



PARISH OF ST PETER'S, HALLIWELL

NEWSLETTER



Sunday 26th April 2026

HEADLINES

- **APCM Update – including news of the election of an additional Churchwarden!**
- **Parish Share Thanks**
- **Upcoming Duck Race**
- **Prayer for the week from Carolyn Rigby, PCC Secretary**

Read on to find out more...

SERVICES

Sun 26 April

ST PETER'S CHURCH

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

SMITHILLS FELLOWSHIP

10am	All-age service with Communion
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BARROW BRIDGE MISSION

10.30am	All-age 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...

APCM Update

Never have I felt a deeper sense of God's presence at an APCM than I did at our APCM on Thursday evening at the Parish Centre. From the moment we started the meeting in worship and prayer it was clear that God was at work amongst us. Each report reflected our reliance on God – thanking him for his provision and looking to him to provide for us.



There was much to give thanks for - our financial position was much stronger than forecast, we paid our parish share in full and continue as a real living wage employer. We've made great progress with the maintenance and development of our buildings. We've seen significant growth in the use of the Parish Centre. The quality of the teaching, fellowship and leadership across all our fellowships remains high. The bond of love between us is strong and we are full of faith and anticipation for all that God will do in the year ahead.



I am delighted to announce that Chris Ward is our new churchwarden. Chris joins Simon Scott bringing us back to a full complement of churchwardens. I am confident Chris will do an excellent job and, together

with Simon, they will form a strong partnership bringing a wealth of experience and enthusiasm. At the APCM Chris spoke of his sense of call from God, whilst on holiday with Sheena visiting family in California; he said the call was so strong that he could not ignore it. I believe this is an answer to prayer and I am excited to see what this means for the parish – there is no better place to be than in

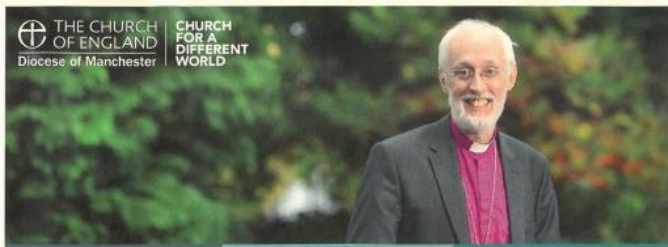
the centre of God's will! Please hold Chris and Simon in your prayers.

I remember the excitement at last year's APCM when I announced the news that Josh Openshaw was joining us with a vision to plant a new church in Bolton town centre. It was thrilling to see Josh here in person this year to update us on the amazing progress he is making with bringing this dream into reality.

Our PCC has a full complement of members, although we have only filled two out of a possible 6 places for Deanery Synod membership. We expressed thanks to Helen Stainthorpe as she stepped down as rep for Smithills Fellowship and welcomed Val Beasley who will take her place. We are sad that Peter Caffrey has stepped down as a Deanery Synod rep as he has significant health issues and is unable to continue. Peter has made a huge contribution to our parish as he has faithfully served in many areas of ministry, and we are eternally grateful for all he has done. Please join me in praying for Peter and Val and their family at this difficult time.

Parish Share Thanks

We are thankful that as a parish we were able to meet the full **£120,750** parish share contribution requested by Manchester Diocese for 2025. **Thank you to everyone who gives financially for enabling us to achieve this.**



Thank you

Thank you for your 2025 giving of Parish Share.

As the parish of
Halliwell, St Peter
in the Diocese of Manchester, you gave

£120,750

which was 100% of the total agreed

as your contribution toward the total diocesan share received in 2025 of £5.8 million.

A message from the Bishop of Manchester

I thank God for all you give to your church, both in time and money. Your generosity, in being able to pay your Parish Share means that the mission and ministry of God's church can happen in every community in this Diocese.

It is my prayer that you will be able to continue to support your church. Your giving has a vital role, and it does make a difference to your community.

Yours in Christ,

The Rt Revd David Walker, Bishop of Manchester

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Barrow Bridge's Annual Duck Race

Sun 10 May, 1pm, Barrow Bridge Mission

All welcome to come and join the fun. Funds raised will go to Mission funds and the Ugandan orphanage.

THE BARROW BRIDGE
duck race
2026

Come along and have a quacking time!

Sunday 10th May - 1pm

Ducks are only £1
Enter as many as you would like.
Modest prizes for the winner of each race.

