



NEWSLETTER



Sunday 15th February 2026

HEADLINES

- New sermon series' starting this week
- Easter Baptisms in our new pool
- Youth Alpha
- Prayer for the Week from Chris Winstanley on behalf of St Peter's Primary School

Read on to find out more...

SERVICES

Sun 15 Feb
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 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...

Our overarching morning sermon theme for 2026 is Movement

This Sunday sees the start of not just two new sermon series, but perhaps the start of a new movement!

Throughout 2026 we will learn what it means for the church to be a movement rather than an institution. In a sense as a parish we have a choice, to either attempt to secure our heritage and ministry as an institutionalised church or to embrace the pioneering spirit in which the church was founded and rigorously discern Jesus' call to continue building a Kingdom movement across Bolton. A quick contrast between institutions and movements reveals key differences:

- Institutions seek their own security and preservation, while movements seek to fulfil a common mission.
- Institutions avoid risk, whereas movements embrace risk as a path to innovation.
- Institutions are bound together by rules and procedures, while movements are united by shared vision and goals.

I hope, like me, you'd far rather be part of a movement than an institution, especially if that movement is God's movement! We will start by learning what it takes to start a movement in our first series throughout Lent which is called a **Catalyst for Movement** – and we will look at Jesus' prayers in the Gospel and his experience in the wilderness.



We will learn how Jesus approached prayer, what he prayed and how he instructs us to pray. If we are going to discern Jesus' will for our church movement then deep and abiding prayer is essential. And so, this Lent season, let us look to the

prayer life of our risen Saviour as we embrace the resurrected life He offers each day through prayer.

In our 6.30pm parish-wide services at St Peter's throughout Lent, we will learn about the **Movement of God's People** by studying 6 passages all linked by a common theme – 40 days.



Rev Roger Oldfield will kick-start the series with **40 Days and Noah** from Genesis 7:24–9:1.

Easter Baptisms in our New Pool

Good news - we now have our own baptism pool. We are planning to have baptisms on Easter Sunday at our parish-wide 6.30pm Easter Celebration Service. So, if you'd like to be baptised and amongst the first to use our new pool, please contact Rev Alan or the Parish Office.



Youth Alpha

Rev's Alan and Josh, together with Canon Slade Chaplaincy team - Paul and Zoe - completed the Youth Alpha course this week. The course, which has been running weekly since November during school lunchtimes, has seen over 75 young people attend with an average weekly attendance of 45 young people. Plans are being made to continue follow-up sessions each week as the young people enjoy meeting, and it seems too good to stop!



Ima at the Parish-wide 6.30pm service



Ima Lomax shared at our 6.30pm parish-wide service at St Peter's last Sunday. It's an inspirational story of how she followed God's call to sing a song at 100 churches that were all over 100 years old – representing over 10,000 years of worship between them. You can watch her talk and listen to her song on our YouTube Channel 'stpetershalliwell' at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RSoKdf--ckc>.

Café on the Green

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who came to last Saturday's Café on the Green in the hall at St Peter's Smithills Dean Primary School. The team from Smithills Fellowship did a magnificent job on what was the biggest turnout yet. The hall was busy from 9.30am until last orders at 1pm. A phenomenal £1308.86 was raised to support Operation Smile UK for children with cleft palates.



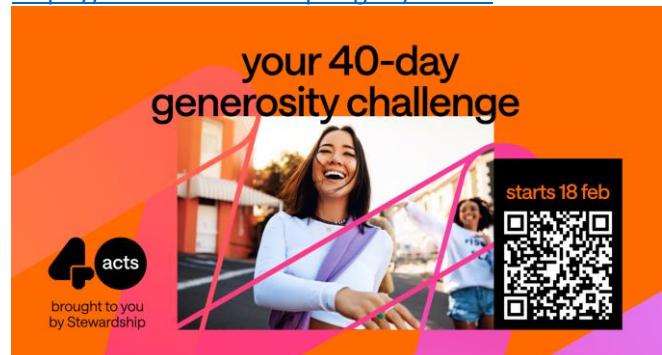
Ash Wednesday Parish-wide Communion

To mark the start of the season of Lent, our parish-wide Communion service takes place on **Wed 18 Feb, 7.30pm at St Peter's**. And don't forget your pancakes this Tuesday!



40 Acts: Do Lent Generously

Join thousands this Lent for a 40-day generosity challenge – building habits, deepening faith and reflecting the heart of Jesus through everyday acts. Each day offers a simple invitation to give, bless, and grow in generosity – one act at a time. Take a look at: <https://www.stewardship.org.uk/40acts>



'30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim World'

18 Feb-20 Mar

This booklet corresponds to the month of Ramadan where many Muslims seek encounters with God and a better understanding of His ways. This edition focusses on Muslim peoples from whom there are now radiant believers sharing the Gospel with their own people groups, with many suffering persecution



as a result. Their stories will inspire you to cry out to God for their families and villages. Booklets available at the back of church (£2 voluntary donation) so please pray for our Muslim people every day. Alternatively, look up each page of the booklet on our website - www.stpetersparish.info - during this period.



