



PARISH OF ST PETER'S, HALLIWELL

# NEWSLETTER



Double Edition: Sundays 25<sup>th</sup> October and 1<sup>st</sup> November 2026

## HEADLINES

- What Rev Alan said at the Vision Service
- Florence Odonga and Barbara Rea
- Christmas Dinner on Jesus 2026
- Prayer for the week from Hilary Peake on behalf of St Peter's Church

*Read on to find out more...*

## SERVICES

**Sun 25 Oct**

**Sun 1 Nov - It's  
Lighthouse week!**



### ST PETER'S CHURCH

|          |                                                                                           |
|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8.30am   | Morning service (25 <sup>th</sup> and 1 <sup>st</sup> )                                   |
| 10.20am  | Lighthouse at Parish Centre (1 <sup>st</sup> )                                            |
| 10.30am* | Worship for Everyone (25 <sup>th</sup> ), Adult service with Twinklers (1 <sup>st</sup> ) |
| 6.30pm*  | Parish-wide Communion service (25 <sup>th</sup> ), parish-wide service (1 <sup>st</sup> ) |

### SMITHILLS FELLOWSHIP

|      |                                                                                          |
|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10am | Communion service (25 <sup>th</sup> ), Family service with Lighthouse (1 <sup>st</sup> ) |
| 2pm  | Baptism service at Smithills Chapel (1 <sup>st</sup> )                                   |

### BARROW BRIDGE MISSION

|         |                                                                                              |
|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10.30am | Worship for Everyone (25 <sup>th</sup> ), Morning service with Lighthouse (1 <sup>st</sup> ) |
|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

### ST ANDREW'S HOPE CENTRE

|         |                                                                           |
|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10.30am | Morning service (25 <sup>th</sup> ), Communion service (1 <sup>st</sup> ) |
|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|

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

## Rev Alan writes...

### What I talked about at last week's Vision Service...

- Our ongoing commitment to our fellowships in St Peter's Parish – how we show this through **giving, meeting, serving, baptising and sharing, and praying**. And I thanked everyone for their service and commitment.



- A verse from Isaiah 43:19 that was spoken over our parish during the interregnum before I started as vicar 4-years ago where God says: **"See, I am doing a new thing!"**
- The wonderful legacy of our four fellowships and when they

were established.

- A story from our week of prayer in June 2015 when God spoke to me about planting a new church, but how through testing it prevailed that was not what God called me personally to do.
- Our vision to **"Transform Bolton Together in Jesus' Name."**
- How our vision to plant a new church into the heart of Bolton town centre is a move of God to build his church. That this is an act of obedience and generosity from us all at St Peter's and will come at a cost to us, but one that is worth paying to see the good that it will bring. Josh presented details of 21 people who we will be sending to start the plant in early 2027, and the gaps they will leave at St Peter's.
- Jesus' words to his disciples at the last supper in John 15:1-8, where he declared **he is the vine and we are the branches** and we must be **connected to him, grow as disciples**, and **know that God is the gardener** who prunes us for growth.
- I launched a new morning sermon series which starts this Sunday. It's called **A Movement of Disciples**, and it aims to help us grow as disciples and to consider how we can all play a part in filling the gaps as we send people to plant the new church.



## Vision Service Livestream

If you missed last Sunday's Parish-wide Vision Service, or you want to watch it again, you can do so here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wwus81HJ438>

## British Summertime Ends

Sun 25 Oct, 2am



A reminder that the clocks go back today...Just so you don't arrive too early for church!

## Florence Odonga's Thanksgiving Service

Sat 31 Oct, 12noon, St Peter's Church

Florence's Thanksgiving service will be followed by lunch in the church lounge and her family would love for her church family to join them. We are taking an offering to help support her family, especially Max. A burial will take place at Heaton Cemetery on Thu 5 Nov at 10am. Please continue to hold all her family in your prayers, especially Max, and her sisters, Brenda and Judith, and brother Stephen. The service will be livestreamed on this link:



<https://youtube.com/live/oXbEEr6BaCs?feature=share>

## Barbara Rea

Thurs 5 Nov, 2.30pm, Howe Bridge Crematorium

Barbara's funeral details are shown above. Please continue to keep Niki, Gino, Andrew and Christopher and all the wider family and friends in your prayers at this time.

