



NEWSLETTER



Sunday 17th March 2024

HEADLINES

- **New Carpet for St Peter's** – it's arrived!
- **Spring is in the Air** – news from our allotment
- **Do Lunch Do Life** - Bacon barmes at the Parish Centre this Sunday lunchtime
- **Easter Services** – details for each fellowship and our combined parish-wide services
- **Prayer for the Week** – Carolyn Rigby from Barrow Bridge focusses on 'Hope'

Read on to find out more...

SERVICES

Sunday 17 March
It's Lighthouse week!
 ST PETER'S CHURCH



8.30am	Morning Service
10.20am	Lighthouse at Parish Centre
10.30am	Adult Service with Communion Livestream: youtube.com/live/SF91OdgOREU
6.30pm	Parish-wide Service Livestream: youtube.com/live/pINiCkm5mNY

SMITHILLS FELLOWSHIP

10.00am	Morning Service and Lighthouse
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BARROW BRIDGE MISSION

10.30am	Communion Service and Lighthouse
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ST ANDREW'S HOPE CENTRE

10.30am	Café Church
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Rev Alan writes...

Transforming Bolton Together in Jesus' Name

On Wednesday, a group of nine of us from our PCC and fellowship leadership teams joined 45 leaders from churches of all denominations across Bolton for a leader's breakfast and retreat morning in the Chairman's Suite at BWFC stadium. It was organised by the Passion for Bolton church leaders' network, with the aim to support leaders, build unity, and create new opportunities for collaboration. It was a time of refreshment as we reflected and prayed together. We looked at Nehemiah's prayer for the restoration of Jerusalem in Neh 1:1-11 and drew parallels with Bolton as we considered how the church can play its part in helping our wonderful town to flourish and prosper.



Phil Mason, BWFC Club Chaplain and board member, finished the morning with the inspiring story of the founding of the Wanderers in 1874. Phil told us how the concern of Rev Joseph Farrall Wright of Christ Church in Deane for the needs of young people in the town, led to the formation of Christ Church FC which ultimately became BWFC – it's a story of how small beginnings led to a remarkable legacy!

It led me to reflect on our parish strapline to **Transform Bolton Together in Jesus' Name** and what this means in practice. I've a real sense of God working amongst us, to strengthen and build us up as his church, in readiness to play a bigger part across the town in the years to come.

Continued on page 2...

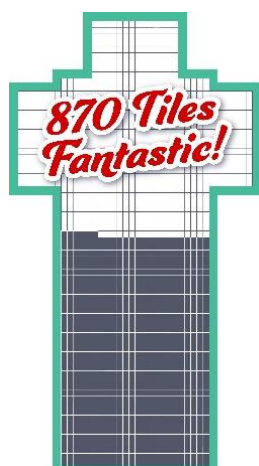
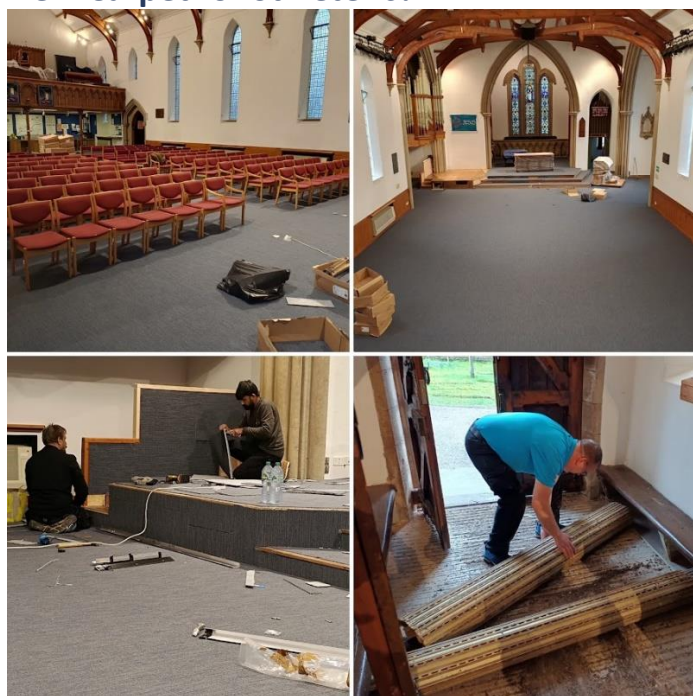
I believe that much of our current teaching through our sermon series', together with the improvements to our buildings and the strengthening of our leadership teams, are all stepping stones towards realising this bigger vision.

