



# NEWSLETTER

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2026

## HEADLINES

- Let's Unite the Church in Bolton!
- AYF Ugandan Mission Visit
- Josh's Licensing
- Resource Church Interest Meeting
- Prayer for the Week from Hilary Peake on behalf of St Peter's Church

*Read on to find out more...*

## SERVICES

**Sun 1 Feb****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*	<b>No Parish-wide service tonight – all invited to The Bridge Church for Worship and Prayer evening, 8pm-9.30pm</b>

**SMITHILLS FELLOWSHIP**

10am	Morning service with Lighthouse
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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...****Let's Unite the Church in Bolton!**

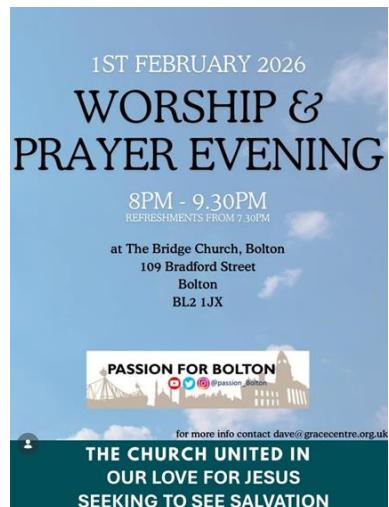
On this Sunday evening, we are all invited to join Christians from churches across Bolton for a Worship & Prayer Evening at The Bridge Church, 109 Bradford Street BL2 1JX. The evening runs from 8pm until 9.30pm, with the café area open for refreshments from 7.30pm.

Dave Kruczek, the leader of Grace Church, has taken the initiative to organise this event as he has a God-given passion to unite us all in prayer for the town. It is supported by churches across Bolton as part of the Passion for Bolton church network.

I have taken the decision to cancel our regular 6.30pm parish-wide service to enable everyone to attend what I believe is an important event for us all to support for the town. It's an opportunity for us to unite with our Christian brothers and sisters. Dave Kruczek has asked me to lead a time of communion at the start of the service.

I'd like to encourage you all to join me on Sunday if you possibly can. I believe that when we unite the church in Bolton in prayer and worship, we will see breakthroughs in our mission to reach Bolton for good. Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane was that we may be as one, just as he and the father are as one so that the world would know that he was sent to save it (John 17:20). We know from Psalm 133 that God commands a blessing when brothers and sisters dwell together in unity. And of course this echoes our call to love our neighbours.

So, let's unite in prayer and worship in expectation of greater things to come!



## AYF Uganda Mission Visit

Our friends from the AYF Choir and Band of Uganda have safely returned home after an energetic 5 days of mission which gave hundreds of adults and children the opportunity to hear the good news of Jesus communicated through words, song and dance. It was wonderful to see so many people enjoying their music. Highlights included a visit to Canon Slade where they took over our weekly Youth Alpha session which was crammed to overflowing with young people dancing and joining in. Last Sunday's Praise Concert united friends old and new and it was exciting to hear of responses to the invitation to follow Jesus. Huge thanks to everyone who supported the visit in many ways through hosting, hospitality, transport, donations of money etc and especially to Carolyn Rigby for the superb organisation!



## Josh's Licensing

Congratulations to Josh Openshaw who was licensed on Monday by Matthew Porter, Bishop of Bolton, as an Interim Minister for St Peter's



Parish. Please continue to pray for Josh and his wife Jess and their children Jude and Arthur as he continues with plans to plant a new resource church in Bolton town centre (see next article for more info). Good news is that the diocese has had an offer accepted on a house for Josh's family and they hope to move from Urmston to Bolton in the near future.

## Resource Church Interest Meeting

**Weds 11 Feb and Mon 23 Feb (repeat of 11 Feb), 7.30pm-9pm, Parish Centre**

If you're curious about the vision for a Resource Church in Bolton, we'd love you to join us.

