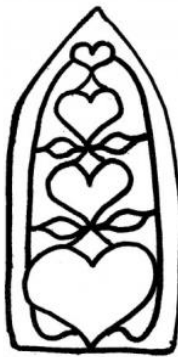




Rochdale Parish Church
of St Chad



Hope



Peace



Joy



Love

NEWS

(Please take one and pass it on)

DECEMBER

2024

Welcome to
Rochdale Parish Church of St Chad



This is the day that
the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalms 118:24

*Thank you for joining us
for worship today.
You are welcome to stay
for refreshments after the service.*



**Please continue
to pray for UKRAINE
and THE HOLY LAND
and also for all affected
by conflict
and/or disaster**



If you would like us to pray
for someone who is ill
or who has died,
please add their name to the list
located on the desk
or speak to one of the clergy.

PLEASE SWITCH YOUR PHONE TO

*** SILENT ***

DURING THE SERVICE

Thank You



A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers

Thank You!



TO EVERYONE WHO HAS ALREADY CONTRIBUTED TOWARDS
THE PURCHASE OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE AT ST CHAD'S.

THERE IS STILL TIME TO DONATE!

PLEASE GIVE YOUR DONATION TO LYN TAYLOR,
OR TO ANY MEMBER OF THE ALTAR GUILD.



Also, to everyone who has donated items for St Chad's Christmas Fair
being held on Saturday 7 December from 11 am - 2 pm.

Each and every item donated, as well as your time in helping
with this event, is always genuinely appreciated.

And, once again... a sincere "Thank You" to everyone who has given their time
during the year to help with cleaning the church, tidying the garden areas,
arranging floral displays, providing refreshments after our services of worship,
and the many other jobs not mentioned here that enable everything
at St Chad's to keep running smoothly.

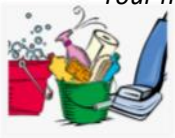


Can **you** spare an occasional hour on Wednesdays or Thursdays
to help with cleaning the church or tidying the garden areas*?

If so, please speak to Peter G, Linda G, Jill, Sue F, or Martin.

Your help in maintaining our wonderful church will be appreciated.

*Tidying the garden areas is now
'weather permitting'!



If you have any items for the newsletter (events, articles of interest, etc)
please see me in church or send via email to: lg-stchadsrochdale@outlook.com

Linda G.



Any items you can donate for the various stalls
at the Christmas Fair will be appreciated.

We still need...

Tombola / Raffle prizes • Bottle Tombola prizes
Books, DVDs, CDs • Bric-a-Brac • Toys and Games
Handcrafted items • Jewellery and Accessories
Home-made Cakes and Preserves
Items for Hamper Raffle

*Note to Sidespersons and Wardens:
don't forget to bring in
your **6 bottles** for the Bottle Tombola!!!*



ST CHAD'S CHRISTMAS FAIR

SATURDAY 7 DECEMBER 2024
11 AM - 2 PM



RAFFLES

TOMBOLAS

CAKES & BAKES

BRIC-A-BRAC

BOOKS & CDs

CRAFTS

TOYS

REFRESHMENTS

* & MORE *

Rochdale Parish Church of St Chad
Sparrow Hill • Rochdale • OL16 1QT

🎀 **MORE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY** 🎀



Springhill Hospice's 'Light Up A Life' Service

THURSDAY 5 DECEMBER at ST CHAD'S 7 pm

Music, carols, readings and poems for you to reflect, remember and celebrate the memories of your loved ones.

Wednesday 11 December

**Friends Together Bereavement Support Group
at St Chad's 10 am - 12 noon
*Everyone Welcome - Refreshments provided***

Sunday 15 December

St Chad's Asian Fellowship

White Gift Sunday

from 1 - 5 pm :: *Everyone Welcome*

White Gift Sunday began in 1904, with an idea from the minister's wife in a small Methodist church in Ohio. The story goes that she wanted to solve the problem of the unequal value of gifts donated, and so by wrapping gifts in white paper the donors would be able to remain anonymous. Everyone would be able to share in the joy of giving to others and no-one would be judged by the value of their gifts.

During the event held at St Chad's you will be invited to place a gift of money inside the white envelopes available and the amount collected will be used to help others. It is just one way in which we can show God's love along with our caring commitment to people in our community.

JOY
TO THE WORLD!



