



PARISH OF ST PETER'S, HALLIWELL

NEWSLETTER



Easter Double Edition: Sundays 5th and 12th April 2026

HEADLINES

- Happy Easter!
- New Sermon Series'
- Spring Harvest 2026: No Greater Life
- Alpha Course Coming Up
- APCM Cheese and Wine Evening
- Prayer for the week from Rev Alan

Read on to find out more...

SERVICES

Sun 5 April - Easter Sunday

Sun 12 April

ST PETER'S CHURCH

8.30am	Morning service (5 th), Morning service with Communion (12 th)
10.30am*	Worship for Everyone service with Communion (5 th), Worship for Everyone service (12 th)
6.30pm*	Parish-wide service with Baptisms (5 th), parish-wide service (12 th)

SMITHILLS FELLOWSHIP

10am	Family service (5 th and 12 th)
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BARROW BRIDGE MISSION

10.30am	Morning service with Communion (5 th), morning service (12 th)
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ST ANDREW'S HOPE CENTRE

10.30am	Morning service with Communion (5 th), morning service (12 th)
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*Livestreamed, search YouTube for 'stpetershalliwell'
We are an accessibility-friendly parish

Rev Alan writes...

Happy Easter!

On Easter Sunday, we will be celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour who died to save us from our sins and rose again to bring us new life and hope for all eternity –

Hallelujah, he is risen indeed! Each fellowship will be celebrating with fun, fellowship and food – including an Easter breakfast at St Andrews at 9am; hot cross buns at St Peters from 10am; and bacon and sausage barms after the service at Barrow Bridge.

There has been lots of events throughout Holy



Week, including Easter Experience in St Peter's, and I visited St Peter's Primary School with Easter treats to say thank you to all the staff.

New Sermon Series'

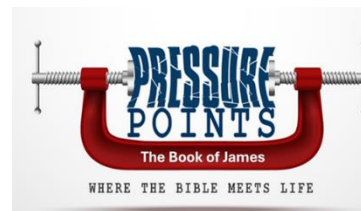
After Easter, we start two new sermon series'. In our morning services, we continue with our overarching theme of Movement, with **Serving a**

Movement where we will examine Jesus' movement through the church in the book of Acts. It will offer



us the opportunity to discern the role Jesus is asking us, both as individuals and as a church family, to play in His movement today.

In our evening services, we will look at the book of James in a series called **Pressure Points**. The early



Christians were dispersed because of persecution and faced pressure in living out their faith. James

beckoned these first believers to let pressure push them deeper in their journey with Jesus. Today,

James invites us all as believers to open our lives to the truth of God's Word and learn how to deal positively with pressure points.

Spring Harvest 2026: No Greater Life

We have a group of 40 people (32 adults and 8 children) from our parish going to Spring Harvest at Butlins in Minehead next week. Spring Harvest is an amazing Christian holiday and conference with loads of interesting seminars, fun activities and worship with thousands of Christians from across the country. This year's theme is **No Greater Life: Embracing God's design for whole-hearted love** which will be explored through the main celebrations, seminars, and across all the children's and youth programmes - everyone will be journeying through the same big idea at the same time. Please pray for our group that they will be impacted and return with renewed energy and ideas to support our work in the parish. If you'd like to join in, you can subscribe to watch it as a livestream, visit: <https://www.springharvest.org/> and look for Spring Harvest Home for more details.



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.



Easter Baptisms

Easter Sunday, Sun 5 Apr, 6.30pm, St Peter's

We thank God for these candidates on the wonderful occasion of their baptisms/re-affirmation of baptismal vows today: **Abbie Woodhouse** (St. Peter's), **David Jackson** (St Peter's) and **Kiowa Willshaw** (Barrow Bridge)

Alpha Course Coming Up

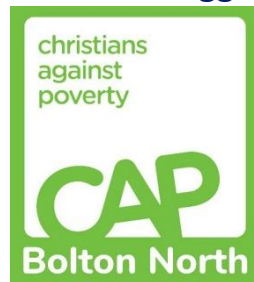
Thurs 7 May, 8pm-9.30pm, Parish Centre

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

CAP Easter Egg Thanks



Sam, our CAP Debt Centre Manager, says 'Thanks to everyone who donated towards the cost of Easter eggs for our current CAP clients and all the wonderful team that have now delivered 34 bags! Each bag includes an Alpha Why Easter? booklet, greeting card and invitations to services and Alpha. Please pray that the literature is read and clients are blessed and are drawn to explore faith in Jesus.'