This Sunday marks the first of our annual meetings at Barrow Bridge Mission. These meetings provide a great opportunity to look back and give thanks for all that God has been doing. And I know Dan Caffrey, chair of Barrow Bridge fellowship, will be reflecting on the impact of 25 years of their extended mission building. It's also a time for us to pray and consider our vision for the future and the part we can all play in the growth and mission of our fellowships.

Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. (Neh 1:11).

What's Gone On

New Carpet for St Peter's!



It's a been a busy week and the good news is that the new carpet is in! And our Carpet-O-Meter has increased to **870 tiles**. Thanks to a bumper week of over £5,000 in contributions the total increased to a whopping **£13,055.90** - a huge thank you to everyone who has given. Just a reminder for any taxpayers to email finance@stpetersparish.info so we can claim Gift Aid.

Good News for Romania

David and Kath Richardson from St Peter's say: 'Thank you everyone who supported the GNfR coffee morning last week. An amazing **£1644.10** was raised to help the families we support, and the current building work can be completed. Praise the Lord!'



Parish Allotment, Harper's Lane

Spring is in the air and work has started on preparing for the growing season. We've laid new paving, cleared the ground and sown some seeds. We have also been donated a greenhouse to glaze. The allotment is for everyone to share, if you'd like to get involved just a little or a lot, then contact Rev Alan and he will add you to the WhatsApp group.



St Peter's Leadership Team

The minutes from the Feb meeting are now displayed at the back of St Peter's.

Coming Up

Do Lunch, Do Life in the Parish Centre

This Sun 17 Mar straight after the 10.30am service, Parish Centre.

Bacon butties, veggie sausages, cakes and brews.



Baptism Sun 17 Mar 2pm St. Peter's. We welcome **Meredith Saxon** and thank God for the gift of this child and for her parents, Godparents, family and friends on this special occasion.

Friendship Group for those with Dementia and their Carers

Thu 21 Mar, 2pm-4pm, Parish Centre.

Tea/coffee/cake and a warm welcome. Special celebration today! Info from Joan 01204 840180.



Bolton Repair Cafe



Wed 20 Mar, 10.30am-12.30pm, St Andrew's.
Special focus on getting ready for spring in the garden - get your shears, lawnmower

blades, secateurs sharpened or other items for repair, and stay for delicious coffee and cake.

Home for Good Peer Support Group

Sat 23 Mar, 12.30pm-2pm, Parish Centre

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



Bronze D of E Award Sign-Up

Tue 26 Mar, 7.30pm, Parish Centre

The first meeting for 2024's new starters for both parents/carers and participants and is an introduction, the first steps you take and an outline of the timetable. Info from:

Mark Rigby 07964329916/MarkMTTL@gmail.com

Easter Services

MAUNDY THURSDAY

7.30pm Parish-Wide Communion, St Peter's

GOOD FRIDAY

10.30am Parish-Wide Service, St Peter's

2.00pm Parish-Wide Service, An Hour by the Cross, Smithills Hall Chapel

EASTER SUNDAY

8.30am Easter Communion, St Peter's

10.00am Family Service, Smithills Fellowship

10.30am Worship for Everyone Communion, St Peter's

10.30am All-Age Service, Barrow Bridge

10.30am Easter Day Service, St Andrew's

6.30pm Parish-Wide Easter Celebration Service with Communion, St Peter's

EASTER SERVICES



This Easter, you'll see there is a mix of services at each fellowship and Parish-wide services which provide an opportunity to build and strengthen relationships as we gather and worship together as St Peter's family across the parish. Please also use the opportunity to invite your friends, family and neighbours to celebrate Easter.

Looking Forward

Women's Ministry Events

Tue 19 Mar, 7:30pm The Bridge Church, Bolton.
Rise England North Natalie Runion Tour. Book here:

<https://netchurch.churchsuite.com/events/gg10uvm2>

Ignite Children's Club

Ignite: Lucy Hargraves is recruiting volunteers for Ignite – a new parish-wide weekly children's club aimed at KS2 children (primary school junior ages), contact: lucyhargraves@manchester.anglican.org

Out and About Walk

Sat 6 Apr, 9.30am. Meet opposite St Peter's. It starts at Greenfield in Peak District, around Dovestone, Yeoman Hey and Greenfield reservoirs, 8 miles, reasonably flat. Bring packed lunch. Info from Rick/Jane Heath 07472 926650.

