



NEWSLETTER

Sunday 18th January 2026

HEADLINES

- **Shining Ugandan Sunshine!**
- **RespectMe in Canon Slade**
- **Christmas Day Offering Thanks**
- **Worship and Prayer Evening**
- **Prayer for the Week from Sam Wolstencroft, CAP Debt Centre Manager**

Read on to find out more...

SERVICES

Sun 18 Jan**It's Lighthouse week!****ST PETER'S CHURCH**

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

SMITHILLS FELLOWSHIP

10am	Morning service with Communion and Lighthouse
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BARROW BRIDGE MISSION

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

10.30am	Café Church
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*Livestreamed, search YouTube for 'stpetershalliwell'

We are an accessibility-friendly parish**Rev Alan writes...****Shining Ugandan Sunshine!**

Our dear friends from the Anglican Youth Fellowship (AYF) Choir and Band of Uganda will be joining us on Thu 22 Jan for just over a week as part of their UK Mission Tour. They have already been to Gillingham, Peckham and Bristol. Sadly, they could not get visas for the full team, so we have a team of 6 made up of 3 older members of 3 of their children. We've a fun-packed programme including visits to our local primary and high schools, sessions with our children and young people and a **Praise Concert** in place of our usual 6.30pm parish-wide service on **Sun 25 Jan, 6.30pm**. It will be a great event to invite your friends and family to come to and I know the choir would love to meet everyone and shine some of their Ugandan sunshine into our chilly January. Thanks to everyone who has offered to help with accommodation, transport and hosting. It's going to be a wonderful week!

They're returning!
22nd - 30th January

The AYF team bring an energetic mix of African rhythms, glorious harmonies, and superb communication skills with a vision to build up churches and reach out to the community

Praise Concert
Sun 25 Jan, 6.30pm

**FREE ADMISSION**

Offering taken

St Peter's Church, Church Road BL1 5RL



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

RespectMe in Canon Slade



RespectMe day in the school. The team from the Message Trust delivered sessions for each year group on Self-Esteem, Bullying, Social Media and Messaging. We're delighted to have been



able to support this initiative which has been very well received by students and staff. If you're interested to find out more visit: <https://respectme.co.uk/>. Our weekly Youth Alpha sessions have resumed on Friday lunchtimes, and we are still getting over 40 students attending each week, which is amazing! Please keep praying. Rev Alan has just started working with Form 8S on a new 'Love Your Neighbour' project which is rather apt as this is our verse for the year 2026. The project will link with the AYF Ugandan team, who they will meet on Friday, and focus on support for the Oasis Orphanage which we also supported as St Peter's Christmas fundraising appeal.

Christmas Day Offering Thanks

A fantastic £2,782.82 was raised in the 2025 Christmas Day collection at St Peter's to support the work of Oasis Children's Home in Kampala, Uganda. Many thanks to everyone who contributed to this appeal.



Worship and Prayer Evening

Sun 1 Feb, 8pm-9.30pm (refreshments from 7.30pm)
The Bridge Church, 109 Bradford Street, BL2 1JX



Passion for Bolton are inviting churches across the borough to unite in prayer and worship for our town. Please note, **there will be no parish-wide 6.30pm service on Sun 1 Feb** to enable as many people as possible to attend so please do join us there!

Verse for the Year

2026 Cards

These are available at all services and the Parish Centre so don't forget to pick yours up.



Thanksgiving Service

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

A reminder that there will be a service of thanksgiving for the life of Keith Wills on Fri 30 Jan, 1pm at St Peter's following a private family service of committal at Overdale Crematorium. This will be followed by refreshments in the Parish Centre. We can now confirm that an offering in Keith's memory will be made for Bolton Hospice. Please keep Keith's family in your prayers - his wife Deborah, daughters Ruth, Catherine and Rebecca and their families. Thank you.



Comedy Night – Only 2 Weeks to Go!

