smithills Fellowship
10:30_{am} Family Nativity Service at Barrow Bridge Mission
6:30_{pm} Candlelit Carol Service with choir and brass ensemble at St Peter's Church

Wednesday 24th December - Christmas Eve
4:00_{pm} Family Christingle at St Peter's Church
11:30_{pm} Midnight Communion at St Peter's Church

Thursday 25th December - Christmas Day
8:30_{am} Communion at St Peter's Church
10:00_{am} Family Celebration at Smithills Fellowship
10:30_{am} Family Celebration at St Peter's Church
10:30_{am} Family Communion for Barrow Bridge and St Andrew's at St Andrew's (Hope Centre)

Sunday 28th December
10:30_{am} Family Christmas Communion at St Peter's Church

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son us given...
Isaiah 9:6

Christmas Services

Sun 21 Dec, 6.30pm at St Peter's is our annual parish-wide candlelit carol service with a full choir and brass ensemble. This has become a popular service which



follows the format of 9 lessons (bible readings) and carols that retell the whole Christmas story in words and music. Our windowsills etc will be candlelit but **feel free to bring your own candle or light – battery operated only please, no flames permitted** – as the more lights, the better!

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).

Musicians for Carols by Candlelight

Sun 21 Dec, 6.30pm, St Peter's

Calling Instrumentalists to play in 'The Holly and the Ivy'. Short and easy parts available for any instrument. Dig out your guitar, flute, clarinet, violin, ukulele, recorder etc. Together we'll sound amazing! Speak to Sue or Rob Wilding or simply contact robandsue@stpetersparish.info

We smashed our target – 1,102 puddings!



We did it again! Thank you to everyone who donated Christmas puddings and/or cash to buy puddings for Urban Outreach's Christmas Dinner on Jesus hampers. Your generosity and support of this fantastic cause is hugely appreciated.

Heaton House Nursery

After a 14-week stay in the Parish Centre following a fire at their premises on Chorley Old Road, the nursery has now packed up and returned to their refurbished building. We've enjoyed having the nursery

staff team and children in the centre and will miss them but wish them well as they settle back in. A **huge thank you** to all our Parish Centre users who've been flexible, understanding and accommodating during the nursery's stay with us – they're incredibly grateful and we've really appreciated your support!



Barrow Bridge Christmas Tree Festival

Fri 12-Sun 14 Dec, see times below, Barrow Bridge Mission

Christmas Tree Festival
at
Barrow Bridge Mission
Barrow Bridge Rd, BL1 7ND

Friday 12th December
7.30-9pm
Light switch on and
Carols with brass band

Saturday 13th December
10am - 4pm

Sunday 14th December
12-3pm
**Live music, olive wood stall,
Woodland Trust stall and
refreshments throughout.**

We are supporting Bolton Hospice with any proceeds

Open Door Carols for All

Weds 10 Dec, 10am-11.30am, Parish Centre

Everyone is warmly invited to join us today for our carol service. Rev Alan will be doing the talk. Please invite your husbands, family, friends and neighbours too. We'd love to see you.

Bolton Christian Meditation Group

Thurs 11 Dec, 2pm-3pm, Parish Centre

All welcome at this session. No need to book, just turn up. For info, contact j.wilde.1963@gmail.com

Smithills Hall Carol Service

Thurs 11 Dec, 7pm, Smithills Chapel

You are all warmly invited to the Friends of Smithills Hall Carol Service, followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the Hall. Rev Alan will be doing the talk.

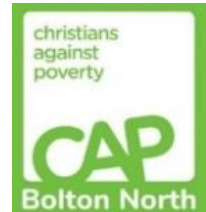
Soul Sisters' Christmas Social Event

Fri 12 Dec, 7.30pm, Parish Centre

All ladies welcome to join us for this informal get together. Enjoy mulled wine, mince pies, a quiz and games. No need to book, just turn up!



CAP Present Wrapping



Tues 16 Dec, 7.45pm, Parish Centre

Can you help wrap presents for Sam's CAP clients? Please turn up with scissors and a sellotape dispenser, if you have one. Many hands make light work! Thanks.

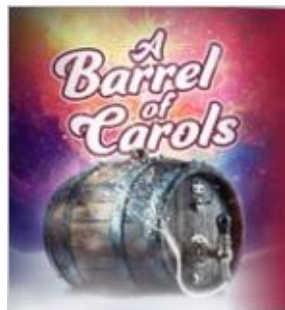
Marco Players – A Christmas Recital

Tues 16 Dec, 7.30pm, St Peter's

'Togetherness'. A mix of soloist and small group performances of spoken word, song, music and poetry from soloists – plus some carols! Tickets £5 on the door or available directly from <http://themarcoplayers.net/bookings>



A Barrel of Carols



Weds 17 Dec, 7.30pm, Heaton Sports Club, Church Rd, BL1 5RH

A spirit-filled singalong evening of music and good cheer, led by our very own musicians and with a Christmas message from the Vicar! All welcome.

Bolton Repair Café

Weds 17 Dec, 10.30am-12.30pm, St Andrews

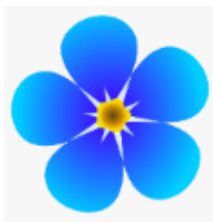


Bring your items in need of repair and stay for delicious coffee and cake.

