



PARISH OF ST PETER'S, HALLIWELL

NEWSLETTER



Sunday 8th March 2026

HEADLINES

- It's Vision Sunday at St Andrew's!
- Easter Outreach Event – Can you help?
- Diamond Anniversary Celebrations
- Easter Eggs for CAP clients
- Prayer for the Week from Sam Wolstencroft, CAP Debt Centre Manager

Read on to find out more...

SERVICES

Sun 8 Mar

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	Vision Sunday
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*Livestreamed, search YouTube for 'stpetershalliwell'
We are an accessibility-friendly parish

Rev Alan writes...

It's Vision Sunday at St Andrew's!

After two inspiring Vision Sunday services at Smithills and Barrow Bridge, I'm off to St Andrew's this Sunday.



St Andrew's is a fellowship that, to use a boxing analogy, hits well above its weight! You can always be sure of the warmest of welcomes and to be both challenged and encouraged by everyone's love of God and love of each other. I'm really looking forward to sharing in the encouragement as we look back over the last year and eagerly anticipate all God has in store for the year ahead. Please hold them all in your prayers, especially their Chair, Diane Ball, and their leadership team.



Last week it was a delight to welcome and pray for new members who joined Barrow Bridge leadership team, which now consists of Dan Caffrey, Pauline McMillan, Becky Massey, Alison Hart, Gaynor Park, Simon Godley, Janet Ainsworth and David Cieszynski. Heartfelt thanks go to Becky McMillan and Lee Worsley as they step down as members of the leadership team.

St Peter's Vision Sunday takes place on Sun 22 March at 10.30am and we will be electing members of their leadership team for the first time ever. Please note that there will not be an 8.30am service that day so that everyone is available to attend the vision Sunday service, thanks!

Mandy Morris

It is with sadness that we inform you that Mandy Morris recently died. Mandy had been part of St Andrew's and joined in many activities across the parish, including the Alpha course. Mandy was baptised at St Peter's last Easter; she was a dear friend to many of us and will be sadly missed. Please hold her friends and family in your prayers, especially her partner Kirk, her mum Lorraine and stepdad Lawrence. Anyone who knew Mandy is welcome to attend her memorial service which takes place at St Andrew's this **Thu 12 March at 2pm**, followed by refreshments. May Mandy rest in peace and rise in glory.



Easter Outreach Event – Can you help?

Thurs 26 Mar, 11am-2pm, University of Bolton

The Christian Union at the University of Greater Manchester (Bolton University) will be hosting a special Easter event on campus, and we'd love for people to be involved.

There are a few different ways you could take part:

1. Join the prayer team – covering the event in prayer during the day and praying with people.
2. Be on a welcome table – giving out Bibles and chatting with students.
3. Help prepare and serve national food – creating a warm and hospitable space for people to gather. The deadline for notifying involvement in these three ways is by the end of **Sun 8 Mar**.

You could also support the event by donating spare Bibles (in any language) or books about the resurrection that we can give away to students. And if anyone has vases or flowers they'd be happy to donate for the tables, that will help make the space welcoming and beautiful. Just by being there on the day is also encouraging so do pop along if you can! There really is a way for everyone to be involved, whether through prayer, hospitality, conversation, or giving resources. For info, please contact Rev. Josh – josh@stpetersparish.info. *Thank you so much for being part of what God is doing among students in Bolton.*

Easter Sunday Baptisms

Sun 5 Apr, 6.30pm Parish-wide Easter celebration service, St Peters

We're delighted that we've got a few people who are signed up to be baptised in our brand-new baptism pool. If you're still thinking about it, please contact Rev Alan or the Parish Office.

Diamond Anniversary Celebrations



Many wonderful congratulations to **Jeff and Anne Burton** who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Thurs 19 Feb 2026. We praise God for their shared love and enduring marriage and ask for his blessing over the years still to come.



Easter Eggs for CAP Clients

Sam, our CAP Debt Centre Manager, says 'We would like to give our clients an Easter Egg and particularly one from the Meaningful Chocolate Co which are Fairtrade and include the Easter story. We shall buy these in bulk but would really appreciate any contributions from the church. They are now £6.99 per egg...please pass any money to Sam or the Parish Office. Thank you!'



Electoral Roll Revision

Ahead of our Annual Parochial Church Meeting on **Thu 23 Apr** (NB: new date) our electoral roll is being revised. Membership enables you to play a part in the government and decision making of church. **You need to be on the ER to vote at the APCM** and it's an important way to show your commitment to St



Peter's and to its vision. Each fellowship has a copy of the names currently on the Electoral Roll. Please check to see if you are on it and, if not, complete a form before **Sun 29 Mar** and post it in the box available in each fellowship.

Alternatively, you can fill the form online at parishresources.org.uk/the-pcc-as-a-charity/apcms-and-electoral-roll/#Revision_roll and email it to office@stpetersparish.info. To qualify you need to have been baptised, over 16, and consider yourself a regular member.