* CHRISTMAS *
* SERVICES 2024 *

@RochdaleParish

<https://www.facebook.com/rochdaleparishchurches>

ALL ARE
WELCOME

◆ Thursday 12 December ◆

✠ HOLY COMMUNION at St Chad's 10 am
MAYOR'S CAROL SERVICE at ST CHAD'S 6 pm

◆ Sunday 15 December ◆

Carol Service at St Mary in the Baum 9.15 am

◆ Sunday 22 December ◆

Nativity Service at St Luke's 10.00 am

ST CHAD'S CANDLELIT CAROL SERVICE at 3 pm

*This service is one of the highlights of the year
and will be a magnificent start to Christmas 2024*

◆ Tuesday 24 December - Christmas Eve ◆

Carol Service at St Luke's 10.00 am
✠ MIDNIGHT MASS at St Chad's 11.30 pm
✠ Holy Communion at St Luke's 11.30 pm

◆ Wednesday 25 December - Christmas Day ◆

✠ Eucharist at St Mary in the Baum at 10 am
✠ Holy Communion at St Luke's Deeplish at 10 am



“The Holy Star”

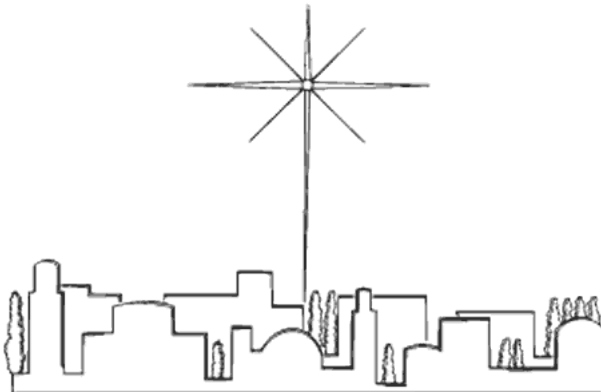
As shadows cast by cloud and sun
Flit o’er the summer grass,
So, in Thy sight, Almighty One,
Earth’s generations pass.

And while the years, an endless host,
Come pressing swiftly on,
The brightest names that earth can boast
Just glisten and are gone.

Yet doth the Star of Bethlehem shed
A lustre pure and sweet,
And still it leads, as once it led,
To the Messiah’s feet.

O Father, may that holy star
Grow every year more bright,
And send its glorious beams afar
To fill the world with light.

William Cullen Bryant





The November 2024 edition of the Broadfield Park Slopes newsletter is now displayed on the notice board near to the Prayer Area.

Thank you

to everyone who has completed the relevant forms from the weekly leaflets during the 2024 Stewardship Campaign.

Giving time, and money, plays a large part in the running of the church and your generosity is appreciated.

If you haven't already done so... please do complete the relevant forms, even if it's only to say you're continuing giving time and/or money as before, to help us plan for the coming year.



Rochdale Parish Churches
Giving Financially

Stewardship Campaign 2024
St Chads



Thank You

The first thing we want to say is "Thank You!" Thank you for your involvement in and your commitment to the life of the parish.

Thank you for all the time, energy and skill you give and thank you also for your financial support.

Without such generous giving we cannot survive, let alone develop and grow.

We know that many of you find it challenging, rewarding and enjoyable to be part of a loving community of faith.

There are so many encouraging signs and there is so much to be thankful for in the life of our churches.

We thank God for your faith, love and service.




Rochdale Parish Churches
Giving A Legacy

Stewardship Campaign 2024
St Chads




How can you make a lasting difference to the work of your church



Rochdale Parish Churches
Giving Time


Stewardship Campaign 2024



Thank You

We can only run our church with the help of people who give their time and energy to God.

We are grateful to everyone willing to give their gifts, talents and time to the church.



How to Look Help After the Planet this Christmas - revisited

I always find it hard that Christmas has been taken over by commercialism and what for Christians is the reminder of the greatest gift from God, of his only son.

What is even harder, is that our way of celebrating today is also destructive to our planet. So let's brush up on some eco-friendly Christmas tips and find out how to look help after the planet this festive season!

The Christmas Tree : Real -vs- Artificial

Real If Christmas Trees are recycled properly they can be turned into chippings, which are then used in parks or woodland areas. Check online for your nearest Christmas Tree recycling location.

Artificial Artificial trees are made from a combination of materials, which makes them difficult to be recycled. However, if you re-use your tree every year they can be a great option.



Christmas Dinner

Everyone makes lots of food at Christmas, but what if there is too much? A lot of food can be thrown away at Christmas, which ends up in landfill sites where it rots and releases methane, a harmful greenhouse gas.

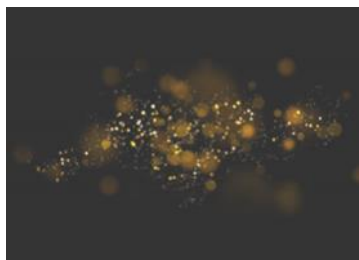
Top Tip: Use your leftover food to make Christmas sandwiches or good old bubble and squeak!

Christmas Sparkle

Christmas is the perfect time for glitter!

But glitter is made out of plastic and scientists are becoming increasingly concerned about the levels of plastic in the ocean.

So, why not try thinking of creative ways of decorating your cards and wrapping paper? You can easily draw stars and snowflakes for a simple but festive touch.



Wrapping Paper

The amount of wrapping paper thrown away in the UK at Christmas would stretch to the moon, and a lot of this cannot be recycled. Why? Because it is made from more than just paper, with some of it made from plastic.



Top Tip: Wrapping paper can only be recycled if it passes the Scrunch Test... if the wrapping paper scrunches up into a ball and stays like that, it can be recycled! Btw, brown paper is recyclable, and you can jazz it up yourself!

