



PARISH OF ST PETER'S, HALLIWELL

NEWSLETTER



Sunday 19th April 2026

HEADLINES

- APCM Next Week – Let's Get Together and Celebrate!
- Baptism news
- Spring Harvest fun
- Prayer for the week from Sam Wolstencroft, CAP Debt Centre Manager

Read on to find out more...

SERVICES

Sun 19 April
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 baptism and Lighthouse |
| 2pm | Baptism service in Smithills Chapel |

BARROW BRIDGE MISSION

| | |
|---------|---|
| 10.30am | Morning service with Communion and Lighthouse |
|---------|---|

ST ANDREW'S HOPE CENTRE

| | |
|---------|-------------|
| 10.30am | Café Church |
|---------|-------------|

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

Rev Alan writes...

Let's Get Together and Celebrate!

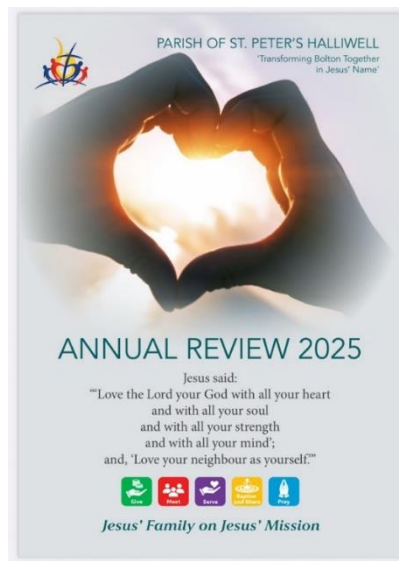
This coming **Thu 23 April, 7pm** at the Parish Centre is our APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting). And we're repeating last year's successful format in the hope of attracting more people from across all our fellowships. I'd be hugely grateful if you could please prioritise your attendance if you can. The evening will start with worship from Paul Saxon and band, then we will cover the business side of things with



our annual reports and elections, I will give an update on our vision, and to show our appreciation for everyone's commitment we'll have an opportunity to relax and socialise with cheese and wine, plus other non-alcoholic drinks and nibbles.

A key part of the meeting is to elect our Churchwardens and Deanery Synod representatives. There are nomination forms and role descriptions available at all services or from the Parish Office. Please contact any of your fellowship

leaders or me if you'd like to discuss serving in this way, especially if you are interested in serving as a Churchwarden as we urgently need to find someone, thank you! Catch up by reading our superb [Annual Review 2025](#).



Finally, I'm delighted to announce that advertising has started to recruit a full-time **Associate Minister** to join our parish clergy team. Full details can be

found on Manchester Diocese's website:
<https://www.manchester.anglican.org/vacancies/associate-minister-st-peter-halliwell/>. Please get praying and share details with any ordained clergy you feel might be suitable; I am very happy to discuss the opportunity with anyone interested.



Easter Day Baptisms



Congratulations to Abbie, Kiowa and Dave who were baptised at our parish-wide 6.30pm celebration on Easter Sunday. Abbie came to join St Peter's through her links with Sam and our CAP Centre and is expecting a baby - not sure if this counts as a double baptism! Kiowa is now a regular at Barrow Bridge Mission having recently come back to church. And Dave is part of the 8.30am congregation at St Peter's and spoke of the positive impact that joining our Alpha Course had on his faith and life. Please hold them in your prayers as they continue their faith journey.

Baptisms Today

Sun 19 Apr

We welcome **Hezekiah VULU** (10am, Smithills) and **Penny LEE** (2pm, Smithills Fellowship) and thank God for the gift of these children and for their parents, Godparents, family and friends on this special occasion.

John Nuttall

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

John's funeral will take place in St Peter's, followed by a private burial in the graveyard for family only. The offering will go to a cause which John has supported for many years: SASRA (The Soldiers' and Aviators' Scripture Readers Association). Refreshments for

everyone will be served in church after the service. All invited to attend.

Spring Harvest Fun



Katie Leaver writes: "We're back from a fabulous week at Spring Harvest where the theme was 'Gather, Grow, Go' and what a week it was! The verse for the week was also our church's verse for the year "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." We had a fabulous time doing church together - learning, dancing, eating, praising, swimming, walking, chatting, quizzing and a night out at the 'Worship Jukebox' covering all the best Christian songs from the 80s - today. We're already talking about next year. If you'd like to come along, ask anyone in these pictures what this week has meant to them." You can register your interest in being part of a group booking for Spring Harvest 2027 by contacting the Parish Office. Find out more at: www.springharvest.org.



