

# St Peter's, Hale



## Newsletter, February 2024



*Rode Hall, Cheshire (Photo by Alex Masters)*



# February Services

## Sunday 4th February *Candlemas*

8.30am **Contemporary Praise**  
10am **Holy Communion  
with Common  
Worship**  
*Readings: Malachi 3.1-5;  
Luke 2.22-40*

## Wednesday 7th February

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

## Sunday 11th February *Sunday next before Lent*

8.30am **Holy Communion  
with Book of  
Common Prayer**  
10am **Holy Communion  
with Junior Church**  
*Readings: 2 Kings 2.1-12;  
Mark 9.2-9*  
1pm **Baptism**  
(Morton family)  
6.30pm **Choral Evensong**

## Wednesday 14th February *Ash Wednesday*

10am **Holy Communion  
with Book of  
Common Prayer**  
7.30pm **Holy Communion  
with Common  
Worship**

## Saturday 17th February

11am **Baptism**  
(Keenan family)

## Sunday 18th February *First Sunday of Lent*

8.30am **Holy Communion  
with Book of  
Common Prayer**  
10am **Holy Communion  
with Common Worship**  
*Readings: Genesis 9.8-17;  
Mark 1.9-15*  
3pm **Messy Church**

## Wednesday 21st February

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

## Sunday 25th February *Second Sunday of Lent*

8.30am **Holy Communion  
with Book of  
Common Prayer**  
10am **Holy Communion  
with Junior Church**  
*Readings: Genesis 17.1-7, 15-16;  
Mark 8.31-end*

## Wednesday 28th February

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

## Friday 1st March

1.30pm **Brickell-McDonald  
Wedding**

# Team Holidays

**Alex Masters** will be off on **Friday 9th February** and back in the office as usual on **Monday 12th February**.

# Notices

## **Hale Tidy Up**

Sunday 4th February, 2pm  
Meet outside St Peter's House

## **CWF AGM**

Monday 5th February, 7.15pm  
Veranda Room, St Peter's House

## **Altrincham Interfaith Group**

Thursday 8th February, 7.30-9.30pm  
Westleigh, adjoining St Vincent's

Lecture on "Religious Artefacts".  
Contact Carolyn Jones (0161 445 6935)

## **Daily Prayer**

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9.30am,  
St Peter's House Chapel

Join us on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9.30am in St Peter's House Chapel for Daily Prayer. Starting from Tuesday 6th February.

## **Salford Van Collection**

Sunday 11th February, before 1pm  
Behind the Assembly Rooms

## **Pancake Party**

Shrove Tuesday (13th February),  
3.30-5pm, Veranda Room,  
St Peter's House

Join us for pancakes on Shrove Tuesday.  
Donations welcome on the day.

## **Ash Wednesday Services**

Wednesday 14th February

Join us for worship as we start Lent.

**10am, Holy Communion BCP**

*St Peter's House Chapel*

**7.30pm, Holy Communion CW**

*St Peter's Church*

## **Hale 10K**

Sunday 18th February

Please note that there may be disruptions to our Sunday services. We have been advised by the organisers that the closures come into effect at 9.45am so those parked by this time will be fine for the 10am service. The runners will be through by 10.40am so full access around Hale will be available again by 11am, if not before.

Please do arrive in good time before 9.45am for the 10am service. There should be minimal disruption to the 8.30am congregation.

## **Esther: Born for such a time as this**

Wednesday 28th February, 11.30am,  
Veranda Room, St Peter's House

A five week course during Lent, starting from Wednesday 28th February, every Wednesday. We will be looking at Esther, an extraordinary character and woman in the Old Testament who stood up to an empire for the sake of her people.

Stay after the course for a soup lunch.

## **Flower List 2024**

The new flower list for 2024 is now available in the south porch of church. If you would like to donate flowers for the altar/desk - in remembrance of a loved one, or to mark a special occasion such as a birthday or anniversary, please sign up on the flower list with your name and details. If you would rather not put your contact details (the list is visible to all who visit church), please get in touch with the relevant team leader - contact details are on the flower list.

