



PARISH OF ST PETER'S, HALLIWELL

NEWSLETTER



Sunday 19th July 2026

HEADLINES

- The Alpha Course
- Summer Sermon Series – Lessons from the Life of Moses
- Thank You, Miss Slater!
- Holiday at the Hub
- Art Group Critique
- Duke of Edinburgh Honours
- Prayer for the Week from our Vicar, Rev Alan

Read on to find out more...

SERVICES

Sun 19 July
It's Lighthouse week!



ST PETER'S CHURCH

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

SMITHILLS FELLOWSHIP

10am	Morning service with Lighthouse
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BARROW BRIDGE MISSION

10.30am	Morning service with Communion and Lighthouse prep
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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...

The Alpha Course.

I want to use my front page article this week to update you all on our parish Alpha courses. I am hugely encouraged that since we restarted running regular courses in the summer of 2022, we have run 3 courses each year and have a total of 85 guests who have completed the course. Many of these people worship regularly in our services and have continued to meet as part of Connect Groups and the Alpha follow-on group and some have been baptised.



Keeping these courses continually running has been no mean feat and huge thanks must go to Linda Foster who has worked hard to recruit groups of leaders and helpers to run the sessions. But the reality is that we are struggling for leaders and helpers at the moment, and we certainly don't want to cancel future courses having seen so much fruit from the courses over the last few years. So, I am appealing to you all to consider volunteering on an Alpha course, either as a leader or helper, or helping in some way with the catering and organisation. If you'd like to explore getting involved, please speak to me or Linda, or send me an email or a text, as I'd be delighted to talk it through. I'd love for a group of us to go to an official Alpha Course training day to learn and gain the skills to help secure Alpha for the future.



Our next Alpha Course starts on **Thu 3 Sept, 8pm** at the Parish Centre and you can register interest with Amanda in the Parish Office.

Summer Sermon Series – Lessons from the Life of Moses

Throughout the summer our morning services will have an all-age theme, to give our regular Lighthouse leaders a well-deserved break. The sermon series is called **Lessons from the Life of Moses** and traces the journey of one of the Bible's most pivotal figures: his upbringing in Egypt, his preparation in the wilderness, and his leadership of the Israelites. It offers profound lessons on faith, leadership, and redemption.



Thank You, Miss Slater!



We said a fond farewell to Alison Slater on her retirement after 33 years faithful service as a teacher at St Peter's Smithills Dean Primary School. She has been an incredible teacher and touched the lives of so many of her pupils. Over the 33 years she has taught 1,059

children, delivered over 30,000 hours of lessons, and marked over a million books! We thank her and wish her every blessing in her well-earned retirement.

Holiday at the Hub



Last Wednesday was a hive of activity at Hub at the Hope at St Andrew's Johnson Fold. In the morning, the Repair Café took place then guests enjoyed a delicious lunch and an afternoon of fun-filled activities including bingo, crafts, a quiz and ice cream treats! Huge thanks to Steve Walsh and his dedicated team of volunteers.

Art Group Critique

Ruth Robinson, who leads the fortnightly Art Group that meets on Mondays (term-time, 1.30-3.30pm) in the Parish Centre says *"Our Critique on Monday showcased another year of excellent artwork by our artists - see the selected photos below. Thank you to each member of the group for making it a warm and friendly place to be. Our thanks to Simon Scott for selecting this year's winners, but as he said, they are*

all winners! His comments on each artwork were encouraging and helpful." The winners were 1st: Jeff Corns - Tractor study, 2nd: Deborah Pilling - Bread and Wine study, 3rd: Sheila Ingerson - Impressionist landscape. For more details about Art Group, please contact ruthrobinson293@gmail.com.



Duke of Edinburgh Honours

Congratulations to Cleo Rigby and Sally Standish, our 'golden girls' who have gained the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award and recently went to Holyrood Palace to attend the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Garden party. They both got to talk to the Duke of Edinburgh; he asked Cleo if she had done her award through school, so she explained she had done it through her Church Youth Group – a big shout out for St Peter's!



We're hiring! Parish Office Vacancy



We have a vacancy on our friendly, small staff team for a **Finance Officer** - a part-time role, 18 hours per week - based in the Parish Centre.

After 7 years in this role, Elaine Vincent, is leaving us at the end of July to move down south and we're very sorry to see her go. Interested? Please see this link - <https://cdn.email.cdn.churchsuite.com/xWlw94RoTgOI4FJs6Fsn> - and contact Amanda in the Parish Office in the first instance to discuss further. If you know someone who may be suitable, please do share!
Closing date for applications is Fri 31 July 2026.

Youth and Children's Ministry Lead

We are advertising again for this key role for our parish with an increased salary offer. Please share as widely as you can and get praying! Visit: www.stpetersparish.info/jobs for info.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY LEAD

- £27,000 - £31,000
- Excellent Support Package
- Full Time

Closing date 1 Sept, 2026
Visit www.stpetersparish.info/jobs

St Peter's Halliwell, Bolton

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St Peter's School Nursery Consultation



Let Your Light Shine

St Peter's Smithills Dean CE Primary School is consulting on an exciting proposal to expand its Early Years provision by opening a school-based nursery for two- and three-year-olds from September 2028. The

proposed nursery would provide high-quality early education within a caring Christian environment, helping children to develop and thrive from an earlier age. It would also support smoother transitions into Reception, offer greater continuity for families, and enable earlier identification and support for children with additional needs. The consultation is open until **Fri 7 Aug 2026**, and the school would welcome the views of parents, carers, church members and the wider community. Responses can be sent directly to the school by email – office@spsd.bolton.sch.uk - or in writing. For further information, please contact St Peter's Smithills Dean CE Primary School directly.

