



PARISH OF ST PETER'S, HALLIWELL

# NEWSLETTER



Sunday 29th March 2026

## HEADLINES

- It's Holy Week!
- St Peter's Annual Vision Meeting
- University Easter Outreach
- Progressive Meal – Good Fun and Food!
- Prayer for the week from Gillian Horrocks on behalf of St Andrew's (Hope Centre)

*Read on to find out more...*



*A gentle reminder so that you're not late for church... the clocks go forward an hour this Sunday!*

## SERVICES

**Sun 29 Mar - Palm Sunday**

### ST PETER'S CHURCH

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

### SMITHILLS FELLOWSHIP

10am	Family service
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### BARROW BRIDGE MISSION

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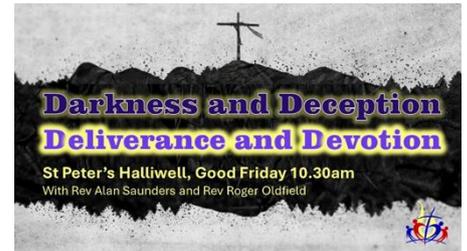
### ST ANDREW'S HOPE CENTRE

10.30am	Morning service
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\*Livestreamed, search YouTube for 'stpetershalliwell'  
We are an accessibility-friendly parish

### Rev Alan writes...

**It's Holy Week!** On Palm Sunday, we remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem when the crowds shouted 'Hosanna', which means 'He saves'. But it wasn't long until the shouting changed to 'Crucify him' and triumph turned to tragedy as



Jesus is arrested, flogged and killed on a Roman cross. But 3 days later, he is resurrected from the dead and wins a mighty victory over death and sin. So, we join with a new shout of 'Halleluiah, He is risen!' on Easter Sunday, the greatest day in history.

### MONDAY 30 MARCH – FRIDAY 3 APRIL

3pm-5pm Easter Experience, St Peter's  
Pop in between these times to be still and pause for quiet reflection

### MAUNDY THURSDAY 2 April

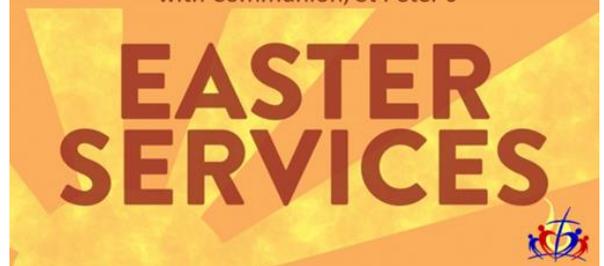
7.30pm Parish-wide Communion, St Peter's

### GOOD FRIDAY 3 April

10.30am Parish-wide Service, St Peter's

### EASTER SUNDAY 5 April

- 8.30am Easter Day Service, St Peter's
- 10.00am Easter Day Service, Smithills
- 10.30am Worship for Everyone Communion, St Peter's
- 10.30am Easter Day Service, Barrow Bridge
- 10.30am Family Communion, St Andrew's
- 6.30pm Parish-wide Easter Baptism Service with Communion, St Peter's



Easter is a great time to invite friends back to church. Let's join together for our parish-wide 10.30am Good Friday service, led by Rev Roger Oldfield and myself, and our Easter Sunday parish-wide baptisms, 6.30pm at St Peter's – there is still time to let me know if you'd like to be baptised.

## St Peter's Annual Vision Meeting

It was a wonderful hope-filled service where we heard about progress over the last year and plans for the year ahead from Chris Ward, Chair of St Peter's Leadership Team, Rev Alan shared the vision and we



received encouraging feedback from the Lighthouse children and members of the congregation. We welcomed and prayed for the leadership team: Chris Ward (chair), Sam Wolstencroft, Cath Hargraves, Tim Perris, Edward Brodley, Stephen Brierley, Ben Latham, Kath Richardson, Elian Winstanley, Diane O'Keeffe, Mark Leaver and Ian Thomas. Following the service, we gathered for a church family photo and refreshments together.

## University Easter Outreach

Huge thanks and a big well done to everyone involved in Thursday's outreach event at the University of Greater Manchester in Bolton. The event gave the



opportunity for Christians from local churches to engage with hundreds of students who we blessed with food and refreshments. Many bibles and Christians books were given

away, together with invitations to join the university Christian Union, to come to local churches, and to get involved with plans for the new church plant headed up by Rev Josh.

## Progressive Meal – Good Fun and Food!



Stephen Brierley writes: "What a fab time we all had at last weekend's Progressive Meal! 46 guests had a three-course meal at three different venues, meeting a different cross-section of fellow diners each time. 19 people were involved in hosting -- so 65 guests and

hosts all told, making it the biggest Progressive Meal

to date. Thanks so much to everyone who took part -- I'm delighted to say we've raised about £700 for Quinta 2027. Special thanks to Tim and Philippa Perris who chose to celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary by taking part!"



