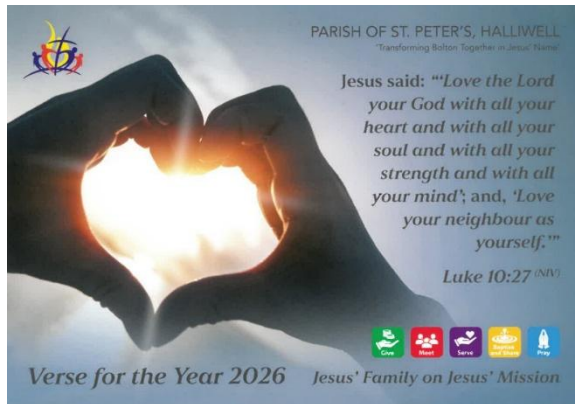


Prayer Diary

Week of Prayer - October 2026



My Church Commitment



Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (1 Thessalonians 5: 16-17)



PARISH OF ST. PETER'S, HALLIWELL
'Transforming Bolton Together in Jesus' Name'

INTRODUCTION - A CALL TO PRAYER

Over the last two years our vicar Alan has shared a vision for us to grow in commitment in five key areas. These are:



The next few months will be both exciting and challenging as we send out a team led by Josh to establish a new church in the town centre. This week is an opportunity to spend time in prayer as we consider our individual response to the challenges that this will bring. We want to be guided by God and to receive the power of the Holy Spirit to help us live as Christ's ambassadors on earth. Each day we will pray about one of the topics from the five areas of commitment.

Commitment can be defined as the decision to do what needs to be done, whatever the cost — a definition that characterises countless heroes throughout history. Christian commitment, however, can best be defined by starting with God's examples: "'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life'" (John 3:16). God decided to save a lost world. The cost was the cruel, despicable death of His only Son. What made this commitment Christian? Because it was inspired by love, the love defined by Jesus: "'Greater love has no man that this, that a man lay down his life for his friends'" (John 15:13).

Commitment does not ask, "How hard shall I try?" Commitment says, "Whatever it takes!" Commitment does not say, "I can never be perfect." Commitment says, "I may not be perfect, but in Christ I can be."

We are to be Jesus' family on Jesus' mission. Our Lord said, "'Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light'" (Matt. 11:28–30).

MY COMMITMENT TO PRAY

MONDAY 12TH OCTOBER



For Christians, prayer should be a priority, simply because it was for Jesus. There are many examples in the Bible of Jesus praying: He prayed with others (Luke 9:28), he prayed alone and frequently (Luke 5:16). Jesus did not pray in a cold, distant manner, but in heartfelt supplication, demonstrating empathy and a genuine love for God. This is demonstrated clearly in John 17, where Jesus prays for Himself and His immediate disciples, as well as for all believers.

So, prayer is our time to communicate with God, express gratitude, and seek guidance. As it says in Philippians 4:6, "Do not worry about anything. But pray and ask God for everything you need. And when you pray, always give thanks." This scripture reminds us that no matter the situation, we should always turn to prayer.



So, for our prayers today:

- Go outside and look around and then praise God for the beauty of His creation.
- Thank God for His compassion and unconditional love towards us.
- Tell God that we are sorry for all the times that we fail Him.
- Share with God what's on your heart at the moment, whether people, situations, concerns or fears.
- Thank God for the gift of the Holy Spirit, and pray that He might fill you afresh every day.

Heavenly Father, I praise and thank You for who You are. I marvel at Your creation and Your unconditional love and patience with me. Please forgive me for failing You in so many ways, for times when I rebel against You and want to do things my way. Fill me with Your Holy Spirit to guide and strengthen me, so that I might be a good ambassador for You today. Help me to show Your love to those I meet today. Amen.

MY COMMITMENT TO SHARE



TUESDAY 13TH OCTOBER

Jesus calls us to share our faith with those around us, and this can take many forms. As individuals, we can share Jesus by not hiding that we attend church, taking a stand based on Christian values in discussions, or offering to pray for a non-Christian friend going through a difficult time.

We can also share our faith as part of a team. Josh is leading a team from our parish to build God's kingdom by establishing a new church in our town centre. Today, please pray for Josh and the team as they begin this mission early next year. Pray:

- For courage, resilience and patience for each of them.
- That they would have the right words when meeting new people.
- That the new church would be welcoming and show God's love to all who encounter it.



Another way of sharing your faith publicly is through baptism. If you have not yet made this commitment, spend some time in prayer today considering whether this is the next step in your faith journey. What is holding you back? Do you have questions or doubts? If so, talk to one of the church leaders, who will be pleased to help.

So, for today:

- Think about how being a Christian affects your everyday life.
- It may be appropriate to spend some time in confession, knowing that, if we confess our failings, God is faithful and just and will forgive us. (1 John 1:9)
- Considering your own circles of work colleagues and friends. Do they know that you are a Christian? If being a Christian suddenly became illegal, would there be enough evidence to convict you?

MY COMMITMENT TO SERVE

WEDNESDAY 14TH OCTOBER



For many Christians, “Christian service” means usefulness: regular church attendance, giving, teaching, leading a young people’s group, evangelism, or “witnessing for Christ” by proclaiming His power to save and satisfy, telling others “what He means to me.”