Availability of Cool Spaces

With various heat alerts in place across parts of the UK, we wanted to make you aware of Warm Welcome's network of Cool Spaces. Many Warm Welcome Spaces open their doors during periods of hot weather, offering local people a safe, welcoming place to sit, rest and cool down - particularly important for older people, families with young children, and people with long-term health conditions. As well as helping people stay safe during periods of extreme heat, Cool Spaces provide an opportunity for people to stay connected and access support within their local community.

People can find their nearest Cool Space using the Warm Welcome map, filtering by the Cool Space icon: <https://www.warmwelcome.uk/find-a-space>



Oasis Summer Celebration!

Thurs 23 July, 10.30am, Parish Centre

Liz Nicholls says "We will be celebrating our time together as an Oasis Family in the Parish Centre



this coming Thursday. Come and join us for coffee as usual from 10.30am onwards and for a special service at 11.30am followed by lunch. There is no need to have signed up, there will be plenty of room and plenty of food! It will be great to see you there!"

Bolton Christian Meditation Group

Thurs 23 July, 2-3pm, Parish Centre

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

Halliwell Local History Society (incorporating Smithills)

Tues 28 July, 7.30pm-9pm, Parish Centre



This month's guest speaker is Marilyn Shalks with 'My Early Life in the Theatre, TV and Films'. Info from enquiries@halliwell-lhs.co.uk

Holiday Club Summer Fun

Mon 20 July – Fri 28 Aug, 8am-5.30pm, Parish Centre

The Family Club Summer Club
FUN. FRIENDS. ADVENTURE.

Join us for an exciting summer full of themed days, sports, creative activities and outdoor adventures! Every day is packed with fun, laughter and memories to last a lifetime.

FOREST SCHOOL ADVENTURES!
We'll be visiting our local Forest School Provision throughout the summer on selected days. Children will enjoy exploring the outdoors, taking part in woodland activities and building confidence in nature.

THEMED DAYS, SPORTS & ACTIVITIES
A mix of themed days, sports, creative crafts, team games and exciting activities to keep everyone engaged and having fun!

ALL MEALS INCLUDED
Nutritious, tasty meals and snacks are included in all sessions.

FOREST SCHOOL BUS FARE
£5.50 on selected Forest School days only.

FULL & HALF DAY OPTIONS AVAILABLE

FULL DAY 8:00am - 5:30pm £29.50	HALF DAY £16.00 • 8:00am - 12:45pm • 12:45pm - 5:30pm	FOREST SCHOOL BUS FARE £5.50 (selected days only)	WHERE? St Peter's Parish Centre, Bolton
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BOOK THROUGH OUR APP
Simply book your session through The Family Club app and give your child a summer holiday to remember!

07577 835 377
hello@thefamily-club.co.uk
thefamily-club.co.uk

Whether you're looking for a full day of adventures or just a half-day session to fit around your plans, The Family Club have got you covered! To book your place email hello@thefamily-club.co.uk or call 01204 494888 (Option 1 - Heaton House Nursery).



Prayer for the Week

Our Vicar, Rev Alan, has a summertime prayer for us all this week. **See his prayer on the back page.**

Looking Forward

Save the Date: Macmillan Coffee Morning

Thurs 24 Sept, 10.30am, St Peter's Church

All are most welcome to join us at Oasis for our coffee morning to raise valuable funds for this very worthwhile cause.



Prayer from our Vicar, Rev Alan Saunders

A prayer for the summer holidays:

Lord God

We pray for the children and young people enjoying their break from school and college. Bless them and keep them safe in all their fun and adventures this summer.

We pray for parents, carers, and those looking after children this summer. Bless them and give them the joy, energy, patience, and wisdom they may need.

Thank you for all the teachers, assistants, helpers, carers, and volunteers who teach and nurture our children and young people. Bless them this summer break - may it be a time of joy, rest, and relaxation.

Lord, help us all to enjoy the blessings of summertime. Whether we are away or at home, may this summer be a special time of bonding, making memories, laughter and love.

Help us to walk with You in whatever we do and wherever we go.

Amen

Coming up

*****Most activities are now paused for the summer break*****

Date & Times	Activity	Details	Location
Mon 20 July			
10am-1.30pm 5.30pm-7.30pm	Ageing Well with Strength and Balance ABL Weight Management Session	office@stpetersparish.info www.yhbolton.co.uk / 01204 205090	Parish Centre
Thurs 23 July			
8.30am-9am	Prayer meeting	Julie 07835 014470	St Andrew's
10.30am 2pm-3pm	Oasis 'Holiday at Home' Bolton Christian Meditation Group	Refreshments 10.30am, service 11.30am, lunch j.wilde.1963@gmail.com	Parish Centre
Fri 24 July			
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

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
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www.stpetersparish.info



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