

## Prayers From our vicar, Rev. Alan

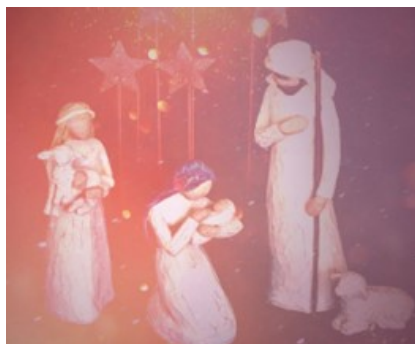
*As we pause to pray during our Christmas celebrations, I offer this reflective poem from my good friend Chick Yuill...*

We joyfully bow at the manger  
Where the Christmas tale began;  
By Good Friday the child is a stranger,  
A bleeding and crucified man.  
But the terrible beauty of Calv'ry  
Surpasses the scene of his birth,  
For this is the true revelation  
Of peace and goodwill on the earth.

We eagerly walk with the shepherds  
Who came to the manger by night;  
And entering into the stable  
We, too, are amazed by the sight.  
The shepherds have come from the hillside,  
Their sheep and their lambs left behind;  
We journey with them to discover  
A Lamb of a different kind.

We travel the miles with the Magi  
Who follow the light of a star,  
Admiring the presents they carry,  
Expensive and brought from afar.  
But laying those gifts by the manger  
We know that the child who lies there  
Will one day present such an offering,  
That no gift of ours can compare.

Chick Yuill Dec 2010



**Please pray for: (no names at present)** E-mail [office@stpetersparish.info](mailto: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](mailto:amanda@stpetersparish.info) /599900

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[www.stpetersparish.info](http://www.stpetersparish.info)

St Peter's Halliwell



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

**Sundays 25th December 2022 and 1st January 2023**

**Rev. Alan writes... Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!** What a year of change it has been for us all in St Peter's Parish. For me and Ruth, and others in our churches, change came in the form of a dramatic uprooting and move to St. Peter's. But for us all it has been a year of instabilities that have inevitably caused us to question our sense of security. Yet into this time of uncertainty God speaks.

I vividly recall when I gave the announcement that I was to leave Christ Church Pennington on 8<sup>th</sup> May. It was a hard message to give and understandably I was anxious about the impact on the people and church I loved so much. Simone, our worship leader that morning responded by reading the verse from Isaiah 43:19: ***See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.*** What I didn't appreciate at the time, and it was to my amazement when I discovered, that this was verse for the year here at St Peter's! It became both a reassurance that Christ Church was safe in God's hands, and an assurance that my move to St Peter's was part of God's plan.




As we look forward to 2023 and the unfolding of God's plan, I am excited to announce our verse for the year. It comes again from Isaiah, but this time from 40:31: ***Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*** I prayerfully believe this is God's call that 2023 will be a year for us to rise with new strength and readiness to serve God whatever uncertainties may prevail.

Have a wonderful Christmas, may God bless your celebrations and give you his peace and rest, and may we look forward to the New Year with renewed excitement and anticipation of all that God will do!

**Services: Christmas Day St. Peter's Church: 9am** Communion; **10.30am** All-age service. Livestream: <https://youtu.be/BCY7HhBSQkU>; **10am Smithills Fellowship, 10.30am Barrow Bridge:** Joint service with St. Andrews. **New Year's Day St. Peter's Church: 10.30am** All-age service with Communion. Livestream: [https://youtu.be/RPULGAS\\_j7c](https://youtu.be/RPULGAS_j7c); **10.30am St. Andrew's Café Church.**

**General activities this week at St. Peter's Parish Centre:** Our activities are paused in the centre now until the New Year and will resume for the Spring Term the week commencing **Monday 9th January**.

**General activities at St. Andrew's (Hope Centre):** Our activities are paused in the centre now until the New Year and will resume for the Spring Term the week commencing **Monday 9th January**.

 **Lighthouse (Ages 4-13):** This takes place in St. Peter's Parish Centre from 10.20am - 11.45am on the 1st and 3rd Sunday each month. Due to the bank holiday, the next session will take place on **15th January 2023**. Contact Ben on 07512 753201/[lighthouse@stpetersparish.info](mailto:lighthouse@stpetersparish.info)

**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).

**9 Lessons and Carols:** This service was held in St. Peter's Church last Sunday evening and really was a wonderful Advent celebration. In a packed church with a 40-strong choir, musicians and a brass band, we heard readings and enjoyed carols by candlelight, followed by refreshments. **A huge thank you to everyone who took part or contributed in any way to facilitating this service (including the welcomers and A/V and tech support team)— it was a great parish-wide team effort!** To watch this service again, just go to [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Fwd05Ug1\\_c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Fwd05Ug1_c)

**Christmas bookstall in St. Peter's Church:** Many thanks to everyone who has bought cards and gifts from the bookstall over the last couple of weeks. These items were from your local Christian giftshop - **Isaiah 53 (5 Crown Street, Bolton)** - who very much value your support. Thank you!

**Welcome home Rev. Craig and Elaine Watson!** We are delighted that our mission partners, **Craig and Elaine**, who are based at **Kathmandu International Study Centre (KISC) in Nepal**, have arrived safely back in Bolton for Christmas. We pray that they have a restful Christmas and wish them every blessing for a happy and fruitful 2023.



**Pais Team and Christmas Offering:** We're excited to introduce our new Pais team who will join us in early February 2023 — **Ilukena and Simone from Zambia and Manka'a from Cameroon**. Pais is an amazing movement that for over 30 years has been enabling young adults from across the world to work as missionaries with local churches. Pais currently has teams in 16 countries on 6 continents. Visit: [www.paismovement.com](http://www.paismovement.com).



This year's Christmas offering, which is supported by our National and International Ministries (NIMS) group, is in aid of sponsoring a team of three Pais youth work apprentices to join us here in Bolton. The offering will go towards the registration fees and expenses, totalling approximately £10k. This will enable the team to run regular sessions in local high and primary schools, plan and deliver outreach events, and assist and develop our own church-based children's and youth groups. *If you would like to contribute to this offering, donations can be made in church or envelopes with cheques made payable to 'St. Peter's Halliwell' or cash can be posted through the letterbox at St. Peter's Parish Centre, 347 Church Road, Bolton, BL1 5RR. Alternatively, click on this link to go directly to the NIM giving page on our website: <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/12903>. Thanks for your support.*

**Awesome Mix Nativity in St. Peter's Church:** An extended version of this will be available to view on our YouTube channel (St. Peter's Halliwell) on Christmas Day following the 10.30am service in St. Peter's Church. Search for 'The Awesome Mix Nativity - Deluxe Edition 2022' — *tune in to re-live this classic story to the backdrop of some of your favourite songs!*

**15 Days of Prayer for the Buddhist World:** This annual initiative takes place from **8th January to 22nd January 2023** (to coincide with Chinese New Year). If you would like to learn about, and pray, for the Buddhist World, each day of prayer will be uploaded to our website—[www.stpetersparish.info](http://www.stpetersparish.info). If you require a paper copy, prayer guides will also be available at the back of church or from the Parish Office.



**Parish Office:** The Parish Office is now closed for the Christmas period and will re-open on **Tuesday 3rd January 2023**. The staff and volunteer team wish you all a very happy Christmas and look forward to being of service to you in the New Year.