Resource Church Interest Meeting

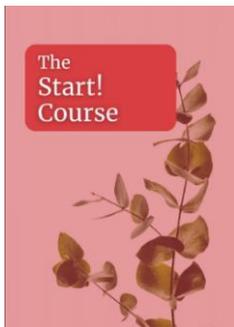
Weds 11 Mar, 7.30am-9pm, Parish Centre

Still curious about the vision for a Resource Church in Bolton? 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. These meetings are taking 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 and join us. Info from Rev Josh – josh@stpetersparish.info

Start! Course

Tues 10, 17 and 24 Mar, 11.30am-1pm, Parish Centre, light lunch included.



This started last week but it's not too late to join! Discover the basics of Christianity with Start! Looking for a simple, engaging way to explore the Christian faith? This video-based course is designed for small groups and assumes no prior knowledge of Christianity or church life — it

really does start from scratch. Sessions last about 90 minutes (with free lunch) and include:

- Two short, lively video segments filmed in fun, relatable locations like Blackpool beach, a fairground, and a shopping centre.
- Interactive discussions and exercises that get everyone talking and thinking.
- Space for reflection so participants can explore faith at their own pace.

For more info/to book, contact the Parish Office – office@stpetersparish.info / (01204) 599900.

Bolton Christian Meditation Group

Thurs 12 Mar, 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 14 Mar, 12.30pm-2pm, Parish Centre

For adopters, foster and kinship carers and their families. Bring and share lunch. Info from Fiona on 07786 844141.



Bolton Repair Café

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



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

Dementia Friendship Support Group

Thurs 19 Mar, 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

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

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

A fortnightly group offering 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.



Horwich Healing Rooms

Weds 11 Mar, 10am-12noon, Hub at the Hope, St Andrew's (Hope Centre)



Horwich Healing Rooms (part of this free and confidential Christian Prayer Ministry available to Christians and non-

Christians alike) will next week be at Hub at the Hope. Their members are trained and experienced prayer ministers from a wide range of mainstream Christian churches. **No appointment necessary just turn up.**

PrayerZone

Weds 11 Mar, 7.30pm-9pm, Parish Centre

If you'd normally come to PrayerZone, please come along tonight as we will be joining together with Rev Josh's Resource Church Interest Meeting, specifically to pray for this exciting new church plant.



Prayer for the Week

Sam Wolstencroft, our CAP Debt Centre Manager, reflects on Psalm 140:12 which says 'I know the Lord secures justice for the poor and upholds the cause of the needy' **See her prayer on the back page.**

Looking Forward

Progressive Meal 2026 – a fortnight away!

Sat 21 Mar, 6.30pm, various homes

Spaces have been filling up steadily, but there are still a few left. If we get another 11 guests, we'll have to ask our



reserve hosts to swing into action — let's see if we can make it happen! The deadline for bookings is **9pm on Sun 15 Mar** because the schedule of who-eats-where needs to be finalised. Book here:

<https://forms.gle/ZVwCm1ixS8VdcFiv7>

If you've not been to a St Peter's social event before, it's a great way of meeting people and getting some fine food — why not give it a try? For info, talk to Stephen or Rachel on 01204 433810 / 07954 995160.

Prayer from Sam Wolstencroft, CAP Debt Centre Manager

Father, you know the reality of debt and poverty in the UK and wider world. You know the millions of people who have been struggling to turn their heating on and feed their families this winter. Loving God, comfort those who are struggling financially right now. We pray each one would know your love and that you'll put things in place so that they can live in a place not of worry or stress, but the comfort of you with them. We pray for the local CAP workers across the country who are serving you by helping others to become debt free. We thank you for each one of them, as they show your love in action by being beacons of light in their communities. We ask that you encourage them and give them a renewed energy to continue your work on earth. Father God, we thank you for your faithfulness. Everything we do is ultimately for you. We want to see the name of Jesus lifted high and every knee bowed before you. We ask you to guide us in this mission, so that we may approach it with grace and sensitivity as well as passion and commitment. Amen.

Coming up

Date & Times	Activity	Details	Location
Mon 9 Mar			
10am-12noon 10am-1.30pm 1.30pm-3.30pm	Coffee Room Ageing Well with Strength and Balance Art Group	Drop-in for coffee and cake. Everyone welcome. office@stpetersparish.info rrobinson293@gmail.com	Parish Centre
Tues 10 Mar			
9.45am-11.30am	Tots on Tuesday	Julie 07835 014470	St Andrew's
10am-11.30am 11.30am-1pm 6pm-7.15pm 7.30pm-9pm	Little Wiggles Toddlers' Group Start! Course Ignite KS2 Children's Group Tread Youth Group	office@stpetersparish.info office@stpetersparish.info ignite@stpetersparish.info tread@stpetersparish.info	Parish Centre
Weds 11 Mar			
9am-1pm 10am-12noon	Hope at the Hub Horwich Healing Rooms	Drop-in community session, all welcome Prayer ministry. No appointment necessary.	St Andrew's
10am-11.30am 7.30pm-9pm	Open Door Ladies Group PrayerZone/ Resource Church Interest Mtg	Easter Praise. Val 07902 167971 Rev Josh Openshaw – josh@stpetersparish.info	Parish Centre
Thurs 12 Mar			
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 13 Mar			
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
Sat 14 Mar			
9am-12noon	INTERACT Performing Arts	Lucy/Emma 07896 724531	St Peter's
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



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