Christmas Cards

Billions of Christmas Cards are sent in UK each year, and many of them end up in the bin!

Luckily, lots of Christmas Cards are made from card and paper, which means they can be recycled. (If any cards have glitter on them then tear off this section and recycle the rest).



Top Tip: Save some of this year's Christmas cards and use them to make gift tags to use next year (just like we used to!)

Christmas Presents

This year, think about giving gifts that are kind to the environment! Perhaps make handcrafted gifts that incorporate recycled materials. That will feel really special because you've spent time making them, and if you're lacking inspiration then there are plenty of other ideas for crafting to view on-line!

And there's the option to re-gift items or donate them to charity if they can be re-used rather than throwing them away.

Have a blessed Christmas.

Revd Anne



Martin Butterworth shares information on the

NET ZERO CARBON DEMONSTRATOR PROJECT

BACKGROUND

Nationally, the Church of England is aiming for all churches to be Net Zero by 2030, i.e. elimination of fossil fuels - gas in St Chad's case.

Each diocese was tasked with nominating 2 or 3 churches to become Demonstrator Churches - 60 in total across the country.

In Manchester's case, St Chad's along with Christ Church Brunswick have been selected.

WHAT IS IT

The project is split into Phase 1 and Phase 2.

Phase 1:

A Demonstrator church will have access to

1. Technical support/advice
2. Fundraising consultancy support
3. A cash grant of up to £18,000.

Phase 2:

This is the physical implementation of the plan developed in Phase 1.

These Capital works attract up to 25% (to a maximum of £50,000) funding from the C of E and further funding from the Benefact Trust.

NET ZERO CARBON ACTION PLAN

As part of our Phase 1 application we included this Action Plan (see opposite page).

It is not set in stone so comments/suggestions are most welcome.

St Chad's Church, Rochdale

Net Zero Carbon Action Plan

Objective: Net Zero Carbon (measured through the EFT)

Actions already taken

- Roof and gutters periodically inspected
- Windows checked on a regular basis
- Scheduled servicing of gas boilers (4 years old)
- Periodical inspection of pipework and radiators
- Partial draught-proofing carried out
- Switched to 100% renewable electricity - August 2024
- 100% LED lighting internally and externally (floodlights)
- Energy Footprint Tool completed annually
- PCC meetings moved from Church in Winter
- Smart meters installed for gas and electricity
- Project leader appointed for Net Zero Carbon
- Applied for and granted Demonstrator Church status - phase 1
- PCC approval to go ahead with 'Small Spaces' project with independent heating.

Future Actions

- Complete Phase 1 preparatory grant application form
- Raise congregational awareness
- Achieve Eco Church Bronze
- Draught-proof Porch
- Replace non A+++ appliances
- Automatic lighting for toilets
- Independent heating for clergy and choir stalls
- Aim to achieve Eco Church Bronze
- Measure and track progress, e.g. record meter readings.

Note Drawn mainly from: A Practical Path to Net Zero Carbon

30 St C Rochdale



Advent marks the start of the Christian calendar year, beginning on the Sunday nearest to 30 November and extending until Christmas Day on 25 December.

The Church of England's website tells us that
"Advent is a season of expectation and preparation, as the Church prepares to celebrate the coming (*Latin: adventus*) of Christ in his incarnation, and also looks ahead to his final advent as judge at the end of time."

It's unsure as to when the season of Advent was first celebrated although the first clear reference to its celebration occurs in 567AD when the Council of Tours proclaimed a sacred, festive season for the twelve days from Christmas to Epiphany and that fasting during Advent was to be a necessary preparation for this feast.



Prior to this time there were celebrations and fasts resembling our current Advent season. St Hilary of Poitiers (d 367AD) and the Spanish Council of Saragossa (380AD) spoke of a three week fast before Epiphany. Pope St Leo the Great preached many times about "the fast of the tenth month (December)" prior to Christmas. Also, monks were instructed to fast during this month. The Gelasian Sacramentary (750AD), a book of Christian liturgy, provided liturgical material for the five Sundays before Christmas and also Wednesdays and Fridays. Eventually the Western Church settled on 4 Sundays of Advent, with the season beginning at the end of November or very beginning of December, and starting immediately after Ordinary Time.

The Church of England's website tells us that:

"Advent is a season of expectation and preparation, as the Church prepares to celebrate the coming (Latin: adventus) of Christ in his incarnation, and also looks ahead to his final advent as judge at the end of time."

It is also a season of prayer and repentance, almsgiving, with fasting if you choose to, together with anticipation, hope and joy.

In the Middle Ages the season of Advent was a required time of fasting, in preparation for the Nativity of Jesus. Christians began a forty-day Advent Fast on St Martin's Feast Day, 11 November, and this fasting was to be as intense as the fast during Lent. (Sundays are regarded as a feast day, so no fasting required on Sundays.) The Greek and Orthodox Churches still observe this as their Nativity fast which begins on 15 November.

Nowadays Christians may still choose to observe a period of fasting during Advent, and whilst some churches no longer require this to be an obligation there isn't a rule saying you should *not* do this.

