

Prayers by Hilary Peake on behalf of St. Peter's Church

Jesus Light of the World

John 8:12 'Jesus said " I am the light of the world."'



Our Advent journey is taking us closer to the event of the birth of Jesus Christ. Then and today this time is busy and sometimes stressful. It is difficult to find a quiet space or place of peace. Pressure builds and our emotions become overloaded. Anxiety, stress, heavy hearts, confusion, tears and very mixed emotions sometimes dominate everything else but we are reminded Jesus is the light in the darkest places.

We pray this Advent and Christmas time:

Lord, may your light shine in our lives. Remind us as we see the dawn appear, as we look at the night sky and see the beauty of the stars, that where there is darkness your light is greater.

Isaiah 9:6 says 'For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders, and he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.'

Lord as our Light, guide us and lead us, fill us and change us and bring Light to the darkness in our world. Lord as our Peace, Bring peace to our hearts and lives. Bring peace to those around us and to the darkness in our world. **AMEN**

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St Peter's Halliwell



stpetershalliwell

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 17th December 2023

Rev. Alan writes... Advent Week 3

How was Advent Week 2? For me, there were some marvellous moments. Smithills Nativity at Smithills Open Farm, complete with real animals and lots of children! Barrow Bridge Nativity was a joyous occasion too. We journeyed through the Christmas story and were filled again with awe and wonder at the birth of the Christ-child. It's been Christmas parties galore across many of our groups and our local schools have been in church too for visits and carol services.



Looking forward to **Advent Week 3** - at our morning services this Sunday we light the third candle on the Advent Crown which signifies JOY and links with the story of the shepherds in Luke 2:8-20. It's Nativity time at St. Peter's 10.30am with a Lighthouse take-over and a time-travelling Dr Who. There are carol services at all fellowships, including a special visit by Johnson Fold Primary School choir to St. Andrews, and what promises to be a highlight of Christmas 2023 – our candlelit Nine Lessons and Carols at St. Peter's on Sunday evening.

Christmas Services Across the Parish: All welcome so please do join us.


Sunday 24th - Christmas Eve: St. Peter's Church 8.30am Service of the Word, 10.30am Worship for Everyone, 4pm Christingle, 11.30pm Midnight Communion; **Smithills Fellowship** 10am; **Barrow Bridge** 10.30am; **St. Andrew's (Hope Centre)** Christingle 10.30am.

Monday 25th - Christmas Day: St. Peter's Church 9am Communion, 10.30am Worship for Everyone; **Smithills Fellowship** 10am; **Barrow Bridge and St. Andrew's joint service at St. Andrew's (Hope Centre)** 10.30am.

Sunday 31st - New Year's Eve: St. Peter's Church 10.30am Worship for Everyone, **St. Andrew's (Hope Centre)** 10.30am



Parish Services TODAY (17th): St. Peter's Church: 8.30am Service of the Word; **10.30am** Morning service. Lighthouse Takeover — Nativity. Livestream: [https://youtube.com/live/ 8dlyvQKDfo](https://youtube.com/live/8dlyvQKDfo); **6.30pm** Candlelit Nine Lessons and Carols with our Christmas choir. Livestream: <https://youtube.com/live/1Ws0dWUAFLO>. **Sister churches: 10am** Smithills Fellowship Carol Service; **10.30am** Barrow Bridge Carol Service; **10.30am** St. Andrew's Carol Service.

Oasis on Thursday 21st with Communion 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. Some activities have already paused for the Christmas break and will re-start in January.

Monday 18th: 10am-12noon The Coffee Room; **9.30am-10.30am/11am-12noon** Strength and Balance class. **FULL.** Contact 599900/amanda@stpetersparish.info.

Tuesday 19th: 10am-11.30am Little Wiggles. Contact Suzi on 07834 371509; **7.30pm-9pm** TREAD. Years 7+. Contact Ben on 07512 753201.

Thursday 21st: 10am Aerobics. All welcome. Contact Paula on 07913 408141.


Friday 22nd: 10.30am Friday Life. Contact denis.collier@gmail.com; **8pm** Stressbusters. Badminton. Contact Geoff on 561760 / 07835 388732.


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

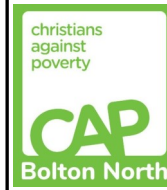
Tuesday 19th: 9.45am-11.30am TOTS Parent and Toddler Group. Contact Julie on 07835 014470 for details. 

Wednesday 20th: From 9am The Hub. Drop-in session. A warm welcome, friendly conversation, refreshments and fun activities. 

Can you be a PAIS PAL?: Our wonderful PAIS team—Gabriel, Gleise and Michelle—have done great work connecting with children and young people across our parish during this Autumn term — hopefully most of you have had chance to see them or chat to them during one of our services. **To help support them with their work, we need your help please!** They are based at the Parish Centre but have also been doing school based sessions in Canon Slade High School (Mondays and Tuesdays) and St. Peter's Primary School (Thursdays). To do these, a lift to and from school is required. *Do you have any day-time availability so that you can go on a lift rota to cover one of these trips every couple of weeks? Also, if you are able to, for example, invite them over for a meal or to a social activity, the team would love to hear from you.* Thank you. Please contact pais@stpetersparish.info/ 07846 038543 (Gabriel)



CAP News: Sam says "It's been a busy CAP week but lots of GOOD things have been happening! 32 guests came to our Christmas party where they received delicious turkey barms, desserts, chocolates, a quality Dave Moffoot Quiz, Lucky Dip and the gospel message delivered by CAP area manager Dave...and several clients are coming to church or to church events on the back of CAP Sunday and the party. Praise God!" 



A Barrel of Carols: NEXT Thursday (21st) 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.*

Out and About Annual Treasure Hunt: Meet at 9.30am outside St. Peter's Church on **Saturday 6th January 2024** for this family-friendly popular treasure hunt in nearby Ramsbottom. It's only 2-3 miles long and almost entirely on tarmac, with only gentle slopes so stout shoes are recommended. There will be a nice dog-friendly cafe stop en-route and you are welcome to hang around afterwards to shop and grab a meal. *Can you solve the clues?* For more info, call David Moffoot on (01204) 770994.

Christmas Day Meal at St. Andrew's (Hope Centre): If you or someone you know would benefit from enjoying a traditional Christmas meal and sharing some fun and fellowship in a warm and welcoming place on **Christmas Day from 3pm-6pm**, please do not hesitate to get in touch. For more details and to book a place contact Steve - stevetwalsh59@gmail.com/ 07890 547639. *No charge but donations accepted.* 

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 —9.30 pm. Everyone is welcome and it's free. For more info or to book a place contact amanda@stpetersparish.info/ 599900. 