



St Peter's Hale

M **MAY** **2024** **MONTHLY**

May Services

Wednesday 1st May

10am **Holy Communion
with Book of
Common Prayer**

Sunday 5th May

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

8.30am **Contemporary Praise**
10am **Holy Communion
with Common
Worship and Baptism**

Readings: Acts 10.44-end;
John 15.9-17

Wednesday 8th May

10am **Holy Communion
with Book of
Common Prayer**

Thursday 9th May

Ascension Day

7.30pm **Holy Communion
with Common
Worship**

Readings: Acts 1.1-11;
Luke 24.44-end

Saturday 11th May

1pm **Baptism**

Sunday 12th May

The Seventh Sunday of Easter

8.30am **Holy Communion
with Book of
Common Prayer**
10am **Holy Communion
with Celtic Worship
and Junior Church**

Readings: Acts 1.15-17, 21-end;
John 17.6-19

11am **Annual Meeting of
Parishioners and
APCM**

6.30pm **Choral Evensong**
Readings: Isaiah 65.17-end;
Acts 1.1-14

Wednesday 15th May

10am **Holy Communion
with Book of
Common Prayer**

Sunday 19th May

Day of Pentecost (Whitsun)

8.30am **Holy Communion
with Book of
Common Prayer**
10am **Holy Communion
with Common
Worship**

Readings: Acts 2.1-21;
John 15.26-27, 16.4b-15

3pm **Messy Church**

Wednesday 22nd May

10am **Holy Communion
with Book of
Common Prayer**

Sunday 26th May

Trinity Sunday

8.30am **Holy Communion
with Book of
Common Prayer**
10am **Holy Communion
with Junior Church**

Readings: Isaiah 6.1-8; John 3.1-17

Wednesday 29th May

10am **Holy Communion
with Book of
Common Prayer**

Saturday 1st June

1pm **Wedding**

Bank Holidays

The Church Office will be closed on
Monday 6th May and
Monday 27th May.



Gazing, good and bad

This is certainly a busy month in the Church's year. Easter Day having fallen on 31st March – about as early in the year as it gets; the next few weeks track the conclusion of the Easter narrative: Ascension Day on Thursday 9th, then Pentecost (Whit Sunday) on 19th. Then to complete the festivities, on 26th May it's Trinity Sunday.

The East Window above the altar in church tells the story of Jesus' Ascension into Heaven 40 days after His resurrection at Easter. The remaining disciples look on in wonder as the risen Jesus goes up to Heaven; but the attendant angels bear a message which still speaks to us today: 'Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven?' (Acts 1.11).

Being a disciple of Jesus today is not about just gazing up into heaven. To bear fruit, and to spread the Good News, our readings in church on the six Sundays of Easter have set out Jesus' call to His followers, then and now. So there's good gazing - and less good.

Worship and wonder mustn't become a mere routine. We are prompted to think and explore. Our Wednesday morning Bible study group is a good start, where we are looking at the Book of Ruth. Contemplating those windows in church is another way forward. The aisle windows on either side of the Nave pair Old Testament and New Testament stories. For example, on the North side near the Clergy Vestry is another depiction of the Ascension – paired with the story of Elijah being taken up to Heaven. Elijah's prophetic mantle fell to his pupil Elisha. In the same way, Jesus promised the Church the gift of the Holy Spirit to empower us to continue His work.

Pentecost – fifty days after Easter - marks the coming of the Holy Spirit. That's the power from on high that strengthens us to do God's will. We may no longer observe the festival with community Whit Walks and a Whitsun Bank Holiday; but, over the two last Sundays in May, let us travel forward in a better understanding of our God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then we can move forward in playing our part in God's plan for His Church and the world.

That East Window also reminds us of Jesus' promise to His disciples: 'If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto myself. That where I am there ye may be also.' (John 14.3-10). That is the wonderful prize and the promise. And our response needs to get beyond mere gazing. Gazing with a purpose is what it's about - strengthening us to face all the challenges of today and tomorrow, both big and small.

Chris Graham, Lay Reader

Notices

Wednesday Bible Study

From 1st May, 11.30am

St Peter's House

Join us for a weekly Bible Study through May - where we will be looking at the Book of Ruth. Ruth was an extraordinary person, a Moabite and an ancestor to the royal line of David, who showed exceptional courage and devotion. The last session will be 28th May.

Annual Meeting of Parishioners & Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 12th May, from 11.30am

St Peter's Church

All residents in the parish can attend and vote at the AMP. Only those whose names were on the Electoral Roll by 25th April 2024 may attend and vote at the ACPM. *Kate Hass, PCC Secretary*

Choral Evensong

Sunday 12th May, 6.30pm

St Peter's Church

Charles Villiers Stanford, born in 1852, was an Anglo-Irish composer who became one of the leading musicians of his generation. He is particularly remembered for his contribution to Anglican church music. He died in March 1924 and we will be marking the centenary of his death with a special Choral Evensong at 6.30pm on May 12th during which we will be singing his music including hymns, psalm chant, his Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in D and one of his anthems.

Do come and join us as we celebrate the music of this remarkable man.

Christine Davison

Salford Van Collection

Sunday 12th May, before 1pm

Behind the Assembly Rooms

CWF Meeting

Monday 13th May, 7.15pm

Veranda Room, St Peter's House

Lord Lieutenant of Manchester, Dianne Hawkins, will be speaking at our next meeting.

