

Prayers by Geoff Gunshon, National and International Ministries Team

Today we are considering the persecuted church and the work of **Release International**.

Hebrews 13:3

Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.

Father, we lift to you the work of Release International. We pray for your blessing on your workers and the people they help.

Father, we pray for your church, in so many countries around the world, where your children are persecuted and even killed for professing their love for and faith in you. We pray that they will feel your presence alongside them, and we ask for your protection of them.

We pray also for the persecutors. That their eyes will be opened, and their hearts softened by the work of your Holy Spirit. That they may realise the error of their ways.

Father, we thank you that we live in a country where we are free to worship you. But, even here, Your values are slowly but surely being eroded. Lord, give us the strength to stand up to the persecutors we may encounter when we stand for Your ways against the crowd.

We pray all this in Jesus' name. Amen



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St Peter's Halliwell



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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 1st October 2023

Rev. Alan writes... And the Mission Continues! Last week I wrote about how the Quinta weekend away had been an amazing time of growth and vision as God was speaking about how we need to be **Jesus' Family on Jesus' Mission**. I was thrilled at the response at last Sunday's parish-wide 6.30pm service at St. Peter's. There is a growing sense of God equipping us to further our call to bring HIS kingdom here in Bolton as in heaven.

Just looking through at this week's notices it is encouraging to see how much of what we do has that mission focus. Here's a few highlights:

- **Our Pais team** - Michelle and Gleise are now running sessions in Canon Slade High and St. Peter's Primary – you can support them as a *Pais-Pal*
- **Alpha** - started this week - there's still time to join!
- **Oasis** - our new 10.30am Thursday coffee morning and service continues to grow
- **Ugandan AYF Choir and Band** – mission visit (16th-25th October) plans are forming with dates booked for Canon Slade and St. Peter's Primary – but I am desperate for more hosts please!!
- It's **World Focus Sunday** at St. Peter's - with a special focus on Release International
- **Lots of social opportunities** - invite friends to the concert for Create, Café on the Green, Out and About Walk, Men's Ministry night, Quiz night for Tearfund, to name a few!

Undergirding all this mission is prayer – and it is **PrayerZone** next Wednesday (4th) at 8pm at the Parish Centre.




And God is growing the team – I am delighted that this week the Bishop of Manchester approved **Libby Greenhalgh** to join us full time as a Curate from July 2024; she is already on placement and this appointment means that she will be with us for a good while to come. Join me in congratulating her and husband, Paul, and children, Belle and Will.

World Focus Sunday: TODAY Allister du Plessis from Release International is speaking at the **10.30am and 6pm services in St. Peter's Church**. NIM will also launch an exciting new edition of their booklet summarising the work of our Mission Partners - do pick one up!



Parish Services today: St. Peter's Church: 8.30am Service of the Word; 10.30am Morning service. Twinklers. Livestream https://youtube.com/live/-mw_RBMapB0; 6.30pm Worship and teaching. Livestream of reading and talk <https://youtube.com/live/NNXL5Y-AWYk>. Our sister churches: 10am Smithills Fellowship (Lighthouse); 10.30am Barrow Bridge; 10.30am St. Andrew's (Communion).

Midweek service on Thursday 5th in St. Peter's Church: Oasis. Refreshments from 10.30. Service 11.30am-12noon. All welcome. 

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

General Activities at St. Peter's Parish Centre:

Monday 2nd: 10am-12noon The Coffee Room. This cafe is open to everyone; 9.30am-10.30am/11am-12noon Strength and Balance class. These classes are FULL. To go on the waiting list, contact 599900/amanda@stpetersparish.info;

1.30pm-3.30pm Art Group. All welcome. Contact ruthrobinson293@gmail.com;

Tuesday 3rd: 10am-11.30am Little Wiggles. All welcome; 7.30pm-9pm TREAD. Youth group for years 7+. Contact Ben on 07512 753201.

Wednesday 4th: 10am-11.30am Open Door. All ladies welcome. Dreaming the Impossible—Ben Latham. Contact Sandra on 846490.


Thursday 5th: 10am Aerobics. 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 6th: 10am-12noon Watercolour Classes. Contact Lucinda on 07977 821119; 10.30am Friday Life. Everyone welcome. Contact denis.collier@gmail.com; 8pm Stressbusters. Badminton. Everyone welcome. Contact Geoff Barlow on 561760 / 07835 388732.

Saturday 7th: 9am-12noon (age-related sessions) INTERACT School of Performing Arts. Contact Emma on 07896 724531

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

Tuesday 3rd: 9.45am-11.30am TOTS Parent and Toddler Group. Contact Julie on 07835 014470 for details. 

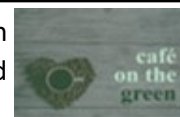
Wednesday 4th: From 9am The Hub. Drop-in session. A warm welcome, friendly conversation, refreshments and fun activities awaits. 


Church High School Form Signings (2024 Admissions): Wednesday 11th October in St. Peter's Parish Centre from 6.30pm-9.30pm. To attend, you must book a timed slot by contacting the Parish Office—office@stpetersparish.info/ 599900.



PrayerZone—worship. pray. seek: NEXT Wednesday (4th) at 8pm in St. Peter's Parish Centre. Please join us for an hour of dynamic prayer. Everybody welcome.

Café on the Green: NEXT Saturday (7th) from 9.30am-2pm in St. Peter's Primary School. All welcome. Join us for delicious food and good company. *Proceeds to Operation Smile.*




Musical Extravaganza Fundraiser in St. Peter's Church: Friday 27th October at 7.30pm the CC Concert Band and Midweek Sax will perform a variety of show tunes, swing marches and much more. Tickets £10 (£5 for over 65's/under 18's) from Café Create, Andrew Kilpatrick, Chandran Jepegnanam, the Parish Office or via email —createbolton@gmail.com. 



Request: Do you have a decent mobile phone handset which could be given to a CAP client? Please let Sam know - samwolstencroft@capuk.org



Good News for Romania: Thanks to everyone who sponsored Megan; she was very brave and completed the Infinity Bridge challenge last Saturday!

Tearfund Big Quiz 2023: NEXT Saturday (7th) at 7pm at Barrow Bridge Mission. Teams of 6, £2 per person. Pasty supper available for £2. Please let Dan Caffrey know if you are going to attend on 07811 167196. 

Out and About Walk: NEXT Saturday (7th), Pendle Hill from Barley. 6 miles with a steady (not onerous) climb of 1200ft to the top of Pendle Hill, with spectacular views and where we will have lunch (bring a mat). *We'll take the walk at a pace to suit everyone.* Meet 9.30am at St. Peter's Church to set off with the walk beginning at The Avenue car park, Barley Rd, Burnley, BB12 9JX. Info from Rick on 07843 171015.

Men's Ministry Night: NEXT Saturday (7th) at 7pm at Bolton Rugby Club. Sample Belgium beers matched with cheese, together with guidance and presentation from a Belgium beer expert! Contact Ian Hart (Barrow Bridge Mission) on iwhart@hotmail.co.uk for info or book your ticket at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/bunburys-belgium-beer-cheese-matching-tickets-715462967997>. See you there!

Harvest Services: During October our churches will be having their Harvest services. St. Peter's Church's is NEXT Sunday (8th) at the 10.30 service so please remember to bring your contributions (bottled/boxed/tinned goods) to church and drop them in our Grub Tub for Urban Outreach to distribute to those in need in Bolton. Thank you. 