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

Have you got your ticket yet?

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. Tickets (£15, incl food) available from the Parish Office 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!



Ageing Well Strength and Balance Class

Mon 19 Jan, 10am, Parish Centre



This class aims to help older adults maintain strength, balance and confidence in later life. Come along to this informal meeting to find out more about some new sessions starting on Mon 26 Jan. Info from

office@stpetersparish.info

Alpha: It's Not Too Late!

**Mon 19 Jan, 8pm-9.30pm,
3 Riversleigh Close, Barrow Bridge**

This course started last week but you can still join us for this series of group conversations that freely explores the basics of the Christian



faith. Everyone's welcome. Find out more at <https://alpha.org.uk/try-alpha>. Email dan@stpetersparish.info to register.

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.

Bolton Christian Meditation Group

Thu 22 Jan, 2pm-3pm, Parish Centre

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

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.



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 bacon butties. Any offers of help on the day or to bake cakes would be very much appreciated - please contact Janette at janette.daeth@gmail.com

Eats at St Pete's

EATS@ST PETE'S.... an opportunity to serve! Do you like cooking, baking, hosting or serving others? If so, please consider joining our new hospitality team... all welcome, no experience required. Please email eats@stpetersparish.info



Halliwell Local History Society (incorporating Smithills)



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

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 you'd benefit from being part of this on a weekly basis, contact 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.

Save the Date: GNfR Quiz Night

Fri 6 Mar, 7.30pm, The Victory Reform Club



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



Open Staff Prayers

Weds 21 Jan, 9.30am-10am, Parish Centre

All welcome to join the church staff team at their morning prayers. No need to book, just turn up.

Prayer for the Week



Sam Wolstencroft, CAP Debt Centre Manager, invites us to pray for those experiencing financial difficulties and anyone living in poverty. *See her prayer on the back page.*

Looking Forward

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.

Prayer from Sam Wolstencroft, CAP Debt Centre Manager

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the opportunities and blessings of this new year. For households on a low income, the year ahead may feel uncertain. We pray for those who are starting 2026 with money worries or unmanageable debt. May God break through any shame they feel about their situation and give them courage to ask for help. For those working with our CAP debt centre, we pray you will give them perseverance and hope amidst their difficulties, and we pray many will accept the free gift of Jesus' love, mercy and grace. Thank you for those who are connecting with church and other Christian groups as a result of the CAP ministry. We pray for all those trapped in poverty who are facing illness and poor health conditions and ask you, Father God, to draw near and bring them the peace that passes all understanding. We know that those living in poverty are close to your heart. At the start of this new year, we pray for fairer systems for all. Help us to play our part in building a more just society. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Coming up

Date & Times	Activity	Details	Location
Mon 19 Jan			
10am-12noon 10am 6pm-7.30pm	Coffee Room Ageing Well with Strength and Balance ABL Weight Management session	Drop-in for coffee and cake. Everyone welcome. office@stpetersparish.info www.yhbolton.co.uk / 01204 205090	Parish Centre
Tues 20 Jan			
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	office@stpetersparish.info ignite@stpetersparish.info tread@stpetersparish.info	Parish Centre
Weds 21 Jan			
9am-1pm	Hope at the Hub	Drop-in community session, all welcome	St Andrew's
10am-11.30am	Open Door Ladies Group	History of the Parish Church – Canon John Walsh. Val 07902 167971	Parish Centre
Thu 22 Jan			
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 23 Jan			
10.30am-12noon 10am-12noon 7pm-9pm	Friday Life Group Watercolours Class Stressbusters Badminton	denis.collier@gmail.com Lucinda 07977 821119 Geoff 07835 388732	Parish Centre
Sat 24 Jan			
9am-12pm	INTERACT Performing Arts	Lucy/Emma 07896 724531	St Peter's Church
12.30pm-2pm	Home for Good Peer Support Group	Fiona 07786 844141	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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