

Prayers By Ben Latham on behalf of St. Peter's Youth

Psalm 139: *I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful; I know that full well.*

Father God

This past year has been one of real change and transition for those in the children and youth areas of our church. We've navigated away from the tightened restrictions of the pandemic and ask that you continue to give us renewed focus, drive and energy moving forward. I've been reminded so many times of the above verse from Psalm 139 and how each of our children, young people and leaders make up such a 'wonderfully made' body of people. Help us each to realise that we are wonderful works of you.

As we navigate the next year there is a definite need for team. We are excited to see what diversity and fresh perspectives will come with the arrival of our PAIS leaders and we want to be as welcoming and encouraging for them as a church family as possible. I also pray that you might encourage the hearts of other members of our church to consider children and/or youth support. We pray for a renewed and fresh vision this coming year as you work with our teams across the parish.


I'm thankful for so many things this last year. Tread has seen a really positive growth both in number and in the need to explore our personal faith within a trusted and safe devotional space. Things like Kintsugi Hope have helped us to explore different avenues of our personality and how we can support and equip ourselves for the lives we live. I'm certainly so thankful for last weeks nativity that the children and young people delivered and that was a real example of the uniqueness and individuality of your wonderful creation.

Help us to know 'full well' in each of our hearts that we are fearfully and wonderfully made and that your works are wonderful.

Amen

Please pray for: (no names at present) E-mail office@stpetersparish.info if you want your name to appear on this list as consent must be given by the individual concerned.

Prayer Chain: amanda@stpetersparish.info /599900

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Rev. Alan Saunders (Vicar)	07767 643444/ 848624	alan@stpetersparish.info
Rev. Dave Brae (Associate Minister)	847038	dave@stpetersparish.info
Elian Winstanley and Phil Weaver (Wardens)		wardens@stpetersparish.info
Youth Minister (<i>post vacant</i>)		
Amanda Blease (Parish Business Manager)	599900	amanda@stpetersparish.info
Sam Wolstencroft (CAP Centre Manager)	599903 / 07934 716509	samwolstencroft@capuk.org

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St Peter's Halliwell



[stpetershalliwell](https://www.instagram.com/stpetershalliwell)

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 18th December 2022

Rev. Alan Saunders writes...Merry Christmas everybody! I am still hoarse from singing carols at the Finishers Arms last night - like many of our special services this last week it was buzzing with people and a lovely community atmosphere. I am immensely proud of the work going on, often behind the scenes, to use this season to bring blessing, welcome and an opportunity to gather to pray, worship and celebrate the wonder of Advent and Christmas – thanks so much to you all!

I am also immensely proud of the wonderful acts of kindness, seen and unseen, taking place daily as we reach out to those less fortunate in our community, across the town and beyond. It is fantastic to be part of a community of worship here that is so generous, and servant hearted.

Looking to this weekend and Christmas, there are loads more opportunities to reach out and encourage people to return this Christmas, with carol services at all churches this weekend culminating in a parish-wide candlelit nine lessons and carols this Sunday evening 7pm at St Peter's. We've a wonderful evening lined up as we unfold the Christmas story in scripture, music and word, with a 40-strong choir and musicians including our organ and a fabulous brass ensemble, it is sure to be an evening to remember!

Let's celebrate all that God has given us in his son Jesus, and make him known through our words and actions.

Services: Today is the Fourth Sunday in Advent. St. Peter's Church: 10.30am All-age service. Livestream: <https://youtu.be/nkgc6gTiiAo>; **7pm** Candlelit 9 Lessons and Carols. Livestream: https://youtu.be/9Fwd05Ug1_c; Featuring our Christmas Choir. Followed by refreshments. **Our sister churches: 10am Smithills Fellowship:** Carol service; **10.30am Barrow Bridge:** Carol service and **10.30am St. Andrew's:** Carol service.

Christmas Day services across the Parish: Communion 9am in St. Peter's Church; **All-age services at 10am** for Smithills Fellowship and **10.30am** in St. Peter's Church and Barrow Bridge Mission (a joint service with St. Andrew's). **Invite your friends, family and neighbours along too—we'd love to see you all.**



General activities this week at St. Peter's Parish Centre:

Monday 19th: 10am-12noon **The Coffee Room.** This cafe is *open to everyone*; **10.30am Strength and Balance class (FULL).** To go on the waiting list, contact 599900/amanda@stpetersparish.info;
Tuesday 20th: 10am-11.30am **Little Wiggles.** All parents and carers welcome at this group for babies and toddlers. No need to book, just turn up!;
Thursday 22nd: 10am **Aerobics.** All welcome. Contact Paula on 07913 408141;
Friday 23rd: 8pm **Stressbusters.** All welcome. For details, call Geoff Barlow on 561760 / 07835 388732.