These evenings will be a space to:

- Explore what a Resource Church is and why it matters for Bolton
- Worship and pray together
- Learn how to discern God's voice and guidance as we journey forward

The Resource Church will be charismatic and evangelical in expression, rooted in orthodox Christian faith, and fully aligned with the doctrine and life of the Church of England. The gatherings will take place every two weeks, with the second meeting each month repeating the same material as the first. This creates an ongoing, accessible space to listen to God together and grow in clarity, unity, and shared vision. Whether you're simply interested, prayerfully exploring, or sensing a gentle nudge to be involved, you are very welcome to come along. Info from Rev Josh – [josh@petersparish.info](mailto:josh@petersparish.info)



## Progressive Meal Fundraiser

**Sat 21 March, 6.30pm, various locations**

As a fund-raiser for Quinta 2027, we're holding another Progressive Meal! Sign up

here: <https://forms.gle/ZVwCm1ixS8VdcFiv7> and you're guaranteed a delicious three-course meal, each course with a different host and different selection of people to enjoy it with.

## All welcome!

- If you have food allergies/intolerances, we can cater for them.
- If you've no transport, we can organise lifts.
- If you haven't got the suggested £15 donation to cover costs, let us know as we can arrange a subsidy (up to 100%).

*If, though, you've just bought a field (Luke 14:18)...*

We also may need another host. If you're interested, please contact Stephen or Rachel Brierley on 07954 995160 or email [thebrierleys@proton.me](mailto:thebrierleys@proton.me)

## Friday Life Connect Group

**Every Fri, 10.30am-12noon, Parish Centre**

Everyone welcome to join this group which looks to encourage one another, be refreshed and to explore their common faith. **The winter programme starts on Fri 6 Feb – 'The Apostle Paul: A man who couldn't say 'no' to his God'.** Join us for a series of studies in Acts, following NT Wright's book 'Paul'. If you want to find out more, please talk to Denis Collier, Richard Platt or the Parish Office.

## New: A Circle of Support for women who support and care for husbands / partners with a long-term illness

Starts Weds 4 Feb, 12.30pm-2pm, Parish Centre

Supporting a husband or partner with a long-term illness is often difficult to talk about with friends family and can feel very isolating and lonely.

A circle of support offers a facilitated space for quiet conversation and sharing and an opportunity to meet with others whose lived experience is similar. Interested in weekly meetings? Contact Sam Potts on 07702 317481 for info. Sam is a BACP registered counsellor and person - centred therapist and attends St Peter's.



## Out and About Walk

**Sat 7 Feb, meet 9.30am opposite St Peter's Church or at 10.30am at the walk start, L40 1TA (parking alongside St Mary's Church)**

A 7.5 mile circular walk from Rufford via Mere Sands Wood and Nature Reserve. Easy flat route across fields, canal path and woodlands. Further details from Janet Ainsworth 07427 690087



## Café on the Green

**Sat 7 Feb, 9am-1.30pm, St Peter's Smithills Dean Primary School, Limefield Rd, BL1 6LA**  
Delicious food and excellent service. All welcome at the first Café of this year. Proceeds to Operation Smile UK for children with cleft palates.



## Bolton Christian Meditation Group

**Thurs 12 Feb, 2pm-3pm, Parish Centre**

All welcome at this session. No need to book, just turn up. For info, contact [j.wilde.1963@gmail.com](mailto:j.wilde.1963@gmail.com)

## Care for the Family – Coming to Bolton!

**Tues 17 March, 7.30pm-10pm, The Bridge Church, BL2 1JX**



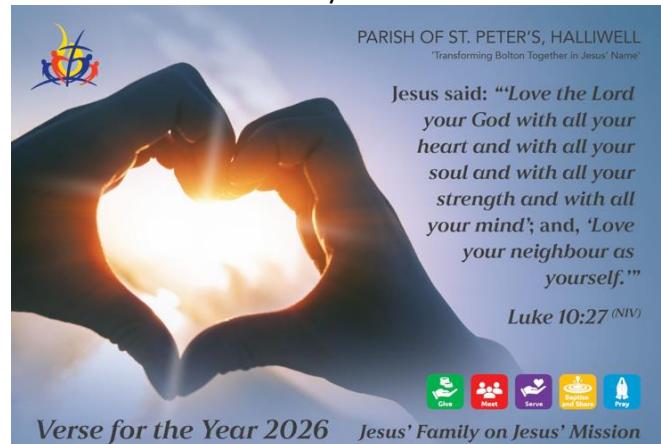
This live event from Care for the Family offers hope and help for parents through the turbulence of

the leap from childhood to adolescence. *Tweens and Teens: What every parent needs to know* will explore how you can come alongside your child as they try and establish their identity, assert their independence and find their place in the world. For more info and to book your tickets (£6), go to: [cff.org.uk/tweens](http://cff.org.uk/tweens)