Quinta Progressive Meal 2024

Sat 6 Apr, 6.30pm. Start at Parish Centre then each course at different homes. Optional donation £15 per person, proceeds towards Quinta Parish Weekend. Contact Rachel or Stephen Brierley 01204 433810 / thebrierleys@proton.me Sign up here: <https://forms.gle/Dx6PMcm85L62T8SHA>

Powerful Praise 3

Sat 20 Apr, 10am-5pm St Peter's. Cost £10 inc. tea/coffee, bring packed lunch, Booking now open: robandsue@stpetersparish.info / 07812 335251. Day finishes with a public praise performance at 4.15pm

St Andrew's 90th Anniversary

Sat 27 Apr: Open day, Sun 28 Apr: Celebration Service and Party. To help, contact Diane Ball on ball831@sky.com or 07950 244749 or join in any Sunday 10.30am service.

Prayer for the week

Carolyn Rigby, on behalf of Barrow Bridge Mission, says: 'This week my focus of our prayers is Hope. Today it is very easy to get bogged down with the gloom and doom that seems to surround us in the news and social media. BUT we need to remember the HOPE we have in Jesus. One of my favourite bible verses is Hebrews 11 v 1 '**Now Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.**' This is a real call for me when I am feeling uncertain and unsure about what is going on around me, so today I am going to pray for us to be filled with the HOPE of Jesus.'

Watch the video of *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less:* youtube.com/watch?v=izrk-erhDdk

See Carolyn's prayer on the back page...

PRAYER by Carolyn Rigby on behalf of Barrow Bridge Mission

Lord, help us to hear you saying “I am your hope “over all the other voices that may be clamouring for our attention. Lord, your word says, you are the hope for the hopeless, so we reach out to you with arms outstretched, grabbing on to you. Fill us up with hope and give us a tangible reminder this week that hope is an unbreakable lifeline. You know those things in our hearts that we hope for, today we give them to you, we trust them to you, we know that you can do more than we could ever guess, imagine or request in our wildest dreams. (Ephesians 3:20) You are our hope and we trust in You. Lord, help us to keep our eyes fixed on you, restore hope in us as we look to your word and proclaim your might. We give you all the praise. In Jesus’ name. **Amen.**

Coming up this week

Date & Times	Activity	Details	Location
Mon 18 Mar			
10am-12noon 9.30am-12noon 1.30pm-3.30pm	Coffee Room Age UK Strength & Balance Classes Art Group	Drop-in for coffee and cakes Classes are full - contact office for info ruthrobinson293@gmail.com	Parish Centre
Tue 19 Mar			
9.45am-11.30am	Tots Toddlers	Julie 07835 014470	St Andrew’s
10am-11.30am 7.30pm-9pm	Little Wiggles Toddlers Tread Youth Group	Suzi 07834 371509 Ben 07512 753201	Parish Centre
Wed 20 Mar			
10am-11.30am 8pm-9.30pm	Open Door Ladies Group Alpha Course	‘Stages of My Life’ – Liz Nicholls 11-week faith course	Parish Centre
9am 10.30am-12.30pm	Hope at the Hub Bolton Repair Cafe	Drop-in community session Bring your items for repair and stay for coffee	St Andrew’s
Thu 21 Mar			
10am-11am 2pm-4pm 8pm-9.30pm	Aerobics Dementia Support Group Thursday Night Life Group	Paula 07913 408141 Joan 01024 840180 Contact office for info	Parish Centre
10.30am-12noon	Oasis Coffee Morning and Service	Refreshments from 10.30am, service 11.30am	St Peter’s
Fri 22 Mar			
10am-12noon 10.30am-12noon 8pm	Watercolours Class Friday Life Stressbusters Badminton	Lucinda 07977 821119 denis.collier@gmail.com Geoff 07835 388732	Parish Centre
Sat 23 Mar			
9am-12pm	INTERACT Performing Arts Group	Lucy/Emma 07896 724531	St Peter’s
12.30pm-2pm	Home for Good Support Group	Fiona 07786 844141	Parish Centre

Keep Connected

General Enquiries	E: office@stpetersparish.info / P: 01204 599900
Parish Business Manager: Amanda Blease	E: amanda@stpetersparish.info
Vicar: Rev Alan Saunders	E: alan@stpetersparish.info / M: 07767 643444 / P: 01204 848624
Wardens: Elian Winstanley and Phil Weaver	E: wardens@stpetersparish.info
CAP Debt Centre Manager: Sam Wolstencroft	E: samwolstencroft@capuk.org / M: 07934 716509
Caretaker: David Park	E: david@stpetersparish.info
St Peter’s Parish Centre 347 Church Road, Bolton BL1 5RR www.stpetersparish.info	 St Peter's Halliwell  @StPetersHalliwell  @stpetershalliwell