Advent helps us, as Christians, to prepare for Christmas and remember its real meaning, and on each Sunday of Advent we focus our thoughts on one of the four virtues Jesus Christ brings us: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

Purple is the liturgical colour of Advent (although blue may be used as an alternative) and this symbolises that Christ comes from the royal line of David. Christ also comes as the King of Kings and the Prince of Peace.

The Advent wreath is probably the most well-known symbol of Advent. There is a candle for each week of the Advent season and these candles represent hope, peace, joy and love, and the wreath is in the shape of a perfect circle to symbolize God's continuous power, His eternity and endless mercy.

The lighting of candles on the Advent wreath was introduced here in the 19th century from northern Europe, and their purpose is not to illuminate the interior of the church but to represent the light of God coming into the world through the birth of his son Jesus Christ.

The evergreen branches of the wreath represent the trust Christians have in God, and in the hope of newness, renewal and eternal life.

The wreath usually has three purple or blue candles to reflect the liturgical colour of Advent with a pink candle for the third Sunday, arranged around a white or gold candle. (Some other churches choose to use red candles in place of the purple ones - confusing!)



ST CHAD'S ADVENT CANDLES

One candle is lit on the first Sunday of Advent, two candles on the second Sunday, and so on.

The third Sunday of Advent is known as Gaudete Sunday and this candle, representing joy, may be a rose or pink colour.

A fifth candle may be included in the centre of the Advent wreath, usually white or gold, known as the Christ candle, to be lit on Christmas Day to represent the light of God coming into the world through the birth of his son Jesus Christ. As each candle is lit, its flame reminds us that something is happening and also that there is something more still to come.

Before the Advent Calendar became popular, 1800s German protestant Christians would make 24 chalk lines on their doors at the start of Advent and

then rub off one line each day as part of their preparation for Christmas. Alternatively some would make a chalk line on the first day of Advent and add another line each day, while others would light an Advent Candle and burn down a portion of this each day.

Another custom in Germany was for people to make their own paper Advent calendars at home, and then in the early 1900s printer Gerhard Lang made his commercially printed versions available. In the 1920s he added opening doors to the calendars and is regarded as the creator of the modern Advent calendar.

Calendars containing chocolate appeared in the early 1950s, and the first chocolate Advent Calendar appeared here in the UK in 1958, with Cadbury launching their first one in 1971.

Btw, according to Guinness World Records the world's largest Advent calendar was built at London's St Pancras station in 2007, and measured 232ft 11ins in height and 75ft 5ins in width.

In closing, remember that your bible offers an alternative countdown to Advent in the book of Luke... there are 24 chapters, so you can read one chapter on each day through December until we arrive at the 24th and Christmas Eve. (And it's also a no-calorie option, so no excuses!)

Linda G.

Week 1 - Hope

Dear Jesus, you are the hope in our messy world. This Advent, help us slow down, listen to your voice, and focus on what's really important. We place our hope in you as we prepare our hearts to celebrate your birth on Christmas. *Amen.*

The Collect for the First Sunday in Advent

ALMIGHTY God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious Majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. *Amen.*

(The Advent Collects should be repeated every day until Christmas-Eve.)



Sunday 1 December 2024 – The First Sunday of Advent



It's the first day of December and this year it's also the first Sunday of Advent.

So, here we are again, starting out on our journey through Advent and on to Christmas.

Advent, the start of a new church year, a journey most of us reading this have made many times before and as with all journeys to familiar places that follow a familiar route there's a tendency to take the scenery for granted, just follow the sat-nav voice and get from A to B as easily and speedily as possible.

We now have twenty-four days until Christmas Eve then at Midnight Mass we will welcome in Christmas Day, celebrating Jesus' birth in its humble setting of a stable. Each of these days provides us with a fresh opportunity for reflection, to take notice of the scenery on our journey through Advent this year.

If this journey was for a holiday then you'd be taking time to consider what items to pack, which suitcase to use, don't forget the tea bags, and so on.

In its own way, the journey through Advent isn't so different although we would do well to consider 'travelling light', leaving the non-essential items behind and so lighten the load we have to carry with us.

However, do leave room for a book... a reminder that Luke's gospel has 24 chapters, one for each day of Advent... so that's sorted!

The journey in the Christmas story began in Rome, with Caesar Augustus ordering a census to be carried out that required everyone to return to the place of their birth.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. Luke 2.1 NRSV

No postal votes - you had to be there in person! – and Luke is the only one to give us any details about the journey.

Next, on to Jerusalem, where Zechariah, an aged priest, and his elderly wife Elizabeth, a cousin of Mary and previously childless, discover they are having their first baby. Elizabeth will give birth to a son, John the Baptist, who will play his own part in Jesus' story later on. *Read more in Luke 1, from v5.*

Then to Nazareth, a simple town located to the north of Jerusalem, where the angel Gabriel visits a young girl, Mary, and invites her to take on the role that will change her own life and that of the world.

Mary, a young girl from a simple background, not descended from a priestly line, not credited with any previous great achievement that we know of - perhaps the perfect qualifications for the task God chose her for? (Compare her background with that of Elizabeth, descended from the high priest Aaron, and so in theory more qualified for the job title of “the Lord’s Mother”.)

