



# NEWSLETTER

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2026

## HEADLINES

- **Launch of Verse for the Year 2026**
- **Christmas and Advent Events – Thank You!**
- **Thanksgiving Services**
- **Ugandan Choir Coming Soon!**
- **Prayer for the Week from Rev Alan**

*Read on to find out more...*

## SERVICES

**Sun 11 Jan****ST PETER'S CHURCH**

8.30am	Morning service with Communion
10.30am*	Worship for Everyone service
6.30pm*	Parish-wide service

**SMITHILLS FELLOWSHIP**

10am	Family Service
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**BARROW BRIDGE MISSION**

10.30am	Morning service
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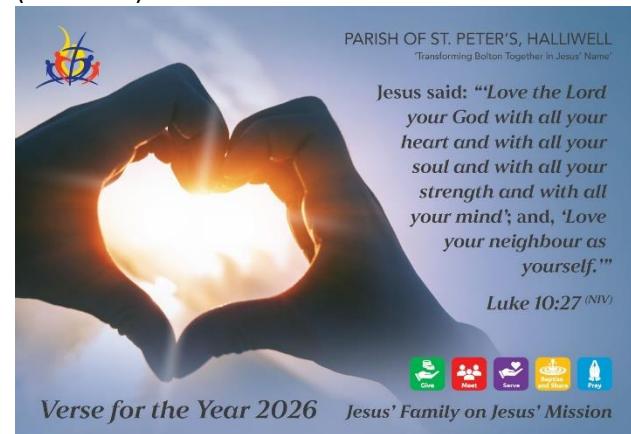
**ST ANDREW'S HOPE CENTRE**

10.30am	Morning service
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\*Livestreamed, search YouTube for 'stpetershalliwell'

**We are an accessibility-friendly parish****Rev Alan writes...****Happy New Year – Launch of our Verse for the Year 2026**

Happy New Year everyone! I hope and pray you enjoyed a wonderful Christmas and New Year. It's good to be back and I am filled with excitement and anticipation for all that God will do amongst us this year. At all our services this Sunday we will be launching our verse for the year 2026, and here it is (drum roll)...

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

**Jesus said: "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.

Copies of the verse cards will be available at all our services and from the Parish Office. There are plenty to go around, so please help yourself to extra copies to pass on, or to put up at work, or wherever you wish. On the back of the card is a prayer and details of ways you can commit to church.

The verse comes just before the Parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke's Gospel. Jesus uses this parable to show a teacher of the Law who his neighbour is. Inspired by this story and throughout 2026, I want us to focus on learning more about our neighbours and how we can love them. Our love for our neighbours isn't something we can simply manufacture for ourselves; it comes from our love of God. So, we are starting a new sermon series in our morning services; to help us learn more about what it means to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, strength and mind. We will spend a week on each of these themes.

## Christmas and Advent Events – THANK YOU!

A huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who pulled together so magnificently to deliver such a wonderful array of events, activities, services and celebrations during Advent and Christmas.



So many it's impossible to list them all in the newsletter. But here is a snapshot of what went on... **Smithills Christmas market and nativity, St Peter's School carol service, nativity and Christmas cafe, Church Road Primary School Christmas service, Heaton House Nursery nativity, CAP Centre fish, chips and magic tricks, Barrow Bridge Christmas tree festival and carols, School Christmas Outreach, Barrel of Carols at Heaton Cricket Club, Oasis Christmas service, Dementia Friendship Group Christmas meal and sing-along, St Andrew's carol service with Johnson Fold Primary School Choir (saw the church full!), Open Door Christmas service, church nativities, parish-wide candlelit carol service (with 419 people!), Christingle (with 171 people!), youth and children's Christmas parties, Connect group parties, Friends of Smithills Hall carol service, Midnight Communion, Christmas Day services** – and all in addition to many of our regular weekly events. A quite incredible achievement, praise God!

## Barrow Bridge Christmas Tree Festival

Many thanks to everyone involved in making the Barrow Bridge Christmas Tree festival a huge success and outreach into the community. We raised £300 for Bolton Hospice after selling 10 of the trees, 2 of which were kindly gifted. Praise the Lord!

## Thanksgiving Services

**Jean Derrick: Fri 16 Jan, 11.15am, St Peter's**



We're sorry to inform you that Jean Derrick died on Sat 20 Dec 2025. A service of thanksgiving for her life will take place at St Peter's on Fri 16 Jan, 11.15am, following a service of committal with her family at Overdale Crematorium. This will be followed by refreshments in the church lounge. There will be a collection in her memory in aid of Macmillan Cancer Care. Please pray for her son Simon, his wife, Jacky, and family.

## Keith Wills: Fri 30 Jan, 1pm, St Peter's

Keith Wills died peacefully on New Year's Day. He will be remembered by many of us as a dear friend, a gifted teacher, and an evangelist with a passion for sharing the love of God.



Pictured here doing magic tricks at the Party in the Park, he loved to share the good news of the Gospel and has influenced the lives of many of us for good. There will be a service of thanksgiving for Keith on Fri 30 Jan, 1pm at St Peter's following a service of committal with his family at Overdale Crematorium. This will be followed by refreshments in the Parish Centre. Please pray for Keith's family, his wife Deborah, and daughters Ruth, Catherine and Rebecca and their families.

## Ugandan Choir Coming Soon!

**Thurs 22-Fri 30 Jan 2026**



A huge thank you to everyone who has offered help with transport and hosting. We'd appreciate prayers as only 5 members of the team have so far been granted visas and they have arrived in London for the start of their mission visit and will progress to Bristol next week. Please pray the other team members will be granted visas so they can join them ASAP.