## John Nuttall

**Mon 20 Apr, 11am service in St Peter's, 12noon burial in St Peter's graveyard**



We are very sorry to inform you that John died on Sat 21 March. John was a committed member of St Peter's fellowship for many years and particularly enjoyed attending the 10.30am and Oasis services. Please keep his wife, Kathleen, sons Philip, Jonathan and

Richard, and wider family and friends in your prayers at this difficult time. The service will be followed by a reception in the church lounge. All are invited to attend.

## Sylvia Collins

**Thurs 2 Apr, 1.15pm \*NB: Earlier time, St. Peter's**

Sylvia's funeral will take place in St. Peter's, followed by a burial in Heaton Cemetery. The offering will be in aid of Open Doors, supporting the persecuted church worldwide, which was a cause close to Sylvia's heart. Following the service, refreshments will be served in the church lounge. All are invited to attend.

## Easter Experience Event

**Mon 30 Mar-Fri 3 Apr, anytime 3pm-5pm, St Peter's**



You are invited to drop in for this interactive way to explore the Easter story, to take time out from your busy schedules to be still and rest in quiet reflection. Prayer stations will be set up throughout church

covering: Future Hopes - The Story of Palm Sunday; Servant King - Jesus washes the Disciples' Feet; Remember Me - The Last Supper; Alone - The Garden of Gethsemane; The Cross - Symbol of Hope and Resurrection - New Life. All welcome.

## Easter Sunday Hot Cross Buns

**Sun 5 Apr, 10am for 10.30am service, St Peter's**

Arrive early, around 10am, to enjoy fellowship and drinks with buttered hot cross buns before the service, and if there are any left, after the service too!



## Easter Celebration in St Peter's School

Mon 30 Mar, 10.15am-11.30am, St Peter's Primary School, Limefield Road, BL1 6LA

Reception and Key Stage 1 are having an Easter Celebration for older members of our fellowships and groups and you are invited! Join the children for coffee and cake as they parade in Easter hats and making Easter decorations. See you there!

## Halliwell Local History Society talk



Tues 31 Mar, 7.30pm, Parish Centre  
Peter Watson 'Funny You Should Say That.' All welcome. Info from [enquiries@halliwell-lhs.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@halliwell-lhs.co.uk)

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

Weds 1 Apr, 12.30pm-2pm, Parish Centre

A facilitated space for quiet conversation and sharing and an opportunity to meet with others whose lived experience is similar. Info: Sam Potts 07702 317481 a BACP registered counsellor/person-centred therapist.

## Out and About walk

Sat 4 Apr, meet 9.30am opposite St Peter's Church



Do join us on Easter Saturday for a 5.5mile moderate walk around the foothills of Pendle Hill from the picturesque village of Downham. Enjoy the beauty of the Spring season walking across grassland and woodland, with quite a few inclines and stonewall stiles, many pretty flowers and spring lambs in this beautiful part of Lancashire. More info from Janet Ainsworth on 07427 690087

## Newcomers' Dinner

Sat 16 May, 5.30pm-7pm, Parish Centre



St Peter's Leadership Team would like to invite anyone who joined us over the last year or so, or considers themselves new to St Peter's Church,

to come for dinner. Children welcome. Please RSVP by Sun 10 May to [sam.wolstencroft@gmail.com](mailto:sam.wolstencroft@gmail.com). Please let us know of any allergies or dietary requirements.

## Mission Matters



This month, we focus on the work of one of our Mission partners, Release International. A challenging read. Over the next 3 years, a project funded by Release International, and supported by St Peter's Church, will provide trauma

counselling to 600 survivors of attacks by Boko Haram, ISWAP, Fulani extremists, ethnic militias, and other violent groups in Nigeria. It will deliver broad mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) to families and communities, promoting social cohesion, trauma awareness, and resilience. Survivors will be helped to recover without stigma and with community backing. Training of Trainers workshops will equip local facilitators—including lay caregivers and religious leaders, many with personal trauma experience—to provide targeted MHPSS support to others affected by violence, kidnapping, and abuse. Nigeria has faced sustained attacks by extremist groups including Boko Haram, ISWAP, and Fulani militias, devastating Christian communities. International observers such as the U.S. State Department and Open Doors describe the violence as genocidal. Thousands have been killed or displaced, with many survivors suffering untreated trauma that fuels declining health, isolation, poverty, and instability. Stigma limits care access. This project provides counselling, community education, and trained local facilitators to deliver sustainable, culturally sensitive mental health support.



