

## Prayers by Diane Ball. St. Andrews (Hope Centre)

*“Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works.” Hebrew’s 10:24*

At the start of the New Year we give thanks with grateful hearts for the ways in which we have seen God at work over the past year. As we look back there will have been times of trouble and testing, but also times where we can say that we have seen God’s hand at work sometimes in small details and sometimes, perhaps, in bigger more miraculous things. We say ‘thus far has the Lord helped us’ as Samuel said when he put up his Ebenezer stone as a memorial to God’s help.

And we look forward for all that God will do in us and among us in this New Year. Are we ready for whatever the journey brings? Are we ready to do what he asks of us? Are we trusting Him that His yoke is easy and His burden is light if we go his way? Are we ready to be encouraged on to ‘love and good works?’

*Father God, we bring ourselves and our Church to you. We long to see you at work meeting needs, drawing people to yourself and setting captives free. Would you fill us again with your Holy Spirit so that we might be equipped to fulfil your purposes in our individual lives, in our church life and in the world.  
In the Name of Jesus, Christ, Emmanuel we pray  
Amen*

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St Peter’s Halliwell



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HalliwellParish

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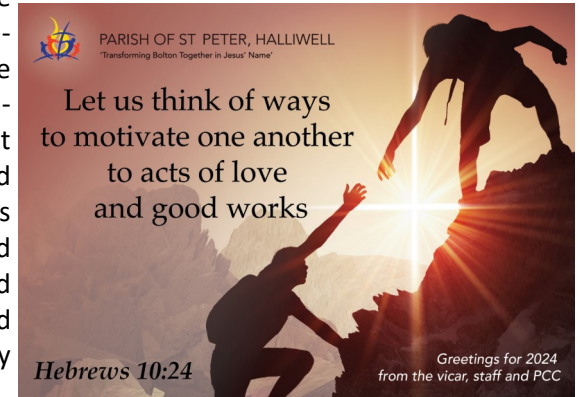
PARISH OF ST. PETER’S  
HALLIWELL, BOLTON  
Transforming Bolton together in Jesus’ name



**Welcome to St. Peter’s. We are 4 churches:**  
St. Peter’s, St. Andrew’s, Barrow Bridge and Smithills Fellowship  
**One Parish—One Church—One Vision**

**Sunday 7th January 2024**

**Rev. Alan writes...** At all our services this Sunday we will be launching our verse for the year 2024. Cards will be available to take away and display somewhere prominent in your home as an ongoing reminder throughout the year. The image is striking and shows two people climbing to the summit of a mountain silhouetted by the bright glare of the sun. The image helps reinforce the message of the verse. It can be viewed in many ways and perhaps as the year progresses different aspects of the picture and bible verse will speak to you and your circumstances in new and fresh ways. I’d like to start by highlighting three images.



Firstly, the picture of the person at the summit reaching down and offering a hand to help the other person up. It’s a picture of kindness – one person offering help to another. Secondly, the image of the two working together to reach the summit. It’s a picture of encouragement and collaboration – working together towards a common goal. Thirdly, the image of the lower person stretching out their arm to be helped by the other person. It’s a picture of reaching out and accepting the help of another.

All three images are highlighted by the bright glare of the sun shining through in the shape of the cross – illuminating all we do for the glory of God. Perhaps one, or all of these images speak to you and your situation as we embark on this new year of 2024. Are you in a position to help another, or are you cheering others on towards good works, or are you in need of the help of others? All of these images, and more besides, are a picture of what it means to be part of the church.

I believe as we work together that 2024 will be a year of growth for all our fellowships in St Peter’s Parish. I am excited to be part of God’s unfolding plan for us and I hope like me, you are ready and willing to play your part in motivating one another to acts of love and good works.

**Parish Services TODAY: St. Peter's Church: 8.30am** Service of the Word; **10.30am** Morning service. Livestream: <https://youtube.com/live/DU-ZM8EAXig>; **6.30pm** Worship and teaching. Livestream of reading and talk: <https://youtube.com/live/sZr-Xv9ZQEO>. **Sister churches: 10am** Smithills Fellowship; **10.30am** Barrow Bridge; **10.30am** St. Andrew's (Communion).