## Christmas Dinner on Jesus 2026

We're excited to be able to support Urban Outreach again this year through their Christmas Dinner on



Jesus initiative, aiming to provide over 1000 Christmas dinners for people in Bolton who are struggling for a range of reasons and show them how much God loves them. Our contribution this year is going to

be **1600 x 500g ready-to-eat custard in Tetra Paks** and **900 x jars of cranberry sauce**. Please start adding them to your shopping list and bringing them to church or the Parish Centre from next week.



## Baptism

Sun 1 Nov, 2pm, Smithills Chapel

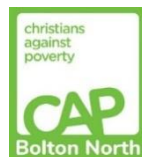
We welcome **Ralph** and **Oscar VINDEN** and thank God for the gift of these children and for their parents, Godparents, family and friends on this special occasion.

## Good News for Romania Thanks

Dave and Kath Richardson thank everyone who supported the GNfR coffee morning in the Parish Centre last Saturday. A wonderful **£1628.70** was raised which will help so much.



## CAP Advent Calendars



We're giving clients' children a Fairtrade 'Real' Christmas advent calendar as a way of sharing the true meaning of Christmas. If you'd like to contribute (each one is £4.95), please give donations to Sam via the Parish Office. Thank you!



## Halliwell Local History Society

Tues 27 Oct, 7.30pm, Parish Centre

Speaker Steve Fielding: 'Murderous Bolton'. All welcome. Info:

[enquiries@halliwell-lhs.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@halliwell-lhs.co.uk)



## Horwich Healing Rooms

Weds 4 Nov, 10am-12noon, Hub at the Hope, St Andrew's (Hope Centre)



Horwich Healing Rooms (part of this free and confidential Christian Prayer Ministry available to Christians and non-Christians alike) will be at Hub at the Hope today. Their members are trained and experienced prayer ministers from a wide range of mainstream Christian churches. **No appointment necessary just turn up.**

## Out and About Walk

Sat 7 Nov, meet 9.30am opposite St Peter's Church

The Tolkien Trail, approx 7-mile easy circular walk starting at Millie's Café, Hurst Green. The walk takes



you through landscapes that inspired the author J.R.R. Tolkien while creating the Shire. Wear suitable footwear, clothing and bring packed lunch. Info: Janet Ainsworth 07427 690087

## Remembrance Poppy Display

Sat 7 Nov and Sun 8 Nov, 1.30pm-4pm, Barrow Bridge Mission (just up from the bus terminus)



The Banner Group at Barrow Bridge Mission invite you to join them for a commemoration of Remembrance at the Mission. Everyone is very welcome! You will be able to see the wonderful knitted poppy cascade and displays created with the support of many people from

the parish, around Bolton, the UK and also by international friends. Refreshments will be available each afternoon. Donations received will be sent to the Royal British Legion and Help for Heroes. At 2pm on both afternoons the Last Post will be played on the Mission bridge. We look forward to seeing you!

## Canon Slade Y10's Costa Rica Fundraiser

Sun 8 Nov, after 10.30 service, St Peter's Church



"We are Isla Rowland and Emily Gilbert and we are raising money to fund a conservation trip to Costa Rica next summer

where we will be involved with reforestation efforts, beach cleanups, and collecting data on local wildlife to benefit and conserve the local ecosystem. We will be selling some crafts and are baking some cakes to raise money for this cause and would greatly appreciate any donations, thank you. Hope to see you there."

## Guest Speaker at 6.30pm Service

Sun 22 Nov, 6.30pm Parish-wide service, St Peter's

Paul Robinson, CEO of Voice of Persecuted Christians



(formerly Release International) will be speaking at this service.