On behalf of Release International and persecuted Christians in Nigeria, Allister du Plessis thanks everyone at St Peter's Church for their prayers and ongoing support of this project. Allister is pictured here with Rose Tagwi, whose husband, Pastor Matthew Tagwi, was killed by Fulani attackers a few years ago—her brave smile hides the hardships she has endured since.



## PrayerZone

Weds 1 April, 7.30pm-8.30pm, St Peter's



As it is Holy Week, Prayerzone is in St Peter's Church (NOT the Parish Centre) so we can have some time at the prayer stations and some time praying together. All welcome.

## Prayer for the week

Gillian Horrocks, from St Andrew's (Hope Centre), invites us to pray for each other. **See her prayer on the back page.**

## Looking Forward

### Create Bolton: Upcoming Drama

Sat 18 April, 7.30pm, Café Create

Talking Heads. A Chip in the Sugar by Alan Bennett. This monologue features our very own Ben Latham! Tickets available at [createbolton.org.uk](http://createbolton.org.uk).

## Prayer from Gillian Horrocks on behalf of St Andrew's (Hope Centre)

Philippians 1:3-6 'I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.'

We pray for each other.

Lord our God

Thank you for making us part of your family in this Parish. We pray for our clergy, Alan, Josh and Sheena, for the Churchwarden, Simon, the Leadership Teams and all leaders throughout the parish.

Would you give us each of us wisdom to know how to build each other up and pray for each other, as we work together to spread the gospel of Jesus to our area and town. We pray for St Andrew's and for the ministry in Johnson Fold as we ask for wisdom to reach those who need to hear the good news of God's love for them.

In Jesus' name

Amen

## Coming up

Date & Times	Activity	Details	Location
<b>Mon 30 Mar</b>			
10am-12noon 10am-1.30pm 6pm-7.30pm	Coffee Room Ageing Well with Strength and Balance ABL Weight Management session	Drop-in for coffee and cake. All 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 31 Mar</b>			
9.45am-11.30am	Tots on Tuesday	Julie 07835 014470	St Andrew's
6pm-7.15pm	Ignite KS2 Children's Group	<a href="mailto:ignite@stpetersparish.info">ignite@stpetersparish.info</a>	St Peter's Church
10am-11.30am 11.30am-1pm 7.30pm-9pm 7.30pm-9pm	Little Wiggles Toddlers' Group Start! Course Tread Youth Group Halliwell Local History Society	<a href="mailto:office@stpetersparish.info">office@stpetersparish.info</a> <a href="mailto:office@stpetersparish.info">office@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 1 Apr</b>			
9am-1pm	Hope at the Hub	Drop-in community session, all welcome	St Andrew's
12.30pm-2pm 12.30pm-2pm	CAP Life Skills Circle of Support for Women	<a href="mailto:samwolstencroft@cap.uk">samwolstencroft@cap.uk</a> Sam Potts 07702 317481	Parish Centre
<b>Thurs 2 Apr Maundy Thursday</b>			
8.30am-9am	Prayer Meeting	Julie 07835 014470	St Andrew's
10.30am-12noon 7.30pm	Oasis Coffee Morning and Service Maundy Thursday Communion service	Refreshments 10.30am, service 11.30am All welcome	St Peter's
<b>Fri 3 Apr Good Friday</b>			
10.30am	Good Friday service	All welcome	St Peter's

## Keep Connected

**Parish Business Manager:** Amanda Blease E: [amanda@stpetersparish.info](mailto:amanda@stpetersparish.info) / P: 01204 599900

**Finance Officer:** Elaine Vincent E: [finance@stpetersparish.info](mailto:finance@stpetersparish.info) / P: 01204 599901

**Vicar:** Rev Alan Saunders E: [alan@stpetersparish.info](mailto:alan@stpetersparish.info) / M: 07767 643444 / P: 01204 599909

**Warden:** Simon Scott E: [wardens@stpetersparish.info](mailto:wardens@stpetersparish.info)

**Pioneer Minister:** Rev Josh Openshaw E: [josh@stpetersparish.info](mailto:josh@stpetersparish.info) / M: 07534 309265

**CAP Debt Centre Manager:** Sam Wolstencroft E: [samwolstencroft@capuk.org](mailto:samwolstencroft@capuk.org) / M: 07934 716509 / P: 01204 599903

**Caretaker:** David Park E: [david@stpetersparish.info](mailto:david@stpetersparish.info)

St Peter's Parish Centre  
347 Church Road, Bolton BL1 5RR  
[www.stpetersparish.info](http://www.stpetersparish.info)



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