PARISH OF ST PETER'S, HALLIWELL

NEWSLETTER

Sunday 29th November 2026

HEADLINES

- **Welcome to Advent!**
- **Service of Hope and Remembrance**
- **Christmas Dinner on Jesus 2026 – Last chance to drop off your items!**
- **Smithills Farm Nativity**
- **Prayer for the Week from Hilary Peake on behalf of St Peter's Church**

Read on to find out more…

SERVICES

Sun 29 Nov
1st Sunday of Advent

ST PETER'S CHURCH

8.30am	Morning service
10.30am	Worship for Everyone service with Communion
2pm	Service of Hope and Remembrance
6.30pm*	Parish-wide service with Communion

SMITHILLS FELLOWSHIP

10am	Family service with Lighthouse

BARROW BRIDGE MISSION

10.30am	Café Church

ST ANDREW'S HOPE CENTRE

10.30am	Morning service

*Livestreamed, search YouTube for 'stpetershalliwell'

We are an accessibility-friendly parish

Rev Alan writes…

Welcome to Advent!

Advent presents an opportunity to draw close to God and live expectantly for Jesus' return. This week's newsletter presents a wonderful snapshot of our church life! It contains a wealth of opportunities to learn and grow as followers of Jesus, to worship God, to build friendships and community, and to help others. I'm so grateful to God for all he is doing amongst us and want to say a huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who is playing a part in the vast and rich ministry of our parish during this Advent and Christmas period. It's amazing!

Don't forget that Christmas is a time when people are more likely to accept an invitation to come to church than at any other time of year, so please be bold and grab the opportunity to invite your friends and family to join you. We've printed loads of flyers with details of our Christmas services and events so pick them up in church or at the Parish Centre.



Service of Hope and Remembrance

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



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.

Christmas Dinner on Jesus 2026 – Last chance to drop off your items!

We've almost reached our target so please just bring anything you've already bought and are yet to drop off with you to church on Sunday. If you'd still like to donate money so we can buy items on your behalf, scan this QR code or go to: https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/31402. Any surplus money will go directly to Urban Outreach so they can buy anything they still need. Thanks for your support.

Smithills Farm Nativity

Sun 6 Dec, 10am, Smithills Open Farm, Smithills Dean Rd, Bolton BL1 7NS

All welcome to join Smithills Fellowship at their annual nativity at the farm – with real animals!

Christmas Bookstall

St Peter's, now until 13 Dec

Please support our wonderful local Christian bookshop – Isaiah 53 – and take a look at the cards, books, calendars and lots of great gift ideas on offer. Please note, this is a **cash only** stall.

CAP Christmas Requests

We would really appreciate £5 or £10 supermarket vouchers to give to families at Christmas and any nice boxes of 'smellies' for women/men. Please pass to Sam/drop off at the Parish Centre by **Sun 6 Dec**. Many thanks for your support.

Meet

St Peter's Baby and Toddler Group

Tues (term-time), 10am-11.30am, Parish Centre

Little Wiggles has changed their name to St Peter's Baby and Toddler group. They still meet from 10am - 11.30am every Tues in term-time. If you know anyone who might like to come along with their small people for some play, craft, singing, stories and a very warm welcome, please tell them about this group. We'd love to see them!

Circle of Support for women who support and care for husbands/partners with a long-term illness

Weds 2 Dec, 12.30pm-2pm, Parish Centre

A facilitated space for quiet conversation and sharing, an opportunity to meet others whose lived experience is similar. Info from Sam Potts 07702 317481.

Primary School Form Signings 2027 Entry

Thurs 3 Dec, 6pm-8pm, Parish Centre

Church supplementary forms will be signed but, in order to attend, **you must book a timed slot** by contacting office@stpetersparish.info /01204 599900. You will need to provide: child's name, parent's name, contact details and state which church you attend.

Soul Sisters' Christmas Social Event

Fri 4 Dec, 7.30pm, Parish Centre

All ladies welcome to join us for this informal get together. Enjoy mulled wine, mince pies and a quiz. Feel free to bring any festive treats you'd like to share! No need to book, just turn up!

Out and About Walk

Sat 5 Dec, 10am, meet on Smithills Dean Rd at corner of entrance to Smithills Hall *NB: different time and meeting place to usual

A 5-mile local walk finishing around 12.30pm in time for the annual Smithills Christmas Market on Redcar Rd where there'll be food to buy for lunch whilst supporting Urban Outreach. All welcome.

It's Smithills Christmas Market Time!

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

Join us for the 13th year of this wonderful Christmas market, raising funds to support Urban Outreach. Enjoy a wonderful festive atmosphere as you browse the stalls with a lovely selection of presents and handmade gifts to buy plus enjoy carols, good food and drinks. All welcome.

Smithills Hall Carol Service

Thurs 10 Dec, 7pm, Smithills Chapel

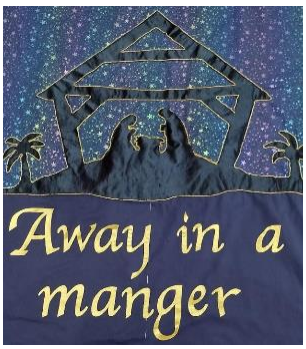
You are all warmly invited to the Friends of Smithills Hall Carol Service, followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the Hall. Rev Alan will be doing the talk.

