PARISH OF ST PETER'S, HALLIWELL

NEWSLETTER

Sunday 17th May 2026

HEADLINES

- **The Pressure of Words**
- **Shining Light in the Arts**
- **Associate Minister Vacancy**
- **A Quacking Duck Race!**
- **Prayer for the week from Rachel Flintoff on behalf of St Andrew's (Hope Centre)**

Read on to find out more…

SERVICES

Sun 17 May
It's Lighthouse week!

ST PETER'S CHURCH

8.30am	Morning service
10.20am	Lighthouse at the Parish Centre
10.30am*	Adult service with Twinklers and Communion
2pm	Baptism service
6.30pm*	Parish-wide service

SMITHILLS FELLOWSHIP

10am	Morning service with Lighthouse and baptism

BARROW BRIDGE MISSION

10.30am	Morning service with Lighthouse and Communion

ST ANDREW'S HOPE CENTRE

10.30am	Café Church

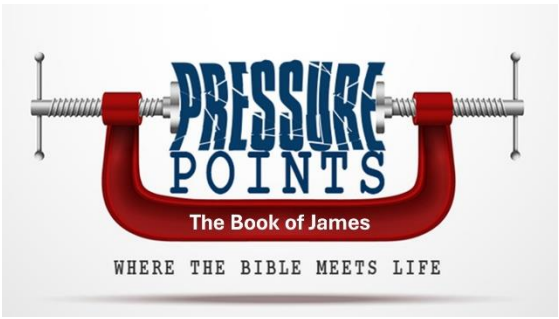
*Livestreamed, search YouTube for 'stpetershalliwell'

We are an accessibility-friendly parish

Rev Alan writes…

The Pressure of Words

At last Sunday's parish-wide 6.30pm service at St Peter's, I spoke on the ***'Pressure of Words'***, as part of our ***'Pressure Points'*** sermon series looking at the book of James. The book of James was written to the early church in Jerusalem and provides guidance on how to live as followers of Jesus.



My talk focussed on James 3:1-18 and the challenge we all face with the way we use words. I spoke of how words are incredibly powerful; it's true to say that many of us have been impacted by harmful words spoken over us at some point in our lives – such words often have a profound impact that shape our decisions and attitudes. The book of Proverbs in the bible reminds us that: ***"The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit."*** Prov 18:21.

Words matter to us, and they also matter to God. Jesus said***, "I tell you that on the day of judgment people will have to account for every careless word they speak."*** Matt 12:36.

Andrew Kilpatrick, who led the service, invited us all to do the *elastic band challenge* – to wear an elastic band on our wrist and every time we say a negative or discouraging word to snap it against our wrist as a sharp reminder of the hurt we can cause.

I shared a number of helpful ideas, inspired by the bible, of ways we can control our words and use our mouths for good. One idea was to use the simple acronym **THINK** as a way to help us to think before we speak, ask yourself...

T - is it true?
H - is it helpful?
I - is it inspiring?
N - is it necessary?
K - is it kind?

I have loved our services on James so far, there has been some huge challenges and great wisdom. We continue this Sunday with Steve Walsh speaking on the theme of the '***Pressure of Conflict***' from James 4:1-10. Please join us if you can.

Shining Light in the Arts

Joy Kilpatrick from Create Bolton, and a regular at St Andrew's, exhibited at last week's art exhibition at Falcon Mill in Halliwell. Her exhibit was inspired by The Shema, which is the declaration of faith from Deuteronomy 6:4-9 to "love God with all your heart, soul, and strength" - which is the Hebrew origin of our verse for the year 2026.

Joy created an amazing hanging made of pottery squares each containing words from the Shema in Hebrew and English. The exhibit really came to life when light was shined on it, and you could see the design both illuminated and in shadow – cleverly designed to represent the shadows we leave as light shines on us.

Associate Minister Vacancy

We are looking for a prayerful pastor and gifted teacher who will support Rev Alan in leading our busy and flourishing parish during an exciting season of new opportunities for mission across the generations, deepening discipleship among our congregations, and transformative ministry for the wider town of Bolton in the name and for the glory of Jesus Christ. Closing date: Weds 10 June. Interviews: Tues 21 July. **Know someone who may be interested? Please share!** Click on the following link for full details: https://www.manchester.anglican.org/vacancies/associate-minister-st-peter-halliwell/

Gift Aid Forms

If you have completed an online gift aid form on the church's website (www.stpetersparish.info) in the last 18 months, could you please send an email to finance@stpetersparish.info just to confirm that we have received it - a technical issue has recently been identified with the website. Thank you.

A Quacking Duck Race!