S.P.R.O.U.T.S Walk

Sunday 2nd June, 11.30am

Meet outside Assembly Rooms

Please note that the walk scheduled for Sunday May 19th has now been rearranged for Sunday 2nd June.

About 4.5 miles in the Anderton, Northwich area. Mike Jones and Janet Blinkhorn (0161 941 1634).

Daily Prayer

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9.30am

St Peter's House Chapel

Kaz's Farewell Lunch

Sunday 30th June,

after the 10am

To celebrate Kaz's time with us and her retirement, we invite you all to a bring-and-share lunch.

Please sign up at the back of church at a Sunday service, including the number of people in your family attending. Further information on venue location and what to bring will be communicated at a later date.

We will be continuing to accept donations towards Kaz's gift throughout May.

Important Safeguarding Update

We have appointed Liz Parry, a member of our PCC and Electoral Roll Secretary as our Deputy Safeguarding Officer to support Lucy Natrass. If you have any safeguarding concerns, you can talk to Liz on 07876 660 302 or email safeguarding@stpetershale.org.uk. Please see our website for more details on our Safeguarding Policy and other organisations that you can talk to.

Ministry to Children and Families

Contemporary Praise
First Sunday of the Month
8.30am, St Peter's Church

Junior Church
2nd and 4th Sunday of the Month
10am, Garden Room, St Peter's House

Messy Church
3rd Sunday of the Month, 3pm
Veranda Room, St Peter's House

St Peter's Parent, Baby, & Toddler Group and Bumps 2 Babies
Mondays, 10am,
Veranda Room, St Peter's House
(During Term-time)

Bowdon Church School Admissions 2025

We have Attendance Cards for Bowdon Church School September 2025 Admissions. These are available at our 8.30am and 10am Sunday services. We require all families needing an Attendance Card to also complete a Connect Card, which can be found at the back of church.

If you are already collecting stamps, don't forget to get your Attendance Card stamped at each service you attend. This can include Messy Church.

Please refer to Bowdon Church School for questions regarding admissions and their criteria.

Flowers, a gift from God

Flowers are a beautiful gift from God and the variety, beauty and fragrance of flowers is such that they are grown and enjoyed in cultures worldwide. Flowers are mentioned many times in the Bible, either generically or as specific varieties and are used to convey spiritual messages and symbolic meaning. For instance, flowers are associated with love and delight in the Song of Solomon (2.12), whilst in Isaiah (40:8) the enduring nature of God is compared with fading flowers, which can be considered as symbolic of the transient nature of our lives. Jesus also uses floral imagery, for example in both Luke (12.27-28) and Matthew (6.28-30) he talks of lilies and tells us that if God cares for flowers he will certainly care for us. Throughout the year flowers bring not only beauty and nature to our services, reminding us of God's wonderful world, but add to our worship, giving joy and hope as well as solace.



Photos of the Easter flower displays by Andrew Sykes

Flowers are an integral part of the decoration of most churches and the Flower Guild at St Peter's works to enhance the environment and worship of our church using flowers throughout the year, with weekly arrangements and larger whole-church decorations for festivals. Recently, this was seen by the explosion of flowers at Easter following the more subdued and contemplative period of Lent.

If you are feeling creative and would you like to become more involved in church life why not become part of the Flower Guild? Join an existing team or get together with friends and create a new team. We run a rota throughout the year. We would love to welcome new members and hear new ideas. No experience is necessary – there is always someone to offer support.

If you are interested and want to find out more contact Laura Sykes (0161 980 1570).

Laura Sykes

Prayers

Unwell: Lucy Natrass, Liz Durrant, Linda Rutherford, HM the King, HRH Princess of Wales, Susan Wood, Jill Butterworth (Alex Master's mum)

Those who have departed this life: David Mardon

If you or a loved one is in need of prayer, please let the office know and we will add your/their name to the Prayer List. This list is read out as part of our intercessions in the service. We also pray for those who have recently departed this life.

Regular Collections

A reminder of the various organisations we collect for at the back of church:

Tree of Life Centre, Wythenshawe Clean clothing in any condition

The Hope Centre, Partington Tinned and dried goods

Salford Boxes Kitchen utensils (please see list at back of church)

Embrace Middle East Used stamps (box in north porch of church)

Christian Aid Week: 12-18 May Push back against poverty

The Christian Aid Week story this year features Aline Nibogora from Burundi, one of the poorest countries in the world. Aline was abused, homeless and hungry when she participated in a community workshop with Christian Aid funded trainers who taught her how to establish a steady income, save for the future and borrow money to kickstart a small business. As a result of support from Christian Aid, Aline set up as a grocery wholesaler and eventually earned enough money to rent a small house where she looks after her three eldest sons. Now they all have food, clothes and essential healthcare and provide others with the inspiration to turn away from poverty with the help of Christian Aid.

On Sunday 12 May, as part of our 10am Holy Communion service, we will focus on Aline's story and there will be envelopes in church for cash or cheque donations (cheques payable to St Peter's PCC.) You can also donate via the St Peter's fundraising page at christianaid.org.uk by scanning this QR code:



Christian Against Poverty

A huge thank you to all who supported our fundraising lunch so generously on 9 March. Along with subsequent donations, we raised £750 for Christians Against Poverty which will be used locally by the CAP counsellors based at the Altrincham Baptist Church. *Mission in Action Team*



Get in Touch

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 CHURCHES
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in Hale