



# NEWSLETTER



Sunday 8th February 2026

## HEADLINES

- The Movement of God's People
- Special Parish-wide 6.30pm this week
- The Church United in Bolton
- Prayer for the Week from Diane Ball on behalf of St Andrew's (Hope Centre)

*Read on to find out more...*

### **Rev Alan writes...**

#### **The Movement of God's People**



Look at this old photo of St Peter's Church that has recently surfaced on social media, it's believed to have been taken sometime early last century. The church was only 60 or 70 years old having been built in 1840. It makes you realise how much the area has changed in the time since it was taken - this view is obscured by houses now. It got me thinking about what life was like in those days? What must the church have been like? What motivated people to build the church?

## SERVICES

**Sun 8 Feb**

### ST PETER'S CHURCH

8.30am	Morning service with Communion
10.30am*	Worship for Everyone
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

Learning from our history is helpful to guide our plans for the future. I've been working on the themes for our sermon series' this year. Last year we '**Fixed our Eyes on Jesus**', the year before we learnt what it means to be church as '**Jesus' family on Jesus' mission**'. This year, I want to learn more about what it means for 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 on which the church was founded and discern Jesus' call to continue building a Kingdom movement across Bolton. God has always called His people to lean in the direction of movement, and this has been the call on every generation of the church.

I'll write more as we launch our exciting new sermon series' in next week's newsletter.

## Special Parish-wide 6.30pm this Week

Ima Lomax is the guest speaker at this Sunday's 6.30pm parish-wide service at St Peter's. Some of you may recognise Ima as she sang up front with the band

at last Sunday's united praise and worship evening at The Bridge. She has an incredible singing voice and is sharing her amazing story of God calling her to sing a prophetic song at 100 churches. And the song was given to her by God at St Peter's Church seven years ago! So come along and be blessed by her story and hear the song. There will be an opportunity to think about how God may be calling you and to receive prayer and we will have an open-mic time to share testimony.



## The Church United in Bolton

Last Sunday evening was an awesome time of worship and prayer at The Bridge Church. A huge thank you to everyone who came, there were over 270 people, and it was great to see so many from St Peter's Parish amongst the crowds. Rev Alan led a time of communion which was followed by worship led by a fantastic band with musicians from churches across Bolton and fervent prayer for our town and nation. God truly blesses our unity and desires our prayers, so watch out for details of the next opportunity.



## Keith Wills

Deborah, Ruth, Catherine and Rebecca Wills would like to thank everyone who attended Keith's thanksgiving service in St Peter's on Fri 30 Jan, as well as for the many cards, flowers and generous donations to Bolton Hospice. Thanks especially to everyone who helped in any way - it made it a truly

wonderful celebration of Keith's life and ministry. You can watch the livestream of the thanksgiving service on our Youtube channel ([stpetershalliwell](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtPetershalliwell)) or here: <https://youtube.com/live/KEsFIC3dbBk?feature=share>

## Quinta 2027 Fundraiser: Andy Kind

Many thanks to everyone who attended last Saturday's comedy night at the Old Links Golf Club – it was a wonderful evening! A total of £1034 was raised towards next year's Parish weekend away.

## Praying for the Muslim World



The '30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim World' 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. Please collect a booklet from the back of church (£2 voluntary donation) and pray for our Muslim people every day. Alternatively, please look up each page of the booklet on the Church website – [www.stpetersparish.info](http://www.stpetersparish.info) – during this period.

## Some CAP good news!

Sam, our CAP Debt Centre Manager, says 'We helped a client a few weeks ago to apply for a grant to wipe her energy arrears with Scottish Power.

*She is a homeowner in poor health and yet living with no heating on because of the cost. The grant was successful and cleared all of her £5000 arrears. She is over the moon and this will reduce the length of her debt management plan term. Praise God!*



## 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)

## 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)

## 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've 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 new programme has just started – 'The Apostle Paul: A man who couldn't say 'no' to his God' - so join us for a series of studies in Acts, following NT Wright's book 'Paul'. More info from Denis Collier, Richard Platt or the Parish Office.

## 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

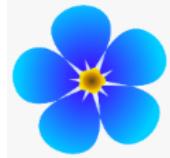
**Weds 18 Feb, 12.30pm-2pm, Parish Centre**

This new group, meeting fortnightly, offers a facilitated space for quiet conversation and sharing and an opportunity to meet with others whose lived experience is similar. Contact Sam Potts on 07702 317481 for info. Sam is a BACP registered counsellor and person - centred therapist and attends St Peter's.

## 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](mailto:joan@stpetersparish.info) /01204



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## Macmillan Cancer Support Thanks



Val Perris would like to thank everyone who supported her Christmas

knitting fundraising campaign by buying covered chocolate oranges and Ferrero Rochers – she has raised a whopping **£1324.44 (plus a £150 donation)**. *Please save the date for this year's Macmillan Coffee morning which will take place at Oasis in St Peter's Church on Thurs 24 Sept.*



## Prayer for the Week

On behalf of St Andrew's (Hope Centre), Diane Ball says *'I have been reminded of the feeding of the 5,000 this week. (Lectio365) God brought this passage to our attention at St Andrew's as we came out of lockdown and we considered what our small, older congregation had to offer in the face of the huge task of sharing the good news in Johnson Fold. We noted that Jesus didn't ask the disciples what they didn't have - enough money to feed the crowd - he asked them what they did have - only 5 loaves and 2 fish! But given fully to Jesus it was generously more than enough....'* *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 Diane Ball on behalf of St Andrew's (Hope Centre)

Lord Jesus,

we see the task before us in bringing your good news to the people of Johnson Fold, Smithills, Barrow

Bridge and the Parish, and our town of Bolton. The work is huge and appears overwhelming.

But you aren't asking each of us to fix it, you are asking that we give to you the little that we already have; the heart of compassion, our love of God, our creativity, the ability to chat the gospel, enough to live on, the gifts of the Spirit.....

Give us willing hearts of love for others, faith to trust you with what we give you and expectation to see you do amazing things we cannot imagine in our community and town.

In your saving name we pray.

Amen

## Coming up

Date & Times	Activity	Details	Location
<b>Mon 9 Feb</b>			
10am-12noon 10am-12noon 1.30pm-3.30pm 6pm-7.30pm	Coffee Room Ageing Well with Strength and Balance ABL Weight Management session Art Group	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 <a href="mailto:robinson293@gmail.com">robinson293@gmail.com</a>	Parish Centre
<b>Tues 10 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 11 Feb</b>			
9am-1pm	Hope at the Hub	Drop-in community session, all welcome	St Andrew's
10am-11.30am 7.30pm-9pm	Open Door Ladies Group Resource Church Interest Meeting	Rev Josh Openshaw. Val 07902 167971 Rev Josh Openshaw – <a href="mailto:josh@stpetersparish.info">josh@stpetersparish.info</a>	Parish Centre
<b>Thu 12 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
2pm-3pm	Bolton Christian Meditation Group	<a href="mailto:j.wilde.1963@gmail.com">j.wilde.1963@gmail.com</a>	Parish Centre
<b>Fri 13 Feb</b>			
10.30am-12noon 10am-12noon 7pm-9pm	Friday Life Connect 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>

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