

Prayers by our PAIS Team - Gabriel, Gleise and Michelle

Gracious Lord,

As we start a new week, we lift our hearts in prayer for our schools, our youth, and the approaching end of this year. We thank you for the journey that you have allowed us to walk together over this period of the last weeks and the growth we've experienced as individuals and as a community. We have been able to participate in classes at Canon Slade High School and have also been helping with prayer gardens in St. Peter's Primary School. We look forward to continuing to impact lives.

We give thanks for the teachers who have dedicated themselves to shaping student's minds, especially those who have gone above and beyond. May the connections they've formed lead to fruitful students, and may your guidance be present in every school day.

We also extend our prayers to all the exciting plans coming up for a new girl's discipleship group* and Christmas. We ask for energy, and that our cups may be full of your presence helping others. May you, Father God, grant us wisdom and discernment as we share the Good News in the schools and other environments.

We pray for the students facing challenges, grant them strength and love for you, Jesus, navigating them through challenging circumstances with grace and resilience.

As we reflect on the TREAD youth group, we seek your blessings upon us, keep sending more young people. May this season be a time of reflection, joy, and preparation for the next chapter in our lives.

In the name of our precious Jesus, we offer these prayers with hearts full of gratitude and hope.

Amen

**Girl's Discipleship Group is starting on 11th December, every other Monday, 7.30pm - 9 pm in the Parish Centre. For girls in Year 10 +. Led by Lucy Hargraves, Gleise Prestes and Michelle Loewen.*



Prayer Chain: ruthrobinson293@gmail.com

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Elian Winstanley and Phil Weaver (Wardens)		wardens@stpetersparish.info
Youth Minister (<i>post vacant</i>)		
Amanda Blease (Parish Business Manager)	599900	amanda@stpetersparish.info
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St Peter's Halliwell



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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 3rd December 2023

Rev. Alan writes... It's Advent! I hope you've got your Advent calendar up and are enjoying rather than enduring the run up to Christmas. This time of year can be a jumble of emotions and it is all too easy to feel overwhelmed by the chaos and commercialism of Christmas and miss out on the awe and wonder. That's why coming to church is a good thing to do, and I want to encourage you to come and to use the opportunity to invite your friends and family. To help with this we've produced a flyer and posters with details of all our Christmas services – paper copies are available at each church, and you can easily share the image directly from our parish Facebook and Instagram. Research has shown that people are more likely to accept an invitation to come to church at Christmas than any other time of year, so be brave, go for it— pray and invite!




And the good news is we've some fabulous services and events lined-up at all our fellowships for Advent and Christmas 2023! From novel nativities (including Smithills Farm and St. Peter's time-travelling Dr Who!), to peaceful opportunities for meditation (a reflective service at Smithills Chapel, and midnight Communion on Christmas Eve at St. Peter's), and a majestic candle-lit carol service featuring our 40-strong choir and brass at St. Peter's – to name but a few!


We will also be reaching out to our communities with numerous Christmas parties with toddlers and children and in our small groups, carol singing around Barrow Bridge, a 'Barrel of Carols' at The Finishers Arms pub, school visits to church, and a special carol service at St. Andrew's with Johnson Fold Primary School choir. And we will be blessing those who need a little extra support at Christmas through our CAP Centre, and Urban Outreach's 'Christmas Dinner on Jesus', and new for this year is an invitation for a delicious and joyful Christmas Day dinner at St. Andrew's.



At our services we will light a new candle on our Advent Crowns each week to introduce themes of Hope, Faith, Joy and Peace. To take time to reflect on the real reason for the season, the birth of our saviour Jesus Christ, and to show our love of God through our worship. May Advent be a time of great blessing for you and your family.

Parish Services: St. Peter's Church: 8.30am Service of the Word; 10.30am Morning service. Livestream <https://youtube.com/live/OUdPmaDPJbs>; 6.30pm Worship and teaching with baptisms by immersion. Livestream of reading and talk <https://youtube.com/live/xXdQfNNHWVA>. Sister churches: 10am Smithills Fellowship (Time Out); 10.30am Barrow Bridge; 10.30am St. Andrew's (Communion)

Midweek service on Thursday 7th in St. Peter's Church:  Refreshments from 10.30am. Service 11.30am-12noon. All welcome.