From there it’s on to Bethlehem, but why go **there**?

³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. Luke 2.3-5 NRSV

Moving on with the journey and the story, Mary and Joseph made their way to Bethlehem. There are no details of the journey itself in the gospels but Luke 2 v7 tells us:

“And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.” NRSV

Of necessity they would have travelled light; apart from most people having few personal possessions, Bethlehem was 80+ miles away from Nazareth, a journey of several days, no public transport available and no dialling for an Uber cab so you’d only take what you could carry. And people often travelled in groups for safety and would have taken note of every step of the journey and the landscape to avoid being attacked and/or robbed along the way.

Neither Matthew or Luke mention Mary riding on a donkey; perhaps they didn’t think to mention this as it was a usual mode of transport at that time... but Luke *does* tell us that Joseph went *up* from Galilee into Judea (NIV) as Bethlehem is almost 1,500 ft higher than Nazareth through rugged terrain in the Judean Mountains and this journey would certainly have been easier for Mary if she was.



/contd on p18

They arrive in Bethlehem, no room at the inn, just space in a stable that the innkeeper may have cleared of animals to make available some extra, basic accommodation for those visiting the town in order to register themselves as had been decreed.

Bet Lehem, in Hebrew בֵּית לֶחֶם , in Aramaic בית לחם pronounced Beit Lekhem, the house of bread or food, birthplace of Jesus... Jesus, the bread of life.

The Christmas story with which we've been made familiar has been carefully crafted, skilfully scripted for film and television, a story written about by countless authors over the centuries, and yet isn't mentioned in its entirety in any of the gospels.

It's not unlike a jigsaw puzzle - you need to look in Luke to read about the shepherds, in Matthew to read about the Magi visiting King Herod, killing of the first-born and the flight into Egypt, etc - or navigating via a road atlas where your journey inevitably takes you over several pages that aren't in the precise order, and it's reasonable to say that each of our own journeys through Advent will be different (and perhaps not always going quite to plan).

For now the family can rest in Bethlehem for a while, and try to make sense of these visitors who have come to see this new-born child before their own journey takes them on to Egypt, not back to Nazareth, to escape from Herod's soldiers.

So, in conclusion... step back, make time to enjoy your own journey through Advent this year, travel light, take in the scenery, reflect on the story, (dare I suggest reading through Luke, or an Advent study, (or both), some prayer?) and look forward to celebrating the arrival of the greatest gift of all.



Linda G.



A Prayer for Peace this Advent

Lord Jesus Christ,
you are the light of the world,
the hope of the nations,
and the peace of those who turn to you.
As we prepare to celebrate your birth at
Christmas,
shine your light into our lives,
bring healing to your world,
and let peace break out in every heart and home.
May our hearts be filled with your love
and our mouths filled with the song of heaven:
Glory be to you, our King,
and peace to all people on the earth!

Amen.



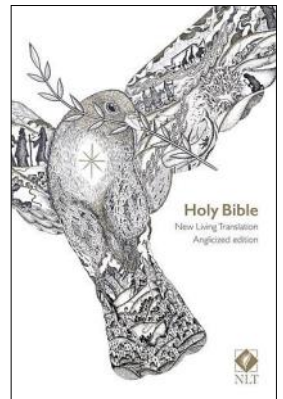


The great symbol of Advent is the increase of light, and as we begin the second week in Advent two candles will be lit on the Advent wreath representing hope and peace, with the increase in light each week symbolizing the coming of the light of the world, Jesus.

The focus this week is on peace, something we all need, not just for the world but in our hearts and lives also.

In John 14:27 (NLT) Jesus said, "I am leaving you with a gift - *peace of mind and heart*. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid."

There are many translations of the bible and so the exact words of this verse in one translation may differ from the words for the same verse in another. They mention not to be troubled or afraid, but the New Living Translation is very clear in its words about the gift Jesus leaves us - *peace of mind and heart*. It is a powerful statement, as to have peace in both mind and heart is indeed a wonderful gift.



/contd...

This is a time that invites us to prepare our hearts for the arrival of Jesus, the precious child of God who embodies His hope, peace, joy and love for this world, as we prayerfully come to a fuller and deeper understanding of who He is.

The weeks leading up to Christmas can be hectic as we prepare to celebrate with family and friends. You've probably sent your cards and hopefully managed to do most of your gift shopping by now, but have you made an effort to set aside time each day for the reflection and prayer that is an important part of our preparations?

Advent provides us with an opportunity to work towards becoming the best version of ourselves, finding a deep and abiding inner peace and then sharing that with others, especially with those who might need it most.

It also invites us to joyfully look forward to Christmas Day itself when we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the son of God - a day to remind us of an event in the past, but also a reminder of things to come.

For as long as any of us can probably recall we've prayed for "peace on earth" but do you include a prayer for people to find peace within themselves and with each other? Anything that might help to bring this world closer to a wider peace has to be worth a mention.

