

Prayers by Nigel Clarke on behalf of Smithills Fellowship

Whether we've just walked through the greatest year of our lives, or are incredibly glad to see this one finally over, one truth still rings clear amidst it all. We are not alone. Not ever.

Dear God,
Thank you that You make all things new. Thank You for all that You've allowed into our lives this past year, the good along with the hard things, which have reminded us how much we need You and rely on Your presence filling us every single day.

We pray for Your Spirit to lead us each step of this New Year. We ask that You will guide our decisions and turn our hearts to deeply desire You above all else. We ask that You will open doors needing to be opened and close the ones needing to be shut tight. We ask that You would help us release our grip on the things to which You've said "no, not yet," or "wait." We ask for help to pursue You first, above every dream and desire You've put within our hearts.

We ask for Your wisdom, for Your strength and power to be constantly present within us. We pray You would make us strong and courageous for the road ahead. We pray for Your protection over ourselves, our families and friends. We ask that You would keep our footsteps firm, on solid ground, helping us to be consistent and faithful.

Help us to be known as great givers, help us to be generous and kind, help us to look to the needs of others and not be consumed by only our own. Shine your light in us, through us, over us. May we make a difference in this world, for Your glory and purposes. Set Your way before us. May all Your plans succeed. May we reflect Your peace and hope to a world that so desperately needs Your presence and healing.

To You be glory and honour, in this New Year, and forever.
In Jesus' name,
Amen.

Prayer Chain: 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 14th January 2024

Rev. Alan writes... Last week we launched our verse for the Year 2024: **Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works (Hebrews 10:24)**. It's worth listening to my talk from last Sunday's parish-wide 6.30pm service where I unpack what this means for our fellowships and parish over this coming year. It's available on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sZr-Xv9ZQEo>. And don't forget to grab a text card from church to display somewhere prominent as a daily reminder at home or work.



Flowing out of this verse our vision and focus for the year will be on building up our fellowships and I am excited to be launching two new sermon series this Sunday to guide us in that vision.

In our morning services we are looking at what it means to be a church in a new series called **The Life of My Church**. This series will challenge us to ask questions such as: What is the church? Why is there a church? What characterises the life of the church? What are relationships in the church supposed to be like? The series builds on the teaching some of us heard at our parish weekend in Quinta last September.




At our 6.30pm parish-wide service we will use the opportunity to get back to basics on what we believe. This sermon series called **Common Ground** will take us through some of the common ground of the basic doctrinal beliefs of Christianity. We start with the bible and consider what it is and how and why it forms the basis of our understanding of God and creation. Keith Forrester will kick-start the series by looking at 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5. I hope you can join us for what will be enlightening and informative teaching and an uplifting time of worship.

Curious About Faith?: Our free **Alpha Course starts on Wednesday 24th January, 8pm-9.30pm for 12 weeks**. Join a series of group conversations that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith. Share your thoughts, hear what others think, say anything you like or nothing at all. Why not come along, even if only to check it out on the first week before committing to come regularly? All welcome. Contact amanda@stpetersparish.info/ 599900.



Parish Services TODAY: **St. Peter's Church: 8.30am** Service of the Word with Communion; **10.30am** Morning service. Livestream: <https://youtube.com/live/ju87pmXwR7A>; **6.30pm** Worship and teaching. Livestream of reading and talk: <https://youtube.com/live/8KTZ4X-MRA>. **Sister churches: 10am** Smithills Fellowship; **10.30am** Barrow Bridge; **10.30am** St. Andrew's; **2pm** Smithills Chapel (Baptism)

Midweek service on Thursday 18th in St. Peter's Church: Refreshments from 10.30am. **Service from 11.30am-12noon.** 

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

Monday 15th: 10am-12noon The Coffee Room; **9.30am-10.30am/11am-12noon** Strength and Balance class. FULL. Contact 599900/amanda@stpetersparish.info;

Tuesday 16th: 10am-11.30am Little Wiggles. Contact Suzi on 07834 371509; **7.30pm -9pm** TREAD. Years 7+. Contact Ben on 07512 753201

Wednesday 17th: 10am-11.30am Open Door. All ladies welcome. Urban Outreach—Dave Bagley. Contact Sandra on 846490


Thursday 18th: 10am Aerobics. All welcome. Contact Paula on 07913 408141; **2pm-4pm** Friendship Group for those with Dementia and their Carers (see full details opposite.)


Friday 19th: 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 20th: 9am-12noon (age-related sessions) INTERACT School of Performing Arts. Contact Emma on 07896 724531


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


Tuesday 16th: 9.45am-11.30am TOTS Parent and Toddler Group. Contact Julie on 07835 014470 for details. 

Wednesday 17th: From 9am The Hub. Drop-in session. A warm welcome, friendly conversation, refreshments and fun activities; **10.30am-12.30pm** Bolton Repair Café (see full details opposite.) 

 **Café on the Green:** Taking place on **Saturday 3rd February** from **9.30am-2pm** in St. Peter's Primary School. All welcome. Join us for delicious food and good company. *Proceeds to Operation Smile.*


Treasurers: Please note that your 2023 accounts must be deposited at the Parish Centre by the **end of January** for forwarding to the auditors. Thank you.

Baptism today: Please pray for the baptism of **Freddie KILSHAW** at 2pm in Smithills Chapel today (14th). We thank God for the gift of this child and for his parents, godparents, family and friends on this special occasion. 

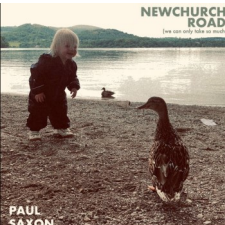
***New* Bolton Repair Café:** Starting **NEXT Wednesday (17th)** at **St. Andrews (Hope Centre)**, from 10.30am-12.30pm every 3rd Wednesday of the month. Any items that can be carried will be considered for repair—*microwave ovens* excepted. We'll have electricians, general fitters and a general purpose sewing expert on hand to help. Want to help? To offer help or for info, please contact stevetwalsh59@gmail.com / 07890547639. 

Friendship Group for those with Dementia and their Carers: **NEXT Thursday (18th), 2pm-4pm** in the Parish Centre Lounge. Tea/coffee and cake and a very warm welcome. Come and join us. For details, call Joan on 01204 840180.

Out and About Social: **NEXT Saturday (20th) at 7pm**, going out to a restaurant. For all past, present (and future) Out and Abouters. Please speak to Jane (07472926650) or Rick Heath (07843171015) for further details and to book your place.

Breakfast for Blokes on Tour: **NEXT Saturday (20th) from 8.30am-11am** at Church House, Schofield Street, Pennington, Leigh WN7 4HT. Free entry but donations (recommended £3.50) appreciated. The theme will be life stories. To book, text Bob Fraser on 07840 741573 /email bob.fraser@cvm.org.uk. Please note, *Breakfast for Blokes will be coming to St. Peter's Parish Centre on Saturday 17th February!* 

Bolton Home for Good Support Group: This group for adopters, foster and kinship carers and their families will meet on **Saturday 27th January from 12.30pm-2pm** in **St. Peter's Parish Centre**. All welcome for a bring and share lunch, chill out or chat and supervised activities. Contact Fiona on 07786 844141 for info. 

 **Paul Saxon:** Our Worship Leader Paul's latest song release '**Newchurch Road**' is now available on all streaming platforms (Spotify/apple music etc) by typing in his name and/or Newchurch Road. It's a song about growing up/learning to live with grief/pain whilst also celebrating the joy of the present moments easily missed— please do check it out!