

## Prayers by Chris Winstanley on behalf of St. Peter's School

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

**John 1:5. Let us pray to Jesus our Saviour.**



Christ, born in a stable, give courage to all who are homeless.  
Jesus, Saviour, **hear our prayer.**

Christ, for whom the angels sang, give the song of the kingdom to all who weep.  
Jesus, Saviour, **hear our prayer.**

Christ, worshipped by the shepherds, give peace on earth to all who are oppressed.  
Jesus, Saviour, **hear our prayer.**

Christ, before whom the wise men knelt, give humility and wisdom to all who govern.  
Jesus, Saviour, **hear our prayer.**

Christ, whose radiance filled a lowly manger, give the glory of your resurrection to all who rest in you.  
Jesus, Saviour, **hear our prayer.**

Jesus, Saviour, child of Mary, you know us and love us, you share our lives and hear our prayer. Glory to you for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Dear God, Thank you for all the fun and excitement of Christmas. Thank you for the amazing nativity story, that tells us about the birth of Jesus. Thank you for sending us your Son, a gift from you into this world. As we look at the lights on the tree, remind us of the light Jesus brought to this Earth. When we sing songs and carols, remind us of the hope Jesus showed everyone. And as we open the gifts and presents, remind us that Jesus was the best gift ever. Help us to share special times with family and friends this Christmas, and to share the light, hope and gift of Jesus to the world. We continue to pray for our church school; for Matt Harding our headteacher, the staff, the children and the governors, that the whole school might demonstrate Your love to all around them. Amen.

Prayer Chain: [ruthrobinson293@gmail.com](mailto:ruthrobinson293@gmail.com)

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St Peter's Halliwell



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HalliwellParish

Parish Office, St. Peter's Parish Centre, 347 Church Road, Bolton BL1 5RR



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 10th December 2023**

### Rev. Alan writes... Advent Week 2


How was Advent Week 1? For me, there was lots to love. Most of all was Smithills Christmas Market last Saturday afternoon. John Platt, who did a splendid job of organisation as he has done every year for the past ten years since it all started in 2013, told me that so far, the total amount raised is sitting around £12,000 for Urban Outreach - an amazing figure for a 3-hour event and potentially heading for a record in its 10th year! There were over 40 stalls, including 5 new stall holders. Musical entertainment came from 5 choirs and groups - including our own St. Peter's Primary School who sang for the first time. And over 1,000 people visited during the afternoon. John passes on his sincere thanks and appreciation to everyone who supported and especially those who helped in many and varied ways, to make the Christmas Market so enjoyable and successful - including all those who made, baked, poured, and sold, those who carried, set up and took down! And of course, we praise God for the blessing with the weather!



Looking forward to **Advent Week 2** - at our morning services this Sunday we light the second candle on the Advent Crown which signifies FAITH and links with Luke 2:1-5. There are nativities at Barrow Bridge and Smithills Farm with real animals and children! They are serving delicious turkey barmes at St. Peter's 'Do Life, Do Lunch', and there is a Reflective Service at Smithills Chapel at 2pm. Rev. Roger Oldfield joins us to preach on the final week of our **Promises of God** series at our 6.30pm Parish-Wide service at St. Peter's.

**Parish Services:** St. Peter's Church: 8.30am Service of the Word; 10.30am Morning service. Livestream: <https://youtube.com/live/MEs9XHzYft0>; 6.30pm Worship and teaching. Livestream of reading and talk: <https://youtube.com/live/h3t6VzLHUQM>.

**Sister churches:** 10am Smithills Fellowship (Nativity at Smithills Farm); 10.30am Barrow Bridge (Nativity); 10.30am St. Andrew's; 2pm Smithills Chapel Reflective Service.

**Midweek service on Thursday 14th in St. Peter's Church:** Refreshments from 10.30am. **Service 11.30am-12noon.** All welcome. 

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

**Monday 11th:** 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); 1.30pm-3.30pm Art Group. All welcome. Contact [ruthrobinson293@gmail.com](mailto:ruthrobinson293@gmail.com); 7.30pm-9pm Girls Discipleship Group (see details opposite).