Dementia Friendship Support Group

Thurs 18 Dec, 2pm-4pm, Parish Centre

For those with dementia and their carers. It's Christmas party time! Singalong, games, quiz and fun. Tea/coffee, cake etc and a very warm welcome. Contact joan@stpetersparish.info /01204 840180



Christmas Bookstall

St Peter's, now until 14 Dec

Please support our wonderful local Christian bookshop – Isaiah 53 – and take a look at the cards, books, calendars and lots of great gift ideas on offer.

The Family Club: Christmas Holiday Club

Mon 22 - Tues 23 Dec, 8am-5.30pm, Parish Centre

Need to do some last-minute shopping or wrapping? Book your primary aged children in for Christmas food, fun and games. Contact 07577 835377 / hello@the-family-club.co.uk

We're Recruiting! Spread the Word

We are 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.

A colorful poster for a job opportunity. The text reads: "JOB OPPORTUNITY YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY LEAD". It lists benefits: "£27,000 - £29,500", "Excellent Support Package", and "Full Time". The closing date is "6 Jan, 2026". The location is "St Peter's Halliwell, Bolton". The poster features a group photo of staff members.



Prayer for the Week

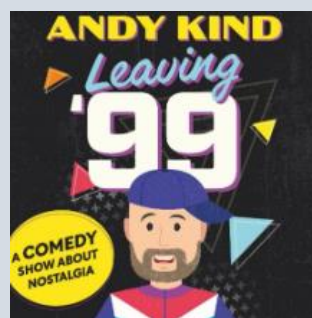
John 14: 27 "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid." Carolyn Rigby, on behalf of Barrow Bridge Mission says, "As we light the second candle on the Advent wreaths in our worship centres across the Parish, let's take a few moments to reflect on the meaning of this candle - it is often known as the candle of peace.' See her prayer on the back page.

Looking Forward

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 with a fun night out with



comedian Andy Kind - food included. Our first fundraiser for Quinta 2027! Tickets available from the Parish Office - only £15 each...would make a great Christmas present! Pasties and peas served at 7.30pm.

Prayer from Carolyn Rigby on behalf of Barrow Bridge Mission

Lord God, as we light the candle of Peace, we remember the peace that you bring into our lives. Calm troubled minds, guide our actions, helping us to be peacemakers in our homes, families and local communities. Remove the things that hinder us from receiving the joy of Christ and help us to share that joy with others this Christmas time. Lord, we pray for Global peace, for those who live in the midst of conflict and war, for those world leaders working to find peaceful solutions to those conflicts around the world. So, let the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus and the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, this Christmas time and forever more. Amen

See this link for Lauren Daigle's 'Light of the World'

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cLhaZIBSpo&list=RD_cLhaZIBSpo&start_radio=1

Coming up

Date & Times	Activity	Details	Location
Mon 8 Dec			
10am-12noon	Age UK Strength and Balance Class	Classes full. Contact office@stpetersparish.info Drop-in for coffee and cake www.yhbolton.co.uk / 01204 205090	Parish Centre
10am-12noon	Coffee Room		
6pm-7.30pm	ABL Weight Management session		
Tues 9 Dec			
9.45am-11.30am	Tots on Tuesday	Julie 07835 014470	St Andrew's
10am-11.30am	Little Wiggles Toddlers Group	office@stpetersparish.info ignite@stpetersparish.info tread@stpetersparish.info	Parish Centre
6pm-7.15pm	Ignite KS2 Children's Group		
7.30pm-9pm	Tread Youth Group		
Weds 10 Dec			
9am-1pm	Hope at the Hub	Drop-in community session, all welcome	St Andrew's
10am-11.30am	Open Door Ladies Group	Carols for All - everyone invited! Val 07902 167971	Parish Centre
Thu 11 Dec			
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	j.wilde.1963@gmail.com	Parish Centre
Fri 12 Dec			
10.30am-12noon	Friday Life Group	denis.collier@gmail.com Lucinda 07977 821119 Geoff 07835 388732 katie.leaver@hotmail.co.uk	Parish Centre
10am-12noon	Watercolours Class		
7pm-9pm	Stressbusters Badminton		
7.30pm	Soul Sister's Christmas Social		
Sat 13 Dec			
9am-12pm	INTERACT Performing Arts	Lucy/Emma 07896 724531	Parish Centre

Keep Connected

Parish Business Manager: Amanda Blease E: amanda@stpetersparish.info / P: 01204 599900

Finance Officer: Elaine Vincent E: finance@stpetersparish.info / P: 01204 599901

Vicar: Rev Alan Saunders E: alan@stpetersparish.info / M: 07767 643444 / P: 01204 599909

Warden: Simon Scott E: wardens@stpetersparish.info

Pioneer Minister: Rev Josh Openshaw E: josh@stpetersparish.info / M: 07534 309265

CAP Debt Centre Manager: Sam Wolstencroft E: samwolstencroft@capuk.org / M: 07934 716509 / P: 01204 599903

Caretaker: David Park E: david@stpetersparish.info

St Peter's Parish Centre
347 Church Road, Bolton BL1 5RR
www.stpetersparish.info



St Peter's Halliwell



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