This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the work of VOPC so please join us.

## Service of Hope and Remembrance

Sun 29 Nov, 2pm, St Peter's Church

This annual service provides an opportunity for you to remember your loved ones and be reminded of the peace and comfort that comes from God, our Heavenly Father.

Service followed by refreshments. All welcome so please do invite your family and friends to join us.



**Pray**

## Praying for the Bolton Resource Church



Following Sunday's vision service, we'd love to invite the whole St Peter's parish church family to keep praying for the Bolton resource church plant.

The planting team is coming together, and we're working towards an early 2027 launch in Bolton town centre. We hope to build a welcoming church community where students, young adults, families, and local residents can find friendship, explore faith, and encounter Jesus. There's still plenty to work out, and we're grateful to take these steps with your prayers and support.

Please join us in praying for:

- A place to call home: Give thanks for Bolton Lads and Girls Club as our starting venue. Pray that

God's purposes for us in this place would be fulfilled as we begin our life together.

- The planting team: growing friendships, unity, protection and confidence as we pray, prepare and serve together.
- New connections: opportunities to build relationships with students and people living in the town centre.
- Wisdom for the next steps: God's guidance as we make decisions and put practical arrangements in place.

Whether you pray regularly or remember us while making a cuppa, thank you! We'd love prayer to surround everything that's taking shape.

With love and thanks, Josh and the planting team

## PrayerZone



### Prayer Zone

Weds 4 Nov, 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

Hilary Peake, on behalf of St. Peter's Church, reflects on Vision: Changing Seasons and Changing Times following last Sunday's Parish-wide Vision Service, saying *"What a day as Alan shared the links of God's timings for him and our Parish. A time where we worshipped, prayed and ate together celebrating God's goodness and plans."* **See the back page.**

## Looking Forward

### Create Boltone's Fundraising Concert



Sat 21 Nov, 7pm, St Peter's Church

In support of Boltone's and the Evergreen Cancer Unit Bolton. A brass ensemble of musical excellence.

All welcome. Tickets only £5. Book yours online via [createboltone.org.uk](https://createboltone.org.uk) (scroll down to 'Events') or call in to Café Create (Claremont House, Bark Street, Bolton, BL1 1AX).

### The Mastersingers 'A Prelude to Christmas'



Sat 28 Nov, 4pm, St Peter's Church

Featuring St Peter's Christmas Choir! Everyone welcome. Tickets £12, under 16's free. Use this QR code or buy from the Parish Office or Rob and Sue Wilding.

### 13<sup>th</sup> Smithills Christmas Market



Sat 5 Dec, 12.30pm-3.30pm,  
Redcar Rd, Bolton

Offers of help and people to craft/make and sell products at this amazing 'not-for-profit' street market needed. Please contact [j.t.platt@me.com](mailto:j.t.platt@me.com)

## Prayer from Hilary Peake on behalf of St Peter's Church

God's Vision / Our Vision: Whilst watching the trees across from us wave and dance in the wind before leaves started to fall, I saw what seemed to be every tree fill with white blossom. It was a trick of the light! A burst of white cloud and bright sunlight made all the gaps between leaves and branches appear to be flowers. Sometimes our vision, either sight or understanding, doesn't always see the full story. God's vision is clear and his word guides us through the ups and downs of life. He longs to be with us to build faith, bring hope, find the lost, heal the broken.

Over these next two weeks, let's pray God will enlarge our vision of Him and us. To be with him on his path for us, please pray for: those on half terms to be refreshed; the needs of our Parish and the beginning of the Church plant; those sick, suffering and grieving; as we approach Remembrance Sunday.