**Laura Sykes**

## Used Stamps for Charity

As you may remember St Peter's used to collect used stamps for The Leprosy Mission for many years. Sadly, they stopped collecting at all about a year ago. Mission in Action are now pleased to let you know that the charity Embrace will collect your used stamps. There are no special requirements - just trim the envelopes round the stamps and then put them in the labelled box which is once again in the North Porch. MIA will empty the box regularly and send them off to Embrace. Foreign stamps are worth more to them but all stamps are welcome.

Embrace has been working across countries in the Middle East, particularly amongst Christian communities for more than 170 years.

MIA would like to thank you for your support. *Kate Hass*

## Money raised from Ploughman's Lunch hosted by Churches Together in Hale

The Ploughman's Lunch at the Assembly Rooms on 20th January was hosted by Churches Together in Hale, marking the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18th-25th January). A convivial occasion raised £333 for Christian Aid's Middle East Crisis Appeal. Many thanks to everyone who helped and supported.

The theme of this year's Week of Prayer was Jesus' story about the Good Samaritan, posing the question 'Who is my neighbour?'

**The next Ploughman's Lunch takes place on Saturday 9th March, 12pm at the Assembly Rooms. The St Peter's Mission in Action team will be raising money for the Christians Against Poverty (CAP) charity.**

*Mary Graham*

## World Day of Prayer

Friday 1st March, 2pm  
Holy Angels RC Church

## CWF Coffee Morning

Saturday 2nd March, 10.30am  
Veranda Room, St Peter's House

## CWF Meeting

Monday 4th March, 7.15pm  
Veranda Room, St Peter's House

## Ploughman's Lunch

Saturday 9th March, 12pm  
Main Hall, Assembly Rooms

## Easter Dates

*More information to be publicised later in February*

## Maundy Thursday

Thursday 28th March

Seder Meal (Passover), 6pm,  
Veranda Room, St Peter's House

Holy Communion with Common  
Worship, 7.30pm

## Good Friday

Friday 29th March

Stations of the Cross, 12-1.30pm  
Liturgy of the Cross, 1.30-3pm

Activities for children (*tba*)

## Easter Sunday

Sunday 31st March

Holy Communion with Book of  
Common Prayer, 8.30am

Holy Communion with Common  
Worship, 10am



# 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 now have new 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.

# Hale U3A

Over recent years I have heard the term University of the Third Age (U3A) bandied around but have never bothered to investigate what it is really all about. All this changed a couple of months ago when I was contacted by David Zucker who became Chair of the Hale U3A in June and is keen to spread the word to the Hale and surrounding communities, attracting younger as well as older new members.

Founded in 1982, U3A is a UK-wide movement of more than 1000 locally run interest groups which provide the opportunity for people who are no longer in full-time employment to come together to learn for fun. Nationally, there are over 450,000 members.

Members explore new ideas, skills and activities together. There are no exams to pass. It costs £15 to join Hale U3A, comprising a £12 annual membership fee and a £3 joining fee. In subsequent years, only the annual membership fee is required. In addition, there is sometimes a small contribution towards the costs of interest group meetings, for example if rooms have to be hired.

Monthly Speakers Meetings of the Hale U3A, which was set up in 2011, are held in the Marquee Room of Bowdon Rugby Club on Clay Lane, Timperley. When I attended the October monthly meeting, David explained that with over 800 members, this particular group had outgrown their former home at St Peter's Assembly Rooms. The fascinating talk I attended, along with about 75 other people, was given by well-known local historian, Keith Warrender, on the subject of "The lost district of Manchester": the area that was cleared in the heart of Manchester in the 1970s to make way for the Arndale Centre. The charge for attending the monthly talks is £1 to help to cover the hire of the premises.