Through Jesus we can find the peace that will strengthen us as we make our journey through life, and also help towards making a kinder and more compassionate world.

Linda G.

Week 2 - Peace

The prayer of St. Francis of Assisi:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; Where there is injury, pardon; Where there is doubt, faith; Where there is despair, hope; Where there is darkness, light; and Where there is sadness, joy... Divine Master; Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love; For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.



The Collect for the Second Sunday in Advent

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Advent Collects should be repeated every day until Christmas-Eve.

Edwin Waugh was an English poet, considered by many to be the prince of Lancashire Dialect Poets.

He was born in Rochdale on 29 January 1817, the son of shoemaker Edmund Waugh and wife Elizabeth. At the age of 12 years he began working for John Walker, a printer at Townhead, and then two years later, age 14, began an apprenticeship with Thomas Holden, another local printer and bookseller. Waugh was a keen reader and during his time at Holden's was able to educate himself whilst also meeting many influential people of the day.

In 1839, at age 22, he began working as a journeyman printer; this work took him all over Britain but he returned to Rochdale in 1844 and resumed working with his former employer Thomas Holden.

On 11 May 1847 he married Mary Ann Hill, and in September of that year became assistant secretary to the Lancashire Public School Association (until 1852). The marriage was not a success; Mary returned to Rochdale in 1850 and their separation became permanent in 1855.

Back to 1847, and now working in Manchester, Waugh began to publish details of his rural rambles. Encouraged by the way this writing was received, he was encouraged to continue with this and by 1860 had progressed on to becoming a full-time writer. In 1862 the Manchester Literary Club was established, Waugh being a founder member.

Waugh's health began to fail at the age of 60 and he moved to Kersal Moor, north of Manchester, in search of fresher air to improve his health. It was around this time that Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli was approached for a pension for him, but without success. However, by 1881 his health had deteriorated further and in 1882 he was granted a pension of £90 from the Civil List after a request had been made to the now Prime Minister Mr Gladstone. In addition to this he was granted £100 by the Royal Literary Fund Committee, paid to him in £5 monthly instalments.

1883 saw Waugh move to his new home, 'The Hollies', in New Brighton on The Wirral and this is where he died on 30 April 1890, from cancer of the tongue. He was buried in the churchyard at St Paul's, Kersal Moor, Salford.

In 1866, Waugh's Well was built at Foe Edge Farm, Edenfield, where he had spent many hours writing. There is another monument in Broadfield Park, Rochdale, completed in 1900, that jointly commemorates Waugh and other local dialect writers, completed in 1900.

This is just a brief history of Edwin Waugh's life and works, space restricts more info... but perhaps there'll be more another time!

Linda G.

CHRISTMAS CAROL

LONG time ago, in Palestine,

Upon a wintry morn.

All in a lowly cattle shed,

The Prince of Peace was born.

The clouds fled from the gloomy sky;

The winds in silence lay;

And the stars shone bright, with strange delight,

To welcome in that day.

His parents they were simple folk,

And simple lives they led;

And in the ways of righteousness

This little Child was bred.

In gentle thought, and gentle deed,

His early days went by;

And the light His youthful steps did lead

Came down from heaven on high.

He was the friend of all the poor

That wander here below;

It was His only joy on earth

To ease them of their woe.

In vain He trod His holy path,

By sorrow sorely tried;

It was for all mankind He lived,

And for mankind He died.

Like Him, let us be just and pure,

Like Him, be true alway;

That we may find the peace of mind

That never fades away.

Edwin Waugh 1817-1890



Collect for the Third Sunday of Advent

O LORD Jesu Christ, who at thy first coming didst send thy messenger to prepare thy way before thee: Grant that the ministers and stewards of thy mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready thy way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at thy second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in thy sight, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

We've now reached the third Sunday on our journey through Advent.

On each of the first two Sundays of Advent we lit a purple candle and today we will light a rose (pink) coloured candle, rose being the liturgical colour used to signify joy. Also, rose coloured (pink) vestments may be worn instead of the purple ones associated with the season.

The third Sunday of Advent is also known as Gaudete Sunday, or Rose Sunday.

Gaudete is taken from the Latin word for joy - and today is a day for rejoicing as we arrive at the halfway point of our journey through Advent.

Today's change of colour for the candle and vestments lightens the mood, encouraging us to continue with our spiritual preparation as we travel on towards Christmas Day, and the celebration of Jesus' birth.

At one time flowers and organ music were forbidden during Advent, but were allowed on Gaudete Sunday as a respite from the penitential nature of the season.

Our journey through Advent may have us running around, ever busier, as we embark on preparations for Christmas and all that it entails, but we should always remember to pause for a while and make time to prepare our hearts to receive the greatest gift of all.

Today, three candles have been lit... and so the light increases.



Linda G.

*Sharing again Canon Nick Smeeton's December reflection 'Waiting'
from the 2019-2020 'A Year of Discipleship - More Than Sunday'.*

My father was in the Merchant Navy, and when I was growing up he was away at sea for long periods of time - often six or seven months. As a young child I used to make a 'Coming Home' chart for the last few weeks until he was due ashore. It would be a grid of thirty-or-so boxes and I would colour in and decorate a box each day until he was back.