General activities at St. Andrew's (Hope Centre)

Tuesday 20th: 9.45am-11.30am **TOTS Parent and Toddler Group.** Contact Julie on 07835 014470 for details.
Wednesday 21st: 9am-1pm **The Hub.** Drop-in session. A warm welcome awaits and friendly conversation, refreshments and fun activities.



Out and About Annual Church Treasure Hunt: How about a 5-6 mile flat, gentle walk in the Knutsford and Tatton Park area? Our popular Treasure Hunt will take place on **Saturday 7th January** and we will meet at **9.30am** outside St. Peter's Church. Have fun solving the clues, enjoy a cafe stop halfway and then even have lunch and shopping in beautiful Knutsford afterwards. Suitable for all members of the family. C'mon, you know you want to do it!!! Stout walking shoes needed for Tatton Park path. For more info, contact David Moffoot (tel: 01204 770994).

christians
against
poverty

CAP

CAP Christmas: Our CAP Centre manager, Sam, says 'Thank you to everyone who donated supermarket vouchers and 'smellies' for our CAP clients. As ever there was just what we needed! It is amazing how God provides through his people! As these gifts are distributed **NEXT Friday**, along with the CDoJ hampers, please pray clients will know the love and peace of the Christ child.'

Church supplementary form signing for primary school admissions 2023:

This will take place on **Thursday 12th January 2023** from **6.30pm** in **St. Peter's Parish Centre.** Book your slot by contacting office@stpetersparish.info/ 599900 with this info: child's name, church attended and parent name and contact details.

Last chance! Christmas Bookstall in St. Peter's Church: Cards, books and small gifts from Isaiah 53 (your local Christian bookshop) will be available **TODAY.** Please support this and take a look. Thanks.

Our Nativities: Last Sunday we celebrated **3 totally different yet wonderful nativities across the Parish.** See right a poem written about Barrow Bridge Mission's nativity. If you would like to watch the Awesome Mix Nativity that took place in St. Peter's Church, go to: <https://youtu.be/QBkDBDiQ6vg>

Smithills Christmas Market: Held on Saturday 3rd December, this was a most spectacular day! Firstly, it didn't rain, and was able to run for the full 3 hours! Secondly, huge thanks to everyone who attended and made an amazing family-friendly festive event. Thirdly, we are thankful for all the money raised on the day, and whilst we are still updating a grand total, we are pleased to say the figure has gone over **£10k.** All monies are given to the work of Urban Outreach and Christmas Dinner on Jesus. **The final total will be revealed on Christmas Day.**



Christmas Dinner on Jesus 2022:

Distribution of these brilliant food hampers throughout Bolton has started. Pray each person and family that receives these gifts will be blessed by the contents and know that they are cared for. Please pray too that they have a peace-filled Christmas time.



An Extremely Unusual Nativity

On Sunday we went to the nativity to listen. Outside with snow the village did glisten. The story the children told was true but there were unusual additions too.

Mary riding, not on a donkey, but on a bike along with turkey, sausage, food to like and to carry it all a plastic carrier bag but even so the real story did not sag.

Mary and Joseph the manger did find the lady inn keeper being very kind. The angels came their message to give, that when Jesus was born with mankind would live.

The shepherdess had to be woken so that her words could be spoken. The wonderfully-crowned three kings came, their gifts to give an experience, that, for the rest of their lives, in them, will live

The worship group as usual led us well as the voices in the mission did swell the songs with gusto we sang as Barrow Bridge mission with worship rang.

To the mission children were sent and Jesus, angels and kings were lent. To those who organised and took part our thanks we give, as we wait for Christmas to start.

This Nativity was such a joy narrated in turn by a girl and a boy. We ended with poppers and chocs a nativity that blew off our socks.

By a member of Barrow Bridge Mission.

Bible Reading Notes for 2023:

If you need these, Kathleen Nuttall (tel. 840128) is happy to help you choose some and will order them for you.