Church Plant Interest Meeting

Mon 20 Apr, 7.30pm-8.30pm, Parish Centre

Rev Josh says 'We'll be gathering as usual and it's shaping up to be a really encouraging and important



time together. We'll start to look ahead at some next steps for engaging in mission in the town centre, as well as thinking about what these Interest Meetings might grow into in the months ahead. There'll be space to ask questions, spend time in prayer,

and worship together – and, of course, tea, coffee and biscuits will be ready! Would be great to see you there!' Info from Rev Josh – josh@stpetersparish.info

Celebrating Our Shared Journey: Bolton Deanery Gathering

Tues 21 April, 6.45pm refreshments, 7.15pm start - 8.45pm, St Peter's

All are invited to this evening led by Bishop Matthew, Bishop of Bolton. You'll hear stories of hope from our deanery, and all about the four themes at the heart of our diocese's strategy and how national funding will



support our deanery: · Parish Renewal · Growing Younger · Church Planting

and Revitalisation · Developing Missional Leaders. Through worship, prayer, and conversation, we will celebrate what God is doing, acknowledge the challenges we face, and highlight the support, resources, and investment available to help us flourish. These gatherings are for everyone: clergy, lay leaders, members of PCCs, school staff, chaplains, volunteers, new worshippers, and anyone curious about where God might be calling us. Book your place at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/celebrating-our-shared-journey-bolton-deanery-gathering-tickets-1982351464594?aff=oddtcreator>

Bolton Christian Meditation Group

Thu 23 Apr, 2pm-3pm, Parish Centre

All welcome at this session. No need to book, just turn up. For info, contact j.wilde.1963@gmail.com

Café on the Green



Sat 25 Apr, 9am-1.30pm, St Peter's Smithills Dean Primary School, Limefield Rd, BL1 6LA

Delicious food and excellent service. All welcome. Proceeds to Operation Smile UK for children with cleft palates.

Bolton Lay Leadership Conference

Sat 25 Apr, 10am-12.30pm (refreshments from 9.30am), Bishop Bridgeman School, BL3 6PY

All those who serve in lay roles are invited to come and join Bishop Mark Davies for a morning of worship, fellowship and encouragement. Book your place at: <https://bolton2026.eventbrite.co.uk/>

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

Weds 29 Apr, 12.30pm-2pm, Parish Centre

Contact Sam Potts on 07702 317481 for more info. Sam is a BACP registered counsellor and person-centred therapist who attends St Peter's.

Out and About Walk

Sat 2 May, 9.30am, meet opposite St Peter's Church Bridgewater Canal and Pennington Flash. 7.5 miles, moderate. Info from Janet Ainsworth 07427 690087

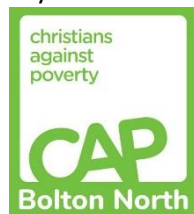


Pray

Prayer for the week

'Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.'
Ephesians 2:19-20

Our CAP Debt Centre Manager, Sam Wolstencroft, says 'God loves his Church and wants to see it thrive



on earth. We enjoy the beauty of the Church being empowered to reach out in practical and life-altering ways through CAP. Let us pray for the ministry of CAP.' *See her prayer on the back page.*

Looking Forward

Alpha Course Starting Soon

Thurs 7 May, 8pm-9.30pm, Parish Centre

Stay Curious, Try Alpha. A great way to find out more about the Christian faith. This is a series of group conversations that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith in an open, friendly environment. Everyone's welcome. No matter your background or beliefs, you're invited. Find out more at <https://alpha.org.uk/try-alpha>. Book your place through the Parish Office - office@stpetersparish.info



Newcomers' Dinner

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



St Peter's Leadership Team 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 with details of any allergies or dietary requirements.

Prayer from Sam Wolstencroft, CAP Debt Centre Manager

We thank you, Heavenly Father, for the frontline workers and volunteers who are reaching out through CAP to help people, especially our core CAP team in this parish. We pray that you would give them a strong sense of your love and purpose, and that you will fill them with overflowing love and compassion for the people they encounter.

We pray for opportunities to occur frequently in conversations with all frontline workers and volunteers, to invite clients to attend their church and become a part of the church family. We pray that, ultimately, whole families would follow Jesus.

We especially pray for those who soon complete the START course and pray they will continue in their seeking of truth!

Lord, thank you that CAP is here to support clients in need, no matter what stage of life they're in. We ask that you continue to sustain and provide for CAP's services so that more lives can be transformed. We ask these things in the precious name of our risen saviour, Jesus! Amen.

Coming up

| Date & Times | Activity | Details | Location |
|---|---|--|------------------------|
| Mon 20 Apr | | | |
| 10am-12noon 10am-1.30pm 1.30pm-3.30pm 7.30pm-9pm | Coffee Room Ageing Well with Strength and Balance Art Group Bolton Church Plant - Interest Meeting | Drop-in for coffee and cake. Everyone welcome. office@stpetersparish.info ruthrobinson293@gmail.com josh@stpetersparish.info | Parish Centre |
| Tues 21 Apr | | | |
| 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 | office@stpetersparish.info ignite@stpetersparish.info tread@stpetersparish.info | Parish Centre |
| Weds 22 Apr | | | |
| 9am-1pm | Hope at the Hub | Drop-in community session, all welcome | St Andrew's |
| 10am 12.30pm-2pm | Open Door Ladies Group CAP Life Skills | History of the Triangle Church. Val 07902 167971 samwolstencroft@cap.uk | Parish Centre |
| Thurs 23 Apr | | | |
| 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 7pm | Bolton Christian Meditation Group APCM Cheese and Wine Evening | j.wilde.1963@gmail.com Parish-wide annual meeting. All welcome. | Parish Centre |
| Fri 24 Apr | | | |
| 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 25 Apr | | | |
| 9am-12noon | INTERACT Performing Arts | Lucy/Emma 07896 724531 | St Peter's |
| 9am-1.30pm | Café on the Green | Delicious food, excellent service. All welcome | St Peter's Primary Sch |

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



St Peter's Halliwell



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