APCM Cheese and Wine Evening

Thurs 23 Apr, 7pm, Parish Centre



This year's Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be again be a social event in the Parish Centre with cheese and wine, plus other non-alcoholic drinks and nibbles. We'll start with worship, then we will cover the business side of things with our annual reports and elections, Rev Alan will give an update on our vision, and then we'll have an opportunity to relax and socialise. **EVERYONE from our fellowships is invited to this parish-wide meeting so please try to prioritise attendance if you can.** A key part of the meeting this year is to elect an additional Churchwarden, and 6 Deanery Synod representatives. Nomination forms and role descriptions are available at all services or from the Parish Office. Contact any of your fellowship leaders or Rev Alan if you'd like to discuss serving in this way, especially for the Churchwarden vacancy in support of Simon Scott, our current Churchwarden. Thank you.

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 Repair Café

Weds 15 Apr, 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 16 Apr, 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

CreateBolton: Upcoming drama

Sat 18 April, 7.30pm, Café Create (Claremont House, Bark Street, BL1 2AX)



This monologue - Talking Heads: A Chip in the Sugar by Alan Bennett - features our very own Ben Latham! Tickets £5. Book online at createbolton.org.uk

Resource Church Interest Meeting

Mon 20 Apr, 7.30pm-9pm, Parish Centre

Please note, this meeting will take place on this date only this month due to the Easter holidays. More details to follow soon – do keep the date in your diary! Info from Rev Josh – josh@stpetersparish.info

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.



Calling all Knitters and Crocheters!

Do you knit or crochet? Barrow Bridge Banner Group need your help to create a cascade of poppies for Remembrance Day. You can knit or crochet using any pattern you like or use one provided by the group. If you can use your own wool that would be greatly appreciated but we can supply it, if needed. If you have any wool that you no longer want but would like to donate it, that would be great too! There's a box for donated wool and completed poppies at the Parish Centre along with copies of a simple poppy pattern. *Look out for more information to follow on events to be held at Barrow Bridge Mission relating to Remembrance Day.* Info from office@stpetersparish.info / 01204 599900.



Prayer for the week

Our vicar, Rev Alan, has an Easter prayer for us. *See his prayer on the back page.*

Looking Forward

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

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 Rev Alan

Dear Father,

Prepare our hearts for Easter, to celebrate the risen Jesus, alive and glorified from the grave, victorious over sin and death, living forevermore and giving us the promise of eternal life with You.

Thank you that because Jesus conquered death, we will rise, too, to live with You eternally.

Fill our hearts, O Lord, with joy as we worship You, for Your unfailing love and for making a way through Jesus to redeem us as Your own, giving us life everlasting.

Embolden us to share this Good News with those who do not know You, so that they might, too, never die, and be alive in Christ.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Coming up:

It's the Easter break so some activities are now paused until w/c 20 Apr

Date & Times	Activity	Details	Location
Mon 6 Apr / 13 Apr			
10am-1.30pm	Ageing Well with Strength and Balance (13 th only)	office@stpetersparish.info	Parish Centre
6pm-7.30pm	ABL Weight Management session (13 th only)	www.yhbolton.co.uk / 01204 205090	
Tues 7 Apr / 14 Apr			
11.30am-1pm	Start! Course	office@stpetersparish.info	Parish Centre
Weds 8 Apr / 15 Apr			
9am-1pm	Hope at the Hub (15 th only) Bolton Repair Café (15 th only)	Drop-in community session, all welcome Bring items for repair, stay for refreshments	St Andrew's
10am-11.30am	Open Door Ladies' Group (15 th only)	Finding Out. Val 07902 167971	Parish Centre
Thurs 9 Apr / 16 Apr			
8.30am-9am	Prayer Meeting	Julie 07835 014470	St Andrew's
2pm-4pm	Dementia Friendship Support Group (16 th only)	joan@stpetersparish.info	Parish Centre
10.30am-12noon	Oasis Coffee Morning and service	Refreshments 10.30am, service 11.30am	St Peter's
Fri 10 Apr / 17 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

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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