Hale U3A has over 70 interest groups, which all members are welcome to join. These range from Antiques and Collectibles to Astronomy, Art Appreciation to Painting, Canasta to Enjoying Music, Photography to Psychology, Astronomy to Science, Badminton to Table Tennis, and many others. Interest groups draw on the knowledge, experience and skills of the members of the group, which means that learning is often self-directed within the group and members are free to decide for themselves what the group wants to learn and how it will do so. In many cases, there is no expert or teacher within the group.

However, some groups are formed because there is a member who has a great deal of knowledge, expertise or skill about a subject and is happy to share that within a group. As it is the ethos of U3A for members to share and exchange knowledge freely, there is no fee paid to group leaders, regardless of their professional qualifications and background. Groups normally meet on weekdays in people's homes, cafes or halls, depending on numbers.

What did I take away from my afternoon with Hale U3A? I was particularly struck by the enthusiasm of the members I had the opportunity to chat with after Keith's talk. I met a Bowdon couple who explained that, despite being absolute beginners, they had been able to join one of the three ukelele groups rather than have to wait for a new group to start, thanks to their teacher who gave them some basic lessons to bring them up to the standard of the rest of the group.

I was reminded that Hale U3A is there for the benefit of its members and is prepared to grow, when David explained that members are encouraged to suggest a new group which would interest them. Efforts are made to bring people together with a similar interest, and to set up a group if at all possible. On the Hale U3A website, for example I see that one of the members is currently interested in getting a Heritage Pub group set up.

The lady I sat next to during Keith's talk enthused about the day trips organised by the groups, such as the recent outing to Capesthorpe Hall near Macclesfield. She also made the point that having moved to this area some years ago from the south of England, she had found that joining Hale U3A had been a wonderful way for her to make friends.

The social side of the charity is very important: David reminded me that recently it was reported that up to 20% of GP appointments are taken by people who are experiencing loneliness or are struggling with other non-medical issues such as problems concerning debt, relationships or housing.

I have no doubt that anyone interested in joining Hale U3A would be made most welcome. As David Zucker says, "We are committed to life-long learning, but without taking ourselves too seriously." For further information, please go to [www.u3asites.org.uk/hale/welcome](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/hale/welcome) or contact David at [chairman@haleu3a.co.uk](mailto:chairman@haleu3a.co.uk)

*Hilary Gartside*

*St Peter's Assembly Rooms are host to a number of U3A groups, such as Current Affairs, Wine Appreciation and Ukulele.*





## Hale Tidy-Ups

Sunday 4th February sees the first of the St Peter's litter picks of 2024. One of the Sunday afternoon sessions is scheduled every six to eight weeks to help keep Hale looking its best. A couple of hours of tidying is followed by tea, cake, and conversation back at St Peter's House.

The Tidy-Ups were inaugurated some dozen years ago when our then vicar Libby Lane preached a sermon on the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25.14-30). Libby challenged the congregation to see what they would do with a £5 gift that would make a difference to the world around them.

Led by our old friend, the late Keith Neal, a number used their £5 'talent' to purchase litter-picking equipment. And off we went.

As well as the tidying up, the litter picks show a church community getting things done. Getting their hands dirty, even. Enquiries about who we are and where we are from provide a good introduction to St Peter's.

So, from 2pm, report to St Peter's House (corner of Ashley Road and Murieston Road). You will be issued with plastic sacks, hoops, hi-vis jackets, and litter pickers for clearing rubbish from the streets of Hale. Bring your own rubber gloves.

Return to St Peter's House where tea and cake are served from around 3.30pm.

**Other litter-picking dates for your 2024 diary:  
14th April, 23rd June, and 18th September, November (tba)**

We'd like to identify individuals who might be prepared to help with future sessions. So if you could be interested in 'being Keith' for one of the upcoming Tidy Ups please contact the St Peter's Church Office, And we can draw up a draft rota for approval.

*Chris Graham*

# Prayers

**Unwell:** Linda Rutherford, Rev'd Tom Ryan, Linda Marriott

**Those who have departed this life:** Luke Howe, Jackie Cross, Grahame Simmonds

*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)*

## Get in Touch

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