



# NEWSLETTER

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2026

## HEADLINES

- **They've Arrived!**
- **Platinum Anniversary Congratulations – Charles and Barbara**
- **Visit by Andy and Beth Bird**
- **Worship and Prayer Evening**
- **Prayer for the Week from Nigel Clarke on behalf of Smithills Fellowship**

*Read on to find out more...*

### **Rev Alan writes... They've Arrived!**

It is exciting to welcome the AYF team from Uganda to the parish on Thursday as part of their UK Mission Visit. The group of six arrived from Bristol, having previously visited Peckham and Gillingham in London. They are Andrew, Peter, Mary and younger members: Andrew's children, Elijah and Emily, and Peter's son, Jesse.



The mission visit will include sessions at Canon Slade High School, working with a Year 8 form on the 'Love Your Neighbour' project, taking part in a Youth Alpha special lunch club and sharing songs and stories in a music lesson. There will also be visits to Johnson Fold and St Peter's Smithills Dean Primary Schools, and a day at Lowton CE High School to deliver lessons, workshops and assemblies. They will visit our Tread Youth Group on Tuesday evening. This Sunday they will join some of our morning services.

## SERVICES

**Sun 25 Jan****ST PETER'S CHURCH**

8.30am	Morning service
10.30am*	Worship for Everyone service
6.30pm*	Parish-wide service - <b>AYF Praise Concert!</b>

**SMITHILLS FELLOWSHIP**

10am	Family service
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**BARROW BRIDGE MISSION**

10.30am	All age 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**

Climax of the visit will be a special parish-wide **Praise Concert at St Peter's on Sunday at 6.30pm**. Please come along and invite your friends and family for what is certain to be a wonderful evening.

FREE ADMISSION  
Offering TakenPARISH OF ST. PETER'S, HALLIWELL  
St Peter's Church, Church Road BL1 5EL

If you'd like to support the costs of this visit there will be an offering taken at Sunday's 6.30pm concert, or you can give by bank transfer to the National and International Ministries (NIM) account. Account Name: St Peter's Church Halliwell Missionary Account. Sort Code: 16-00-06. Account Number: 10370535. Please quote "AYF Mission" as the reference, thank you!

## Platinum Anniversary Congratulations – Charles and Barbara

Congratulations to Charles and Barbara Clarke on their Platinum 70th Wedding Anniversary on Monday 26th January. They are faithful members of St Peter's and regularly attend services each Sunday and Oasis each Thursday. We pray God's blessing for them on this happy occasion.



## Visit by Andy and Beth Bird

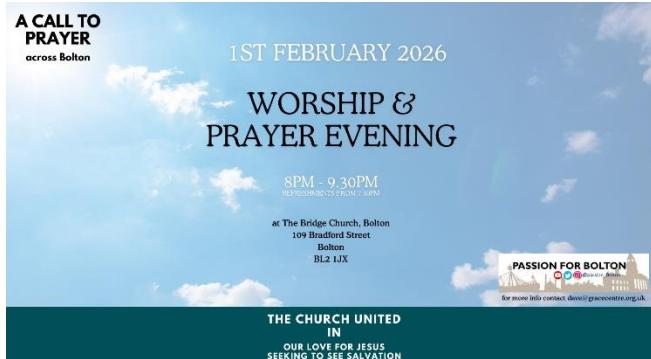
It was lovely to welcome Andy and Beth who visited Oasis on Thursday to speak at the service and catch up with friends and family. Many



of us know Andy and Beth. Andy was an intern based at St Peter's a few years ago and Beth is daughter to Tanya and Steve Johnson, regulars at St Peter's. They are both now ordained and have a growing family with two young children: Ivy and Ezra. Following completion of his curacy, Andy is now leading a church revitalisation plant at William Temple Church in Wythenshawe. At Oasis, Andy spoke of his love of the people here at St Peter's and the impact his time here had on his life and calling to be a Church of England Minister. It is wonderful to hear how his family and church are flourishing as they are helping build God's kingdom in Wythenshawe. Please keep them in your prayers.