## Alpha: New Course Starting Next Week

**Mon 12 Jan 2026, 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. Find out more at <https://alpha.org.uk/try-alpha>. Email [dan@stpetersparish.info](mailto:dan@stpetersparish.info) to register.



## Do Lunch, Do Life in St Peter's

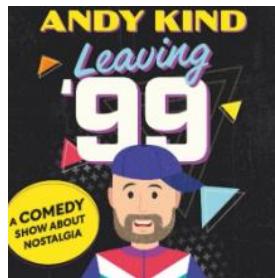
**Sun 25 Jan, following 10.30 service, St Peter's**

All welcome to join us straight after the 10.30 service for a light lunch. Any offers of help on the day or to bake cakes would be very much appreciated - please contact Janette at [janette.daeth@gmail.com](mailto:janette.daeth@gmail.com)

## Comedy Night – 3 Weeks to Go!

**Sat 31 Jan 2026, doors 7pm, Old Links Golf Club**

(Chorley Old Rd, BL1 5SU)



Invite your friends...it's a great, local venue and will be a fantastic evening. Food at 7.30pm, Andy on 8.15/30pm, bar and chatter from 9.45pm (or go home and put your PJ's on!). Read more about Andy at [www.andykind.co.uk](http://www.andykind.co.uk).

Tickets (£15, incl food) available from the Parish Office (at Parish Centre), where you can pay **in cash or by debit card, or pay by BACS** using these details: **A/C name: St Peter's Halliwell, A/C number: 00030623, Sort Code: 40 52 40, Reference: Andy Kind.** *If you pay by BACS you won't get or need an actual ticket – we'll have a record of payments on the night.* See you there!

## Tread Youth Group

**Every Tues (term-time), 7.30pm-9pm, Parish Centre**



Zoe Eddleston, Tread Leader says '*What an amazing first term we have had at Tread! With 20 young people from across the community, we've seen friendships grow, had fun and we have explored the Armour of God, it was amazing to see such a hunger from the young people for their Bibles. We've also looked at God's heart for the vulnerable through the Gospel of Luke which we'll continue later this term, putting our faith into action. We concluded with the annual Tread Christmas party, both extremely fun and incredibly messy, seeing who could create the best toilet roll snowman, how many cheese puffs you can catch on a face covered in shaving foam and how many dry crackers you can eat in 30 seconds. As we start the term looking at 1 Timothy 4:12, please join the team in praying for our young people, that they won't see their age as a barrier but realise the mighty plans that God has for them.*'

All high-school age young people welcome at Tread. Info: [tread@stpetersparish.info](mailto:tread@stpetersparish.info).



## Dementia Friendship Support Group

**Thurs 15 Jan, 2pm-4pm, Parish Centre**

For those with dementia and their carers. Refreshments, quiz, fun and a

very warm welcome. Info: [joan@stpetersparish.info](mailto:joan@stpetersparish.info) /01204 840180

## Bolton Repair Café

**Weds 21 Jan, 10.30am-12.30pm, St Andrews**

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



## Home for Good Peer Support Group

**Sat 24 Jan, 12.30pm-2pm, Parish Centre**

For adopters, foster, kinship carers and families. Bring and



share lunch. Info from Fiona on 07786 844141.

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

**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 and 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. If this sounds like something you would benefit from and enjoy being a part of on a weekly basis, please get in touch with Sam Potts on 07702 317481 for info. Sam is a BACP registered counsellor and person - centred therapist and attends St Peter's usually on Sunday mornings so chat to her if you see her. Please note, numbers are capped so get in touch sooner than later if you are interested in coming along.

## Accounts for Auditing Deadline

It's that time again! Can all treasurers please ensure they have dropped off their 2025 accounts at the Parish Office by **Fri 30 Jan** please. Any issues, please contact [finance@stpetersparish.info](mailto:finance@stpetersparish.info).



**Pray**

## Prayer for the Week

As we launch our new text card, Rev Alan prays for the church as **Jesus' family on Jesus' mission.** *See his prayer on the back page.*

## Looking Forward

### Halliwell Local History Society



**Tues 27 Jan, 7.30pm-9pm, Parish Centre**

Steve Irwin "Impact of the Civil War in Historical Lancashire". Info from [enquiries@halliwell-lhs.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@halliwell-lhs.co.uk)

## Prayer from Rev Alan

Lord Jesus,

Thank you for the gift of the church as ***Jesus' family on Jesus' mission.***

During 2026, help us to grow in our commitment to one another as your family here in St Peter's Parish.

Help us to grow in our commitment to your mission.

Help us to grow in our love of you and our neighbours.

Give us strength, faith and wisdom throughout the year, to follow you and play our part in building your church and seeing your kingdom come on earth as in heaven.

Amen



## Coming up

Date & Times	Activity	Details	Location
<b>Mon 12 Jan</b>			
10am-12noon 1.30pm-3.30pm 6pm-7.30pm	Coffee Room Art Group ABL Weight Management session	Drop-in for coffee and cake <a href="mailto:ruthrobinson293@gmail.com">ruthrobinson293@gmail.com</a> <a href="http://www.yhbolton.co.uk">www.yhbolton.co.uk</a> / 01204 205090	Parish Centre
<b>Tues 13 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 14 Jan</b>			
9am-1pm	Hope at the Hub	Drop-in community session, all welcome	St Andrew's
<b>Thu 15 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-4pm	Dementia Friendship Support Group	<a href="mailto:joan@stpetersparish.info">joan@stpetersparish.info</a>	
<b>Fri 16 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 17 Jan</b>			
9am-12pm	INTERACT Performing Arts	Lucy/Emma 07896 724531	St Peter's Church

## Keep Connected

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