**Tuesday 12th:** 10am-11.30am Little Wiggles. Contact Suzi on 07834 371509; 7.30pm - 9pm TREAD. Years 7+. Contact Ben on 07512 753201.

**Thursday 14th:** 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; 1.30pm-4pm Friendship Group for those with Dementia and their Carers - Christmas Party (see full details on opposite page). 8pm-9.30pm Alpha Course. Contact [office@stpetersparish.info](mailto:office@stpetersparish.info)/599900.

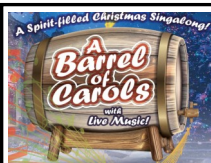
**Friday 15th:** 10am-12noon Watercolour Classes. Contact Lucinda on 07977 821119; 10.30am Friday Life. Contact [denis.collier@gmail.com](mailto:denis.collier@gmail.com); 8pm Stressbusters. Badminton. Contact Geoff on 561760 / 07835 388732.

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

**Tuesday 12th:** 9.45am-11.30am TOTS Parent and Toddler Group. Contact Julie on 07835 014470 for details. 

**Wednesday 13th:** From 9am The Hub. Drop-in session. A warm welcome, friendly conversation, refreshments and fun activities. 


**Christmas Leaflets with Service Details:** Please pick up flyers and poster with details of all our services across the parish over the Christmas period and share these with your friends, families and neighbours. *All welcome.*



**A Barrel of Carols:** On Thursday 21st December at 7.30pm at The Finishers Arms (487 Church Road, Bolton, BL1 5RE). Come along to enjoy a St. Peter's Parish-led and spirit-filled Christmas singalong with plenty of your favourite carols. *Everybody welcome*

**Jeff Blackburn:** It is with great sadness that we need to inform you that Jeff has died. Please remember Marlene, Annette and Stephen and all Jeff's family and friends in your prayers at this very difficult time. His funeral will be held on **Monday 18th December at 11.15am in St. Peter's Church followed by the committal at 1pm at Overdale Crematorium.**


**Parish-wide Reflective Service:** At 2pm TODAY (10th) in Smithills Chapel. All welcome to join us in a quiet space to hear readings and share in collective worship.

**Do Lunch, Do Life in St. Peter's Church:** Please join us for Christmas turkey barm and cakes straight after the 10.30am service TODAY (10th). All welcome. 

**Friends of Smithills Hall Carol Service:** In Smithills Chapel at 7pm NEXT Thursday (14th). All welcome. The speaker is our vicar, Rev. Alan Saunders.

**\*New\* Girls Discipleship Group:** Launching TOMORROW, Monday 11th, 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.

**Friendship Group Christmas Party:** Taking place in the Parish Centre NEXT Thursday (14th) from 1.30pm-4pm (*please note earlier start time of 1.30pm*). Join us for carols and music with Rob and Sue, games and Dave's Christmas quiz together with a buffet tea. A warm welcome, fun and friendship. **For those with memory loss or dementia and their carers.** Enquiries to Joan (840180) or the Parish Office.

**Christmas Day Meal at St. Andrew's (Hope Centre):** If you or someone you know would benefit by enjoying a traditional Christmas meal, sharing some fun and fellowship in a warm and welcoming place, please contact Steve Walsh — [stevetwalsh59@gmail.com](mailto:stevetwalsh59@gmail.com) / 07890 547639 — for details and to book a place. *No charge but donations accepted.* 

**CAP Request:** Thanks so much for the vouchers and smellies that you have given! Present wrapping will take place at 7.45pm NEXT Wednesday (13th) in the Parish Centre - let Sam know if you can you help. Also, if you can deliver Christmas Dinner on Jesus hampers on Friday 22nd December, please let Sam know. Thanks for your support.



**Christmas Dinner on Jesus 2023:** We smashed it! We fulfilled our pledge of providing 4000 cans of fizzy pop AND were able to give Urban Outreach over £400 in donations so they can buy any other hamper items they still need. *Thank you so much for your generosity.* 