I always wanted the last boxes I coloured in to be the best; but I never knew when he would actually arrive. The vagaries of weather, shipping ports, air travel and communication (this was the 1970s so no email or mobile phones) meant that sometimes Dad would get home a good few days earlier than expected. And so I had to do my best colouring for each box.

I think this is part of what our Advent waiting is about. Jesus tells us: 'Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.' This season is a time to remind ourselves to keep our discipleship fresh, energetic, the best that it can be. It is a season when we can

reflect honestly on our lives, our world and our relationship with God - but all in the context of his glorious return.

Of course sometimes Dad would be delayed and I would get to the end of my chart and he would still be at sea. When that happened I just had to turn over and start again on the other side. Here we see another aspect of Advent waiting - the call as disciples to keep on going and to keep on trusting. The call to 'run with perseverance the race that is set before us'.

Needless to say when Dad did arrive home there was much joy and celebration. There will be joy and celebration at the end of our Advent waiting, too; we are rightly excited as we wait to celebrate the birth of the baby Jesus. The angel proclaimed 'good news of great joy for all people'. When our advent waiting is over let us make sure that we too have the courage to share that good news and great joy with the world around us.

Revd Canon Nick Smeeton

**Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day
your Lord is coming. *Matthew 24:42***

**Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also
lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run
with perseverance the race that is set before us. *Hebrews 12:1***

**But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you
good news of great joy for all the people" *Luke 2:10***

Father

You make this holy night radiant
with the splendour of Jesus Christ our light.
We welcome Him as Lord, true light of the world.
Bring us to eternal joy in the kingdom of heaven
where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

(International Committee on English in the Liturgy (ICEL))

O God, who hast caused this holy night to shine
with the illumination of the true Light:
Grant us, we beseech thee,
that as we have known the mystery of that Light upon earth,
so may we also perfectly enjoy him in heaven;
where with thee and the Holy Spirit
he liveth and reigneth, one God,
in glory everlasting. Amen

(BCP 1979)

As we journey from one year to the next,
remembering the days we leave behind,
the joys and sorrows, mountains and
valleys, may we know God's presence
with us, as our constant companion,
a hand to hold if we should stumble,
words of truth we can build upon,
our faithful guide along life's journey,
love that inspires, light for each day,
and, empowered by God's Spirit, may we
become the people He knows we can be.

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MIDWINTER SOLSTICE

According to the Greenwich Mean Time website, this year's Midwinter Solstice is on Saturday 21 December at 09:19 GMT.

"Solstice" comes from the Latin word solstitium, which means 'Sun stands still' [sol (sun) and sistere (to stand still)].

The date and time of the actual solstice does vary slightly from year to year, the precise timing being determined by factors such as the axis of the earth's rotation, speed of the earth's orbit and the length of the solar days.

Although the time of this year's Midwinter Solstice is around 09:19, people generally refer to the whole day as being the solstice.

The Midwinter Solstice can occur between 20 - 23 December, with 21 or 22 December being the most frequent dates.

20 December solstices are rare - you'll have to wait until 2080 for the next one!

The last 23 December solstice was in 1903 and 400 years will have passed by until it occurs again on that date, in 2303!

So, we can look forward to about a quarter of an hour's extra daylight each week until we arrive at the Midsummer Solstice on Saturday 21 June 2025 at 02:42 GMT (03:42 BST) and the longest day (or shortest night), Midsummer, from which date (no surprises here) the daylight then reduces again until we're back at the Midwinter Solstice and the shortest day once more.

It's interesting to note that whilst the Solstice is also known for being the shortest day (or the longest night) of the year, the mornings don't

actually start becoming lighter for a few days after the solstice as the path of the Sun's travel appears to stand still before it changes direction and takes us on once more towards the Midsummer Solstice in June.

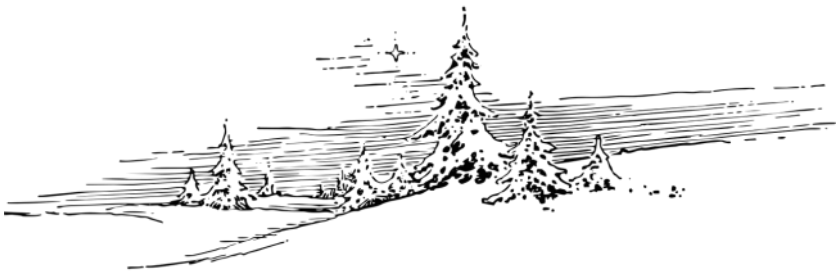
The astronomical seasons may be a more traditional, and perhaps familiar, way of defining the seasons and the Midwinter Solstice also marks the first day of the astronomical winter season.

In contrast to this, the meteorological seasons take the first day of winter as 1 December and ends on 28 February (or 29 February during a Leap Year) .

However the seasons may be referred to, this year's Midwinter Solstice will be on Saturday 21 December - soon, extra daylight each day, and we'll be on our way towards summer again!