Dreaming the Impossible Youth Camp

Weds 29 Jul – Mon 3 Aug, Staffordshire Showground

We're really excited that we're going to Dreaming the Impossible again this Summer with our young people aged Y7 - Y11. It's an amazing opportunity for them to go deeper in their faith as well as their relationships with one another. Think camping, huge worship sessions, seminars, inflatables, cafes, music gigs, sports and more - it's so much fun! **If you'd like to send your young person, please let us know by Sun 22 Feb.** Tickets are £180 including food and transport. For info and to book on, please contact Ben Latham at ben.latham@stpetersparish.info or 07512 753201.



Soul Sisters Ladies' Ministry Film Night

Fri 27 Feb, 7pm for 7.30pm start, Barrow Bridge Mission

We'll be watching a powerful film called Fireproof - see trailer at: [youtube.com/watch?v=84q0SXW781c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=84q0SXW781c).

Tea/coffee provided but feel free to bring snacks and drinks with you. No charge, **FREE**. Just come along and join us, we'd really love to see you there.

Resource Church Interest Meeting

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. Explore what a Resource Church is and why it matters for Bolton, worship and pray together and 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

Bolton Repair Café

Weds 18 Feb, 10.30am-12.30pm, St Andrews



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

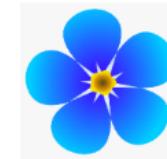
A Circle of Support for women who support and care for husbands / partners with a long-term illness

Weds 18 Feb, 12.30pm-2pm, Parish Centre

This fortnightly group offers a facilitated space for quiet conversation and sharing and an opportunity to meet with others whose lived experience is similar. Led by Sam Potts (07702 317481), a BACP registered counsellor and person - centred therapist.

Dementia Friendship Support Group

Thurs 19 Feb, 2pm-4pm, Parish Centre



For those with dementia *and* their carers. Refreshments, quiz, fun and a very warm welcome. Info from joan@stpetersparish.info /01204 840180

Half-term Holiday Fun at The Family Club!

**Mon 16-Fri 20 Feb, 8am-5.30pm,
Parish Centre**

Looking for exciting, safe and action-packed childcare this holiday? The Family Club has got you covered! From messy play and sports to spa days and Pokémon parties, every day is an adventure at The Family Club. Full and half day options and all meals included. Book now and give your child a holiday to remember! Contact 07577 835 377 (during Club hours) hello@thefamily-club.co.uk



Prayer for the Week

On behalf of St Peter's Smithills Dean Primary School, Chris Winstanley invites us to pray for those working in our local schools. *See her prayer on the back page.*

Looking Forward

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 Chris Winstanley on behalf of St Peter's Smithills Dean Primary School

Lord God

We pray for all those working in our local schools, from staff in early years and nurseries, to those in high schools. We ask you to bless and uphold them, give them grace and strength whilst under pressure, and compassion and enthusiasm when working with young people.

Please enable Christian staff to reflect the extraordinary love of Jesus and to be wise but faithful ambassadors of the glorious gospel of peace. May they bring hope and grace to our nation's schools as they serve you wholeheartedly.

We pray particularly for the staff and children at St Peter's School, especially those who are unwell or coping with difficult situations in their lives. We pray that the half term break would bring refreshment and a reduction in their stress levels.

Amen



Coming up – it's half-term next week so some activities are pausing!

Date & Times	Activity	Details	Location
Mon 16 Feb			
10am-12noon 6pm-7.30pm	Ageing Well with Strength and Balance ABL Weight Management session	office@stpetersparish.info www.yhbolton.co.uk / 01204 205090	Parish Centre
Weds 18 Feb			
9am-12.30pm 10.30am-12.30pm	Hope at the Hub Bolton Repair Cafe	Drop-in community session, all welcome Bring your items for repair, stay for refreshments	St Andrew's
12.30pm-2pm	Circle of Support for Women	Sam 07702 317481	Parish Centre
Thu 19 Feb			
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	joan@stpetersparish.info / 01204 840180	Parish Centre
Fri 20 Feb			
10.30am-12noon 10am-12noon 7pm-9pm	Friday Life Connect Group Watercolours Class Stressbusters Badminton	denis.collier@gmail.com Lucinda 07977 821119 Geoff 07835 388732	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

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 **St Peter's Halliwell**
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