**Midweek service on Thursday 11th in St. Peter's Church:** Refreshments from 10.30am. **Service from 11.30am-12noon.**



**Lighthouse (Ages 4-13): TODAY** in St. Peter's Parish Centre from 10.20am-11.45am. Contact Ben — 07512 753201/[lighthouse@stpetersparish.info](mailto:lighthouse@stpetersparish.info). *We need countryside/gardening magazines for an upcoming Lighthouse project. If you have any to donate, please drop them off at the Parish Centre—thank you.*



**Regular Activities at St. Peter's Parish Centre: Everybody welcome.**

**Monday 8th: 10am-12noon** The Coffee Room; **9.30am-10.30am/11am-12noon** Strength and Balance class. FULL. Contact 599900/[amanda@stpetersparish.info](mailto:amanda@stpetersparish.info); **7.30pm-9pm** Girls Discipleship Group (see details opposite).

**Wednesday 10th: 10am-11.30am** Open Door. All ladies welcome. Finding Out and New Year Resolutions. Contact Sandra on 846490

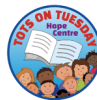
**Thursday 11th: 10am** Aerobics. All welcome. Contact Paula on 07913 408141; **1pm-2.45pm** The Well Toddler Group. Contact [office@stpetersparish.info](mailto:office@stpetersparish.info)/599900; **8pm-9.30pm** Alpha Course. Contact [office@stpetersparish.info](mailto:office@stpetersparish.info)/599900.

**Friday 12th: 10am-12noon** Watercolour Classes. Contact Lucinda on 07977 821119; **10.30am** Friday Life. Contact [denis.collier@gmail.com](mailto:denis.collier@gmail.com); **8pm** Stressbusters. Badminton. Contact Geoff on 561760 / 07835 388732

**Saturday 13th: 9am-12noon** (age-related sessions) INTERACT School of Performing Arts. Contact Emma on 07896 724531

**Regular Activities at St. Andrew's (Hope Centre):**

**Tuesday 9th: 9.45am-11.30am** TOTS Parent and Toddler Group. Contact Julie on 07835 014470 for details.



**Wednesday 10th: From 9am** The Hub. Drop-in session. A warm welcome, friendly conversation, refreshments and fun activities.



**St. Peter's Leadership Team:** Notes from the November meeting are available at the back of St. Peter's Church under the pictures of the team. Please do take a look.

**Christmas Day Offering at St. Peter's Church:** This year's offering is going to support the work of our mission partners KISC, Craig and Elaine Watson, and their initiative to provide classroom libraries for schools across Nepal. **Thank you to everyone who contributed to this — £2345 (including Gift Aid) was raised!**



**PrayerZone:** The next PrayerZone is **NEXT Wednesday (10th)** at Barrow Bridge Mission from 8-9pm. It will start with a led reflection, lectio divina and then open prayer for the New Year. All welcome so please join us.

**Curious About Faith?:** Come on an **Alpha Course** where you can join with other people in a series of group conversations that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith. You can share your thoughts and hear what others think. You can say anything you like or nothing at all. Why not come along and encourage your friends and family to come, even if only to check it out on the first week before committing to come regularly? Our next Alpha Course starts on **Wednesday 24th January 2024** and will run each Wednesday for 12 weeks, meeting in St. Peter's Parish Centre from 8pm-9.30pm. Everyone is welcome and it's free. For more info or to book a place contact [amanda@stpetersparish.info](mailto:amanda@stpetersparish.info) / 599900.



**\*New\* Girls Discipleship Group:** Starting **TOMORROW, Monday (8th) from 7.30pm-9pm** in the Parish Centre. Every other Monday, for girls in Year 10+. Led by Michelle and Gleise from our PAIS team together with Lucy Hargraves.

**Out and About:** There will be an Out and About social on **Saturday 20th January at 7pm**, for all past, present (and future) Out and Abouters. Please speak to Jane and Rick Heath for further details and to book your place. (Jane 07472926650, Rick 07843171015). The group are going to a restaurant so booking is required. Thank you.

**\*New\* Bolton Repair Café Starting Soon:** Great news! Bolton Repair Cafe begins on **Wednesday 17th January at St. Andrews (Hope Centre)**. It will take place from 10.30am-12.30pm every 3rd Wednesday of the month. Any items that can be carried will be considered for repair—*microwave ovens excepted*. We will have



electricians, general fitters and a general purpose sewing expert on hand to help. Need something repaired? Come along! Want to help? Not all the needed roles will be around repairing so there will be something you can help with. To offer help or for more info, please contact [stevetwalsh59@gmail.com](mailto:stevetwalsh59@gmail.com) / 07890547639.

**And finally...:** Click this link - [Christmas at Barrow Bridge Mission poem 2023.pdf](#) - to see a poem penned by a member of Barrow Bridge Mission!