BARROW BRIDGE MISSION
The heart of the village

www.stpetersparish.info
@BBMission

SUPPORTING: MISSION FUNDS & THE UGANDAN ORPHANAGE

Halliwell Local History Society (incorporating Smithills)



Tues 28 Apr, 7.30pm, Parish Centre
Brian Groom 'These Isles: England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales.' All welcome. Info from enquiries@halliwell-lhs.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

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 at office@stpetersparish.info



Home for Good Peer Support Group

Sat 10 May, 12.30pm-2pm, Parish Centre

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



Soul Sisters Ladies Ministry Events



Weds 20 May, 7pm, Ruby Rose (Lee Lane, Horwich)

A fashion show and catch up. Tickets £5 incl. a glass of prosecco, available from Rachel Cowling. *And...*

Fri 19 Jun, 7.30pm-9pm, Parish Centre

A Praise Party! Join us for loud, upbeat worship music. Led by Brandi, we'll dance the night away with flags, banners and our best moves! **FREE**. For space purposes, please let us know if you're coming - katie.leaver@hotmail.co.uk

Macmillan Thanks

Val Perris says a big thank you to everyone who supported her sale of knitted chicks and bunnies, marmalade etc in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. **A total of £1332.11 was raised!** Save the date: There will be a Macmillan coffee morning at Oasis in St Peter's on **Thurs 24 Sept**



Mission Matters

 This month, our focus is on our mission partners **Rev Craig and Elaine Watson**, who are out in Algeria at Holy Trinity Algiers (HTA). Craig and Elaine are currently attending an ICS (Intercontinental Church Society) conference this week in Switzerland, so please pray that the Lord will refresh them and guide them into what he wants of them in 2026/2027. We pray that they, *and their luggage*, safely return to Algiers. We ask that you pray for Craig and Elaine as they are involved in a team-planning event on Fri 1 May that will also concentrate on their Pentecost service, their current series about being empowered by the Spirit; and their Trinity service as it is their church birthday event. Pray

for wisdom in the planning. We also give thanks to all here at St Peter's for praying for them over Easter. The celebrations were well received with many blessings incl. baptisms, visits from the Bishop, and an opportunity to attend a service with the Pope. Please keep Craig and Elaine in your thoughts and prayers.



Prayer for the week

Following our APCM, our PCC Secretary, Carolyn Rigby, focusses on our Verse for the Year – *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind”:* and, *“Love your neighbour as yourself.”* Take a listen to: ‘I Will Offer Up My Life’ by Matt Redman: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o5DiuciKXNc&list=RD_o5DiuciKXNc&start_radio=1
See her prayer on the back page.

Looking Forward

Newcomers' Dinner



Sat 16 May, 5.30pm-7pm, Parish Centre
Anyone who joined us over the last year or so, or considers

themselves new to St Peter's Church is invited to come for dinner. Children welcome. Please **RSVP by Sun 10 May** to sam.wolstencroft@gmail.com with details of any allergies/dietary requirements.

Worship Unplugged



Sun 7 June, 6.30pm, St Peter's
All welcome so please do join us.

Prayer from Carolyn Rigby, PCC Secretary

Lord, as we begin our new " Church Year " following on from our APCM we ask that you would fill our church with love and unity. Guide our Vicar, Leadership Teams, PCC and Church Wardens giving them wisdom, energy and enthusiasm for their roles in our Church. We thank you for putting the call of service on the hearts of all these people in these roles. Help them to make our church a light in our community, making the gospel and your love known.

We pray for protection of our leaders and their families; strengthen their faith and love for you. We pray that our leaders will stand firm during times of trouble and difficulty. Help us all in the Parish of St Peter's to love, not just in words but in action.

Amen

Coming up

Date & Times	Activity	Details	Location
Mon 27 Apr			
10am-12noon 10am-1.30pm	Coffee Room Ageing Well with Strength and Balance	Drop-in for coffee and cake. All welcome. office@stpetersparish.info	Parish Centre
Tues 28 Apr			
9.45am-11.30am	Tots on Tuesday	Julie 07835 014470	St Andrew's
10am-11.30am 6pm-7.15pm 7.30pm-9pm 7.30pm-9pm	Little Wiggles Toddlers' Group Ignite KS2 Children's Group Tread Youth Group Halliwell Local History Society	office@stpetersparish.info ignite@stpetersparish.info tread@stpetersparish.info enquiries@halliwell-lhs.co.uk	Parish Centre
Weds 29 Apr			
9am-1pm	Hope at the Hub	Drop-in community session, all welcome	St Andrew's
10am 12.30pm-2pm 12.30pm-2pm	Open Door Ladies Group CAP Life Skills Circle of Support for women supporting/caring for husbands/partners with long term illness	Urban Outreach. Val 07902 167971 samwolstencroft@cap.uk Sam Potts 07702 317481	Parish Centre
Thurs 30 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
Fri 1 May			
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 2 May			
9am-12noon	INTERACT Performing Arts	Lucy/Emma 07896 724531	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

Wardens: Simon Scott and Chris Ward 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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