



PARISH OF ST PETER'S, HALLIWELL

NEWSLETTER



Sunday 1st March 2026

HEADLINES

- Vision Sunday at Barrow Bridge
- World Focus Sunday Today
- Electoral Roll Revision
- Prayer for the Week from Geoff Gunshon on behalf of the National and International Ministry (NIM) team

Read on to find out more...

SERVICES

*Sun 1 Mar
It's Lighthouse week!*



ST PETER'S CHURCH

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

SMITHILLS FELLOWSHIP

10am	Morning service with Lighthouse
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BARROW BRIDGE MISSION

10.30am	Vision Sunday and Lighthouse
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ST ANDREW'S HOPE CENTRE

10.30am	Morning service with Communion
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*Livestreamed, search YouTube for 'stpetershalliwell'
We are an accessibility-friendly parish

Rev Alan writes...

Vision Sunday at Barrow Bridge

This Sunday is the annual **Vision Sunday** service and meeting at Barrow Bridge Mission. It will give the opportunity to look back and thank God for all he has done over the last year, elect their leadership team, and share their vision for the year ahead. We praise God and offer our thanks and appreciation to Barrow Bridge's leadership team, their volunteers and especially their Chair, Daniel Caffrey, for the wonderful work they have done this last year. Please hold them in your prayers this Sunday.



Last Sunday was Smithills Fellowship's Annual Vision Sunday. It was wonderful to share so many encouraging stories of all that has gone on and to see so much enthusiasm for growth and outreach in the year ahead. We welcomed Ross Pyle, Nigel Clark, Val Beasley and Michelle Hyams-Ssekasi who are continuing on the leadership team. Our thanks and appreciation go to Helen Stainthorpe and Jonathan Hargraves as they stepped down from the leadership team. There is space to co-opt more members onto this team through the year, so if you're a committed member of Smithills please do consider serving on the leadership team.



Next Sunday 8 March, is the St Andrew's annual **Vision Sunday** and there are lots of opportunities to serve in the life of St Andrew's. Please speak to me or any of the leaders if you'd like to get involved.

World Focus Sunday Today

Sun 1 Mar, 10.30am and 6.30pm services, St Peter's

We welcome our guest speakers, Kim and Tracey Yeap, to our World Focus Sunday in St. Peter's Church. They represent Middle East Concern (MEC) which



supports people in the Middle East and North Africa who are marginalised, discriminated against or persecuted for being or becoming Christians. It will be fascinating to hear what the present situation is with their

work. It will also be an opportunity to give an update on all the ongoing fabulous missionary work. See 'Mission Matters' later in this newsletter for more info about Kim and Tracey.



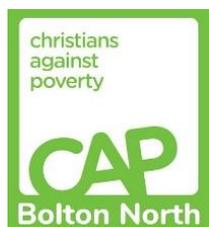
Easter Sunday Baptisms

Sun 5 Apr, 6.30pm Parish-wide Easter celebration service, St Peters

If you'd like to be baptised and amongst the first to use our new baptism pool, please contact Rev Alan or the Parish Office in the first instance.

Electoral Roll Revision

Ahead of our Annual Parochial Church Meeting on **Thu 23 Apr** (NB: new date) our electoral roll is being revised. Membership enables you to play a part in the government and decision making of church. **You need to be on the ER to vote at the APCM** and it's an important way to show your commitment to St Peter's and to its vision. Each fellowship has a copy of the names currently on the Electoral Roll. Please check to see if you are on it and, if not, complete a form before **Sun 29 Mar** and post it in the box available in each fellowship. Alternatively, you can fill the form in online at parishresources.org.uk/the-pcc-as-a-charity/apcms-and-electoral-roll/#Revision_roll and email it to office@stpetersparish.info. To qualify you need to have been baptised, over 16, and consider yourself a regular member.



Sam, our CAP Debt Centre Manager, says 'We would like to give our clients an Easter Egg and particularly one from the Meaningful Chocolate Co which are Fairtrade and include the Easter story. We shall buy these in bulk

but would really appreciate any contributions from the church. They are £6.99 now per egg...please pass any money to Sam or the Parish Office. Thank you!'



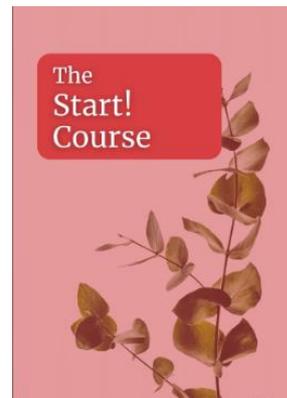
Start! Course Begins Next Week

From Tue 3 Mar for 4 weeks, 11.30am-1pm, Parish Centre, light lunch included.

Discover the basics of Christianity with Start! Looking for a simple, engaging way to explore the Christian faith? Start! is the perfect place to begin. This video-based course is designed for small groups and assumes no prior knowledge of Christianity or church life — it really does start from scratch. Each session lasts about 90 minutes, including a free lunch, and includes:

- Two short, lively video segments filmed in fun, relatable locations like Blackpool beach, a fairground, and a shopping centre.
- Interactive discussions and exercises that get everyone talking and thinking.
- Space for reflection so participants can explore faith at their own pace.

For more info and/or to book your place, contact the Parish Office – office@stpetersparish.info / (01204) 599900.



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

Weds 4 Mar, 12.30pm-2pm, Parish Centre

Contact Sam Potts on 07702 317481 for info. Sam is a BACP registered counsellor and person - centred therapist and attends St Peter's.