Yet, as Scripture uses the term, one may do all these things—and not be engaged in Christian service! A “servant” is not at his own disposal, but at another’s beck and call, having voluntarily agreed to obey. The centurion said, “I tell

this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and that one, ‘Come,’ and he comes. I say to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it” (Luke 7:8).

We are sending out a number of key people who will form the basis of the new Resource Church. This will of course leave gaps in many areas of ministry. So, today, pray that:

- God would raise up people willing to serve Him by filling these gaps.
- The people who are remaining at St Peter’s would continue to serve faithfully and not feel despondent.
- God would show you how you can best serve Him. Consider the gifts you have been given and how you might use them in God’s service. Consider how you spend your time and whether you can offer an extra hour or so a month to support God’s work in some way. There are lots of ways to get involved!

Heavenly Father, thank you that You entrust me to be Your representative here on earth. Forgive me when I ignore Your call and insist on doing what I want to do. Thank You for the gifts that You have given me and strengthen me to use those gifts in Your service and to glorify You. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

MY COMMITMENT TO MEET



THURSDAY 15TH OCTOBER

Fellowship was central to life in the early church. In Acts 2, we read that believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread and prayer. This was a close-knit community of followers of Christ. We see the strength of their fellowship: no-one was in need because they cared for one another. Verse 46 reveals that they shared meals in smaller groups in homes.



Our modern equivalent is small groups, sometimes called connect, house or life groups. Here, Christians meet to study and discuss the Bible and pray together. As relationships deepen, people share more openly and provide mutual support. Whilst other church groups are valuable, nothing can replace the connect group as a way to grow in faith.

- If you are not in a small group, prayerfully consider joining one.
- If you are already in one, give thanks for its blessings and pray that relationships will deepen.
- Pray that the team leading the new Resource church will seek God's will and guidance as they establish it.
- Pray for new ministry groups, such as connect groups, and for the development of children's and youth ministries.
- Pray for our youth and children's groups, especially their leaders, that they might develop strong, healthy relationships with those in their care.

Heavenly Father, thank You for the gift of Your church and the community of believers. Forgive me when busyness, fatigue or distraction keep me from gathering with Your people.

Help me not to neglect meeting together, but to see it as a vital source of strength. Use me to encourage others, and let our time together "spur one another on towards love and good deeds" (Hebrews 10:24). Amen.

MY COMMITMENT TO GIVE

FRIDAY 16TH OCTOBER



Generosity is another feature of life in the early Church. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone in need. This generosity was partly driven by the depth of fellowship among the early Christians.

At the same time, their strong community did not mean communal living—they still retained property: “They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had a need.”

God demands our undivided loyalty. Joshua declared, “Choose this day whom you will serve” (Joshua 24:15). We must choose whether our loyalty is to God or to wealth. Ultimately, we are stewards of what God has entrusted to us and responsible for how we use His blessings. “From everyone to whom much is given, much will be required” (Luke 12:48). God will hold us accountable for how we use the material wealth He gives us. So, today:



- Consider how much more the church could do with additional resources.
- Do you use your money for kingdom purposes? We are blessed by God so that we can bless God.
- Pray that God would guide you in this area, and consider reviewing your personal giving before Him.

Lord God, everything I have has come from You. I reject the image of success into which this world tries to shape me; an image defined by wealth, status, and power. Instead, I ask that you would remake me in Your image: an image defined by generosity, humility, and servanthood.

May I model my giving on the one who gave it all. And may others see in me a glimpse of your character, against which the riches of this world seem dull and worthless. Amen.

MY COMMITMENT TO REVIEW

SATURDAY 17TH OCTOBER

Today, let's review the topics we have covered so far this week. We have seen that being a Christian, a member of the body of Christ, is very different from being a member of a social group or any other type of club. We've looked first at prayer, which is the bedrock on which everything else is built. We looked at sharing our faith, both as individuals or as part of a team. We've considered what serving means, the benefits of meeting in small groups and our calling to generosity.



These five areas continue to be our bedrock as we seek to build commitment in our fellowships and parish. Let's think about our personal commitment to Christ and His church, and how we can help to fulfil the mission He gave us. It may be helpful to honestly

rate yourself in each area using a gauge like the one shown in order to identify which areas need improvement. We are all a work in progress - all on a journey together.

MY COMMITMENT TO MISSION

SUNDAY 18TH OCTOBER

As we come to the end of our week together, we consider our mission. The early Church was an evangelistic Church. "And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved." (Acts 2: 47) The Church was evangelistic! It reached out to a lost world.

Today is our Vision Sunday where Alan, our vicar, will outline where we are and where we are going as God's church. Pray for him – for wisdom, resilience and patience as he leads us into another year together.

CS Lewis said "The Church exists for nothing else but to draw men into Christ, to make them little Christs. If they are not doing that, all the cathedrals, clergy, missions, sermons, even the Bible itself, are simply a waste of time. God became Man for no other purpose." Pray that God would give you opportunities to 'draw men into Christ' and that, when He does, you will have the right words to say!