## 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!

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

**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 or to bake cakes would be very much appreciated - please contact Janette at [janette.daeth@gmail.com](mailto:janette.daeth@gmail.com)

## Thanksgiving Service

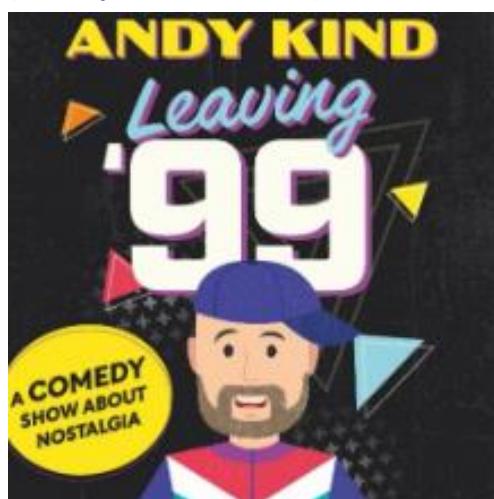
**Keith Wills: Fri 30 Jan, 1pm, St Peter's**

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 – Next Saturday!

**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](http://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!

## 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](mailto: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.

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.

## Mission Matters

This feature on the last Sunday of each month focusses on stories and updates from our mission partners – this month we hear from **Dave Moffoot** from Education India:



*"The work of this charity has reached over 40 schools in the last 13 years and our teams have been going out to India for month-long visits, often twice per year. Recently, our team of 4 visited 6 schools, all of which were based in Tamil Nadu, a southerly state known for its temples and architecture. In our morning studies,*

*we were guided by the principles laid down by 1 John 3:1 "How great is the love the Father has lavished on us that we should be called the children of God". We wanted to demonstrate that love by God's grace to all the leaders, staff and children we encountered. Yes, the days were very long, the humidity and heat exhausting, the 'mozzies' annoying but the fellowship and forbearance of so many folk in our schools always makes us realise that our inconveniences are just petty in comparison. We took every opportunity other than the training to share the Gospel with teachers, leaders and children through assemblies, staff devotions and plenty of one-to-one encounters. Most people in the schools are Hindu but the headteachers are always Christian and we spent much of our time encouraging them and praying with them as they often experience hostility from outside. Outside of our visits, we write monthly to the schools and we meet regularly on Zoom to pray for them. Please would you continue to uphold us in prayer."*



## 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](mailto:eats@stpetersparish.info)



## Prayer for the Week

Nigel Clarke on behalf of Smithills Fellowship, says "Let us remember that faith is not about having all the answers, but about being open to change, growth, and new direction." *See his 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)

## Prayer from Nigel Clarke on behalf of Smithills Fellowship

God of new beginnings,  
you meet us on ordinary roads  
and invite us to see differently.  
Break open our assumptions,  
turn us around when we need to change,  
and help us recognise your presence  
in the people and moments we often overlook.  
As a parish community,  
teach us to listen more deeply,  
to speak with kindness,  
and to live our faith with courage and compassion.  
May our lives reflect your love,  
not just in what we say,  
but in how we choose, forgive, and serve.  
Amen.

## Coming up

Date & Times	Activity	Details	Location
<b>Mon 26 Jan</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 27 Jan</b>			
9.45am-11.30am	Tots on Tuesday	Julie 07835 014470	St Andrew's
10am-11.30am 6pm-7.15pm 7.30pm-9pm 7.30pm-9pm	Little Wiggles Toddlers Group Ignite KS2 Children's Group Tread Youth Group Halliwell Local History Society	<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> <a href="mailto:enquiries@halliwell-lhs.co.uk">enquiries@halliwell-lhs.co.uk</a>	Parish Centre
<b>Weds 28 Jan</b>			
9am-1pm	Hope at the Hub	Drop-in community session, all welcome	St Andrew's
10am-11.30am	Open Door Ladies Group	Quiz time. Val 07902 167971	Parish Centre
<b>Thu 29 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
<b>Fri 30 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

## 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)

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