Last Sunday saw scores of people flocking to Barrow Bridge for the annual duck race. The team from Barrow Bridge Mission did a wonderful job of hosting what was a fun-filled time for all the family. Well done to everyone involved and special thanks to Yogi, Becky McMillan's husband and owner of Crofters in Bradshaw, who generously donated the food. A total of £388.76 was raised for Mission funds and the Ugandan orphanage.

Baptise and Share

Baptisms Today

Sun 17 May

We welcome **Jacob CRITCHLOW** (10am, Smithills) and **Honey FALLOWS** (2pm, St Peter's) and thank God for the gift of these children and for their parents, Godparents, family and friends on this special occasion.

CAP Coast to Coast Fundraiser

Many of you may know Jane Morris, one of the North Area CAP Partnership Managers, who used to worship at St Peter's with her husband, Matthew. Starting on 23 May, both of them will be walking the Coast to Coast route across the North of England - that's 192 miles in 14 days with over 8,500m elevation gain (climbing the equivalent of Everest!) plus they are carrying all their own kit. Jane and Matthew

christians against poverty CAP Bolton North

are doing this to raise money for CAP. All donations will go into CAP's North Deprivation Fund, specifically supporting churches in the poorest communities across the North of England to help them open a debt centre. If you are able to support them, please go to: https://www.justgiving.com/page/c2cjaneandmatthew?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL

Meet

Dreaming the Impossible Quiz Night

Sat 6 Jun, 7-9pm, Parish Centre

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, from Rachel Cowling. *Also coming up soon…*

Fri 19 Jun, 7.30-9pm, 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. More info about both events available from katie.leaver@hotmail.co.uk

Bolton Repair Café

Weds 20 May, 10.30am-12.30pm, St Andrews (Hope Centre)

Bring your items in need of repair and stay for delicious coffee and cake. Please note*: Sorry, **no sewing repairs** will be available today.*

Dementia Friendship Support Group

Thurs 21 May, 2-4pm, Parish Centre

For those with dementia *and* their carers. Refreshments, quiz, fun and a very warm welcome. Info from joan@stpetersparish.info /01204 840180

Pray

PrayerZone

Prayer Zone

Weds 3 June, 7.30-8.30pm, St Andrew's (Hope Centre)

Gather from across the parish for an hour of dynamic prayer and worship.

Prayer for the week

Rachel Flintoff, on behalf of St Andrew's (Hope Centre), reminds us: "*Jesus...said, I want little children to come to me, so never interfere with them when they want to come, for heaven's kingdom realm is composed of beloved ones like these! ...No one will enter the kingdom realm of heaven unless he becomes like one of these!" Matthew 19:14 (Passion translation.*) ***See her prayer on the back page***.

Looking Forward

Out and About Walk

Sat 6 Jun, meet 9.30am opposite St Peter's Church

A 6-mile walk around Heysham. Info from Janet Ainsworth on 07427 690087.

Café on the Green

Sat 6 Jun, 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.

Worship Unplugged

Sun 7 Jun, 6.30pm, St Peter's

All welcome so please do join us.

Prayer from Rachel Flintoff on behalf of St Andrew's (Hope Centre)

Thank you, Lord Jesus, for all the children and young people who come to the many activities across St Peter's Parish. We pray for all the toddlers and their parents/ guardians who bring them each week, that they will feel welcomed and safe; that they will find friendship and comfort. Pray that the little ones will feel completely secure, able to have fun and develop socially in a healthy and happy environment.

We pray for all the helpers and volunteers to have listening and caring hearts, both to the little ones as well as the parents/guardians as this may be the only safe place they can unburden themselves. We pray for meaningful conversations and relationships to flourish. Please hover over each person, young and otherwise, that they may all feel your love and presence.
In the precious name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, Amen

Coming up

Date & Times	Activity	Details	Location
Mon 18 May			
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. All welcome. office@stpetersparish.info ruthrobinson293@gmail.com	Parish Centre
Tues 19 May			
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 20 May			
9am-1pm 10.30am-12.30pm	Hope at the Hub Bolton Repair Cafe	Drop-in community session, all welcome Bring items for repair, stay for refreshments	St Andrew's
10am-11.30am	Open Door Ladies Group	Bible study – Sheena Ward. Val 07902 167971	Parish Centre
Thurs 21 May			
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-4pm 8pm-9.30pm	Dementia Friendship Support Group Alpha Course and Life Group	joan@stpetersparish.info office@stpetersparish.info	Parish Centre
Fri 22 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 23 May			
9am-12noon	INTERACT Performing Arts	Lucy/Emma 07896 724531	St Peter's

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

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www.stpetersparish.info

St Peter's Halliwell
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