## Prayer for the Week

On behalf of St Peter's Church, Hilary Peake's prayers focus on our verse for the year below:



**Verse for the Year 2026** Jesus' Family on Jesus' Mission

Hilary reminds us that it is God in us that enables us to serve him, our weakness is power through his strength. However we feel, or whatever we are experiencing, we can pray with confidence that God is with us. *See her prayer on the back page.*

## Looking Forward

### Good News for Romania Quiz Night

**Fri 6 Mar, 7.30pm, The Victory Reform Club**

**YOU ARE INVITED TO..**

**Good News for Romania**

**QUIZ NIGHT**

**with Quizmaster Dave Moffoot**

**Friday March 6th, 7.30pm start at The Victory Reform Club, 25 Victory St, Bolton, BL14JA**



**Contact Kath Richardson**

**Tel: 01204 841 906 or 07903 546 008**

**Ticket price £9.00 incl. potato pie & pea supper (cheese pie alternative if booked)**

### APCM and Vision Sunday Services

Vision Sunday services will take place as below:

**22 Feb** at Smithills Fellowship, **1 Mar** at Barrow

Bridge, **8 Mar** at St Andrew's and **22 Mar** at St

Peter's. Also, save the date for our parish-wide

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) – a

Cheese and Wine event - which will take place on

Thurs **30 Apr**, 7pm in the Parish Centre.

## Prayer from Hilary Peake on behalf of St Peter's Church

*'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and love your neighbour as yourself.' Luke 10:27    'The Lord is my strength and my song.' Isaiah 12:2*

### Prayers:

- That as we spend time with God, which will be different for each of us, we will hear his word for us.
- For countries in turmoil, war and confusion.
- For the broken and displaced. The sick, sad and those grieving in the most difficult situations.
- For Bolton Churches together.
- For God's goodness, strength and purpose for our Parish and our town.
- Giving thanks to the God who loves and cares deeply for us.

In Jesus name, AMEN

## Coming up

Date & Times	Activity	Details	Location
<b>Mon 2 Feb</b>			
10am-12noon 10am-12noon 6pm-7.30pm	Coffee Room Ageing Well with Strength and Balance ABL Weight Management session	Drop-in for coffee and cake. Everyone welcome. <a href="mailto:office@stpetersparish.info">office@stpetersparish.info</a> <a href="http://www.yhbolton.co.uk">www.yhbolton.co.uk</a> / 01204 205090	Parish Centre
<b>Tues 3 Feb</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 4 Feb</b>			
9am-1pm	Hope at the Hub	Drop-in community session, all welcome	St Andrew's
10am-11.30am 12.30pm-2pm	Open Door Ladies Group Ladies' Circle of Support	Bible study – Hilary Perris. Val 07902 167971 Sam Potts 07702 317481	Parish Centre
<b>Thu 5 Feb</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
<b>Fri 6 Feb</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 7 Feb</b>			
9am-12pm	INTERACT Performing Arts	Lucy/Emma 07896 724531	Parish Centre

## Keep Connected

Parish Business Manager:	Amanda Blease	E: <a href="mailto:amanda@stpetersparish.info">amanda@stpetersparish.info</a> / P: 01204 599900
Finance Officer:	Elaine Vincent	E: <a href="mailto:finance@stpetersparish.info">finance@stpetersparish.info</a> / P: 01204 599901
Vicar:	Rev Alan Saunders	E: <a href="mailto:alan@stpetersparish.info">alan@stpetersparish.info</a> / M: 07767 643444 / P: 01204 599909
Warden:	Simon Scott	E: <a href="mailto:wardens@stpetersparish.info">wardens@stpetersparish.info</a>
Pioneer Minister:	Rev Josh Openshaw	E: <a href="mailto:josh@stpetersparish.info">josh@stpetersparish.info</a> / M: 07534 309265
CAP Debt Centre Manager:	Sam Wolstencroft	E: <a href="mailto:samwolstencroft@capuk.org">samwolstencroft@capuk.org</a> / M: 07934 716509 / P: 01204 599903
Caretaker:	David Park	E: <a href="mailto:david@stpetersparish.info">david@stpetersparish.info</a>

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



St Peter's Halliwell  
[@StPetersHalliwell](https://www.instagram.com/stpetershalliwell)  
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