Good News for Romania Quiz Night



Fri 6 Mar, 7.30pm, The Victory Reform Club (BL1 4JA)

Just a handful of tickets remaining - if you've been delaying getting yours, now's the time! £9 incl. supper. Contact Kath Richardson on (01204) 841906 or 07903 546008

Out and About Walk

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

Get out and enjoy God's creation and fellowship on an 8.5 mile easy walk around Houghton Tower and Riley Green. Option to car share. Queries to Janet Ainsworth 07427 690087.



Home for Good Peer Support Group

Sat 14 Mar, 12.30pm-2pm, Parish Centre

For adopters, foster and kinship carers and their families. Bring and share lunch. Info from Fiona on 07786 844141.



Quinta Fundraiser Progressive Meal 2026

Sat 21 Mar, 6.30pm, various homes



Quinta is a parish-wide weekend away and the Progressive Meal is a parish-wide event (only 63% of confirmed hosts are from St Peter's) — but at the moment, 89% of our guests are from St Peter's! So: a **special appeal to those of you at St Andrew's, Barrow Bridge, and Smithills — you can sign up here:** <https://forms.gle/ZVwCm1ixS8VdcFiv7>. We can accommodate any special dietary requests, any transport needs, and if you're unable to pay the suggested £15, we can cover that too. Any questions? Stephen or Rachel can help — (01204) 433810/ 07954 995160 or thebrierleys@proton.me

Mission Matters

We are delighted to share the following news from our mission partners, Kim and Tracey Yeap, who are speaking at today's 10.30am and 6.30pm services.



*defending
the religious
freedom of
Christians*

'Hello friends at St Peter's Halliwell. It is a privilege for us to contribute to Mission Matters for the first time. A summary on us. Tracey was sent as a Missionary from St Peter's back in 1985 to Israel and Jordan. The 1st Gulf war meant Tracey relocating to Morocco where we met. We married in 1992 before Bible College. The church sent us out again with Operation Mobilisation in 1997 to Lebanon. In 2006 we were seconded to Middle East Concern based in Cyprus. We relocated to the Quinta in Oswestry, Shropshire in 2013 due to the kids education. We are presently in Gobowen.

*MEC (Middle East Concern) supports people in the Middle East and North Africa who are marginalised, discriminated against or persecuted for being or becoming Christians. **Persecution** takes many forms –*

from oppression and discrimination to denial of constitutional and internationally acknowledged freedoms. For centuries Christians in the Middle East and North Africa have been discriminated against, marginalised, detained, imprisoned, tortured and even killed for their faith in Jesus Christ. Believers from Muslim backgrounds are often in great danger, suffering in silence, cut off from family and Christian fellowship, and vulnerable to abuse by state security forces and extremist groups. MEC believes Christians are called to stand with those who are persecuted. Christians are called not only to expect persecution but also to fight injustice. Responding to the injustice of persecution is part of the Christian calling:

"Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering" Hebrews 13:3



PrayerZone – Change of Date

The next meeting planned for **Weds 4 Mar** has had to be re-scheduled – new date details to follow.

Prayer Room at Parish Centre

Weekdays during Lent, open access 8.30am-4pm

All welcome to come and use the Parish Centre's Prayer Room as a space for reflection and prayer during Lent. *No need to book, just turn up.* Prayer resources available in the room. Wanting to use the Prayer Room outside of these hours? **Please just ensure you check first with the Parish Office** to see what is possible, taking into account keyholder access and other activities that may be happening at the same time. Thank you.

Prayer for the Week

On behalf of the National and International Ministry team, Geoff Gunshon invites us to pray for our mission partners on World Focus Sunday. **See his prayer on the back page.**

Looking Forward

APCM – Change of Date

Our parish-wide Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) - a Cheese and Wine evening – has a date change and will now take place on **Thu 23 Apr, 7pm** in the Parish Centre. See you there!



Prayer from Geoff Gunshon on behalf of the National and International Ministry Team

Father, we thank you for the calling you have put on our hearts. We especially thank you for our mission partners as they step out in faith for your calling. We lift to you particularly our partners who stand in the dangerous position between oppressors and the oppressed. We ask for your protection and guidance as they go about your work.

Father, we lift to you those people, throughout the world, who are being opposed for simply confessing their faith in Jesus. Let them know your peace and give them your protection. We also lift to you the oppressors. Open their eyes to your love, soften their hearts for their neighbours and bring them to a knowledge of You, Your Son and Your Holy Spirit. We ask all these things in the name of Jesus.
Amen

Coming up

Date & Times	Activity	Details	Location
Mon 2 Mar			
10am-12noon 10am-1.30pm 6pm-7.30pm	Coffee Room Ageing Well with Strength and Balance ABL Weight Management session	Drop-in for coffee and cake. Everyone welcome. office@stpetersparish.info www.yhbolton.co.uk / 01204 205090	Parish Centre
Tues 3 Mar			
9.45am-11.30am	Tots on Tuesday	Julie 07835 014470	St Andrew's
10am-11.30am 11.30am-1pm 6pm-7.15pm 7.30pm-9pm	Little Wiggles Toddlers' Group Start! Course Ignite KS2 Children's Group Tread Youth Group	office@stpetersparish.info office@stpetersparish.info ignite@stpetersparish.info tread@stpetersparish.info	Parish Centre
Weds 4 Mar			
9am-1pm	Hope at the Hub	Drop-in community session, all welcome	St Andrew's
10am-11.30am 12.30am-2pm	Open Door Ladies Group Ladies' Circle of Support	Educating India – Dave Moffoot. Val 07902 167971 Sam Potts 07702 317481	Parish Centre
Thu 5 Mar			
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 6 Mar			
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 7 Mar			
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: 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
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www.stpetersparish.info



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