 **Lighthouse (Ages 4-13):** TODAY in St. Peter's Parish Centre from 10.20am - 11.45am. Contact Ben — 07512 753201/lighthouse@stpetersparish.info.

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

Monday 4th: 10am-12noon The Coffee Room; 9.30am-10.30am/11am-12noon Strength and Balance class. FULL. Contact 599900/amanda@stpetersparish.info;

Tuesday 5th: 10am-11.30am Little Wiggles. Contact Suzi on 07834 371509; 7.30pm-9pm TREAD. Years 7+. Contact Ben on 07512 753201.

Wednesday 6th: 10am-11.30am Open Door. All welcome. Carols with a talk by our vicar, Alan. Contact Sandra on 846490.

Thursday 7th: 10am Aerobics. All welcome. Contact Paula on 07913 408141; 1pm-2.45pm The Well Toddler Group. Contact office@stpetersparish.info/599900; 8pm-9.30pm Alpha Course. Contact office@stpetersparish.info/599900.


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


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

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


Tuesday 5th: 9.45am-11.30am TOTS Parent and Toddler Group. Contact Julie on 07835 014470 for details. 

Wednesday 6th: From 9am The Hub. Drop-in session. A warm welcome, friendly conversation, refreshments and fun activities. 

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 / 07890 547639 — for more details and to book a place. *No charge but donations accepted.* 


Baptisms today: Please pray for the baptisms of Margo and Harriet DAVIES and Katy and Aubrey GALLAGHER at 2pm in St. Peter's Church today. We thank God for the gift of these children and for their parents, godparents, family and friends on this special occasion. Please pray too for Harriet WATSON and Mark FOGG who are being baptised by immersion at the 6.30pm parish-wide service in St. Peter's Church. 

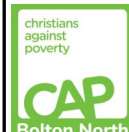
Parish-wide Reflective Service: 2pm NEXT Sunday (10th) in Smithills Chapel. All welcome to join us in a quiet space to hear readings and share in collective worship.

Do Lunch, Do Life in St. Peter's Church: Please join us for Christmas turkey bars and cakes straight after the 10.30am service NEXT Sunday (10th). If you can help on the day or bake a cake please contact janette.daeth@gmail.com / 07982 035706. 

Canon Slade School Parents/Supporters Prayer Evening: THIS Tuesday (5th) 6.30pm - 7.30pm in Canon Slade School chapel. All welcome to join us.

Church supplementary form signing for primary school admissions 2024: THIS Tuesday (5th) from 7pm in St. Peter's Parish Centre. If you haven't booked your slot contact office@stpetersparish.info / 599900 ASAP.

Prayer Zone: Our December Prayer Zone will be different! Instead of a structured, led session we will have a Christmas meditation, a taste of Lectio Divina and then open prayer for the Christmas season/services. **THIS Wednesday (6th) from 8pm - 9pm in St. Peter's Parish Centre.** All welcome. 

CAP Request: Thanks if you have already given in response sheets on how to keep in the CAP loop - it is not too late to fill one in or chat to Sam! (07934 716509) Thanks also for the 'smellies gifts'; we still need supermarket vouchers (by **Sunday 10th please**). **Present Wrapping Night:** 7.45pm in the Parish Centre on Wednesday 13th December - let Sam know if you can you help. 

'The Light of the World': Thank you to all those who bought tickets or donated money at the concert by The Eden Singers last Saturday in St. Peter's Church. £600 was raised for our mission partners, Craig and Elaine Watson, at Kathmandu International Study Centre KISC. *The Christmas Day offering in St. Peter's Church this year will go to support KISC to help them establish classroom libraries.*

Christmas Dinner on Jesus 2023: Thank you for all your donations so far! If you have any cans of pop still to drop off, please bring them to church TODAY or drop them off at the Parish Centre by Tuesday. 