Barrow Bridge Candlelit Carols

Fri 11 Dec, 7pm, Barrow Bridge Mission

"*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given*" Isaiah 9 v 6

Barrow Bridge Mission Banner Group invite you to join them for this celebration of the nativity. Whilst



refreshments are shared, seven newly created silhouette nativity banners will be introduced along with Carols accompanied by piano and brass ensemble. This will be a lovely, relaxed evening to invite family, friends and neighbours to and a wonderful start to Christmas 2026. There is no charge for entry or refreshments. All donations received will be sent to Bolton Hospice.

Pray

Prayer Zone

Weds 2 Dec, 7.30-8.30pm, St Peter's Primary School (NB: Not St. Andrew's as incorrectly stated last week), Limefield Road, BL1 6LA

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

Bolton Resource Church

Rev Josh asks you to pray with us the following prayer points:

* Growing together. Pray that as we spend time together as a team, friendships would deepen and we'd grow in love for one another and for the people in Bolton we hope to reach.

* The Christian Union's Christmas event on 9 December. Pray for the students organising it and for a warm welcome for everyone who comes along. Pray that there would be good conversations and opportunities for students to discover the hope of Jesus this Christmas.

* Launching in the new year. Pray that all the practical details we need for a strong start would come together, and that our first gatherings would be places where people feel welcome and at home.

Thank you for praying with us as we get ready to launch!

Prayer for the Week

At the start of Advent, Hilary Peake, on behalf of St. Peter's, has this reflection and prayer for us.

"**Advent and a Chocolate Orange**. *The Journey of Advent is one of difficulties, questions exhaustion, trust and wonder. A journey of history and what is still to come. The 1st Sunday of Advent represents HOPE as the candle is lit. Advent is also a time of preparation as we're reminded of God at work in all things. We also have a journey as we prepare for Christmas celebrations, often being over busy, overstretched and overspent, forgetting what Advent really is. While preparing this, I was given a chocolate orange. It sat in its box looking at me, a round shape in a square hole - a bit like us at times. But this phrase came to mind: BREAK ME MELT ME MOULD ME FILL ME*



The chocolate orange became to me an example of God's love and provision for each of us.

BREAK - just like us, we need to be released from a safe place to be who we are meant to be. To be broken, separated to fulfil our potential and sometimes that hurts.

MELT - it has to be softened by eating or melting in hot chocolate, its harsh coverings need to be removed

MOULD – with the layers gone it's now released, giving goodness of taste and fragrance

FILL- You don't need much to be filled and to enjoy its chocolatey loveliness!" ***See her prayer on the back page.***

Looking Forward

Marco Players and Farnworth Performing Arts Present 'Christmas Showcase'

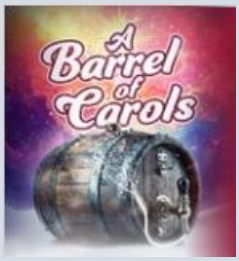
Tues 15 Dec, 7.30pm, St. Peter's Church



Join us for an evening of carols, songs and drama to get you right in the mood for Christmas! Tickets (£12 adult, u18 £10, family ticket £40) from https://www.themarcoplayers.net/bookings or call 0333 666 3366.

A Barrel of Carols

Weds 16 Dec, 7.30pm, Heaton Sports Club, Church Rd, BL1 5RH



A spirit-filled singalong evening of music and good cheer, led by our very own musicians and with a Christmas message from the Vicar! All welcome.

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

We pray…

BREAK me Lord, will you break my heart for what breaks yours
MELT me Lord, will you show the hard places in me and bring your softness and compassion
MOULD me Lord, will you mould me into your likeness to be your hands and feet to serve you and those in need
FILL me Lord, fill me with your Spirit to pray with boldness that my faith will be strong to pray for those around me and our broken world.

Father, hear our prayers, guide our thoughts and build our faith as we go on our Advent journey. Accept our quiet or tearful or out loud prayers,
AMEN

Some Activities Coming Up…

Date & Times	Activity	Details	Location
Mon 30 Nov			
10am-1.30pm 10am-12noon	Ageing Well with Strength and Balance Coffee Room	office@stpetersparish.info Drop-in for coffee and cake. All welcome	Parish Centre
Tues 1 Dec			
9.45am-11.30am	Tots on Tuesdays	Julie 07835 014470	St Andrew's
10am-11.30am 6pm-7.15pm 7.30pm-9pm	St Peter's Baby and Toddler Group Ignite KS2 Children's Tread Youth Group	office@stpetersparish.info ignite@stpetersparish.info tread@stpetersparish.info	Parish Centre
Weds 2 Dec			
9am-12noon	Hope at the Hub	Drop-in community session, all welcome	St Andrew's
10am-11.45am 12.30pm-2pm	Open Door Ladies' Group Circle of Support for Women	Christmas Quiz. Val 07902 167971 Sam Potts 07702 317481	Parish Centre
Thurs 3 Dec			
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 4 Dec			
10am-12noon 7pm-9pm 7.30pm	Watercolours Class Stressbusters Badminton Soul Sisters Christmas Social Event	Lucinda 07977 821119 Geoff 07835 388732 Ladies invited to just turn up!	Parish Centre
Sat 5 Dec			
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: Joanne Greenhalgh — **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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