Jeremiah 29:11 *"For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord plans to prosper you not to harm you plans to give you hope and a future."*

### It's half-term coming up so some activities are pausing...

| Date & Times                               | Activity                                                                                                         | Details                                                                                                                                                        | Location      |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Mon 26 Oct / 2 Nov</b>                  |                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                |               |
| 10am-1.30pm<br>10am-12noon                 | Ageing Well with Strength and Balance<br>Coffee Room (2 <sup>nd</sup> only)                                      | <a href="mailto:office@stpetersparish.info">office@stpetersparish.info</a><br>Drop-in for coffee and cake. All welcome                                         | Parish Centre |
| <b>Tues 27 Oct / 3 Nov</b>                 |                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                |               |
| 9.45am-11.30am                             | Tots on Tuesdays (3 <sup>rd</sup> only)                                                                          | Julie 07835 014470                                                                                                                                             | St Andrew's   |
| 10am-11.30am<br>7.30pm-9pm                 | Little Wiggles Toddlers' Group (3 <sup>rd</sup> only)<br>Halliwell Local History Society (27 <sup>th</sup> only) | <a href="mailto:office@stpetersparish.info">office@stpetersparish.info</a><br><a href="mailto:enquiries@halliwell-lhs.co.uk">enquiries@halliwell-lhs.co.uk</a> | Parish Centre |
| <b>Weds 28 Oct / 4 Nov</b>                 |                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                |               |
| 9am-12noon<br>10am-12noon<br>7.30pm-8.30pm | Hope at the Hub<br>Horwich Healing Rooms (4 <sup>th</sup> only)<br>PrayerZone (4 <sup>th</sup> only)             | Drop-in community session, all welcome<br>No appointment necessary, just turn up<br>Prayer and worship. All welcome.                                           | St Andrew's   |
| 10am-11.30am                               | Open Door Ladies' Group (4 <sup>th</sup> only)                                                                   | Bible Study – Steve Walsh. Val 07902 167971                                                                                                                    | Parish Centre |
| <b>Thurs 29 Oct / 5 Nov</b>                |                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                |               |
| 8.30am-9am                                 | Prayer Meeting                                                                                                   | Julie 07835 014470                                                                                                                                             | St Andrew's   |
| 8pm-9.30pm                                 | Alpha Course and Connect Group (5 <sup>th</sup> only)                                                            | <a href="mailto:office@stpetersparish.info">office@stpetersparish.info</a>                                                                                     | Parish Centre |
| 10.30am-12noon                             | Oasis Coffee Morning and Service                                                                                 | Refreshments 10.30am, service 11.30am                                                                                                                          | St Peter's    |
| <b>Fri 30 Oct / 6 Nov</b>                  |                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                |               |
| 10.30am-12noon<br>10am-12noon<br>7pm-9pm   | Friday Life Connect Group<br>Watercolours Class<br>Stressbusters Badminton                                       | <a href="mailto:denis.collier@gmail.com">denis.collier@gmail.com</a><br>Lucinda 07977 821119<br>Geoff 07835 388732                                             | Parish Centre |

### Keep Connected

**Parish Business Manager:** Amanda Blease E: [amanda@stpetersparish.info](mailto:amanda@stpetersparish.info) / P: 01204 599900

**Finance Officer:** Joanne Greenhalgh E: [finance@stpetersparish.info](mailto:finance@stpetersparish.info) / P: 01204 599901

**Vicar:** Rev Alan Saunders E: [alan@stpetersparish.info](mailto:alan@stpetersparish.info) / M: 07767 643444 / P: 01204 599909

**Wardens:** Simon Scott and Chris Ward E: [wardens@stpetersparish.info](mailto:wardens@stpetersparish.info)

**Pioneer Minister:** Rev Josh Openshaw E: [josh@stpetersparish.info](mailto:josh@stpetersparish.info) / M: 07534 309265

**CAP Debt Centre Manager:** Sam Wolstencroft E: [samwolstencroft@capuk.org](mailto:samwolstencroft@capuk.org) / M: 07934 716509 / P: 01204 599903

**Caretaker:** David Park E: [david@stpetersparish.info](mailto:david@stpetersparish.info)

St Peter's Parish Centre  
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[www.stpetersparish.info](http://www.stpetersparish.info)



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