Linda G.

** The meteorological seasons begin on the first days of March (spring), June (summer), September (autumn) and December (winter), to make it easier to observe and forecast the weather and compare monthly and seasonal statistics.*





We've now reached the fourth Sunday of our journey through Advent.

The waiting is almost over!

Today, the fourth Advent candle is lit, reminding us of the love that is at the heart of Christmas.

Again, the light increases.

A new candle has been lit each week and we have been reminded that something is happening, and that there is more to come.

Christmas is a special time, with God's gift of love to the world at its heart.

Collect for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

As we are told in John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." (NRSV)

There is one more candle on our Advent wreath, the Christ candle, that will be lit during the Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve.

This candle is at the centre of the wreath to remind us that Jesus is at the centre of Christmas.

So, as you watch this candle burn remember that He is 'the reason for the season', and is the one who brings hope, peace, joy and love for us all.

This final candle on the Advent wreath also reminds us of the light Jesus brought into the world, a light to guide us, and a sign of His presence amongst us.

Take a moment to reflect on John 8:12 (NRSV) where Jesus says, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

Christmas is almost here - we will soon be celebrating the true meaning of the season and giving thanks for the greatest gift of all given to us some 2,000 years ago.

Enjoy your Christmas.

Linda G.



Christina Georgina Rossetti

5 Dec 1830 - 29 Dec 1894

In the bleak mid-winter Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, Snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter Long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:
in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Enough for him whom cherubim worship night and day,
a breastful of milk and a mangerful of hay:
enough for him whom angels fall down before,
the ox and ass and camel which adore.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air,
but only his mother, in her maiden bliss,
worshiped the Beloved with a kiss.

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb,
if I were a wise man I would do my part,
yet what I can I give him, give my heart.



Christina Rossetti wrote this poem in 1872 after receiving a request for a Christmas poem from Scribner's Monthly Illustrated Magazine.

The familiar melody was composed in 1906 by Gustav Holst, with the English composer Harold Darke publishing his setting of the music in 1909.

In addition to the many recordings of this carol by choirs around the world, it has also been covered by popular singers including Annie Lennox, Sarah Brightman, Julie Andrews, James Taylor and many others.



*For unto us a child is born,
unto us a son is given: and the government
shall be upon his shoulder: and his name
shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor
The mighty God, The everlasting Father,
The Prince of Peace.*

(Isaiah 9:6 KJV)

A VIEW BEHIND BARS – LIFE OR DEATH MATTERS



Sooner or later in my chaplaincy existence it was likely to happen.

I had been to see Dean earlier that day. He was in a strange mood, alternately telling me how much '*I love Jesus Christ with all my heart*' whilst pounding his chest, and then mouthing obscenities, turning away and crying, then coming back for another go. Unstable, you could say.

In the afternoon he had refused to come to his review meeting. One of the staff said she would check on him again in a few minutes and that he had '*been on his bell on and off all day*'. I offered to go and try to speak with him again, not especially holding out hope that I would make an instant difference in his mood.

But it only takes a few minutes, a few moments if you're determined enough. He was. I opened his window flap to see a slumped figure on the floor by his radiator, with a piece of clothing tied round his neck and attaching him to the window grille. He opened his eyes but it was not convincing.

When you call for help, they really do come running full tilt. I have no cell

key so had to step aside as officers took over, with another deciding it was her job to move me to the office and check I was alright. I said I was. I felt I was. I still appreciated the kindness of someone who has seen this too many times before.

Yes, he was breathing, but they said he was blue as they reached him.

The drills kicked in and he was seen by healthcare staff, with an ambulance called in moments.

A couple of days later he was back in the chapel, proclaiming his love for the Lord whilst disagreeing fervently with someone whose opinion was different from his own.

A few weeks after that he sent the first of several complaints against one of our chaplain colleagues who he claimed has some bullying behaviour and a 'devilish spirit' in them.

When myself and the Managing chaplain went to see him, he told us he was praying for our colleague. How kind.

So threatened is he by alternative views that he can rise up in anger at

the least little thing, whilst at other times he seems intent and considerate.

Is he a victim of his circumstances and of injustice in the justice system? Is he a perpetrator and agitator of wrong and twisted behaviour?

There are examples of serious challenge to the power of God in the Bible which are met by Jesus with greater power in turning out the evil, convicting the wrongdoer and loving the penitent and desperate. I believe the mixed up person that is Dean needs all of the above.

There are signs amongst some of the men that they have found – or at least are beginning to find - this loving power and respect. In small ways the ‘kingdom of God’ – that is, the ways of the world that show God’s character at work – can be seen.

Some would call it normal behaviour in a civilised, moral society, but if you didn’t grow up with that around you, it’s a major shift of approach to life to begin living that way.

Yesterday, as the Bible study was about to begin, an unexpected

visitor arrived, who had heard of a relative’s death that day. I asked the group to make way for Kyle to come into chapel for a few minutes. There was no hesitation. They sat waiting quietly outside. When Kyle and I emerged, one of the group asked if he could make him a brew; another shook his hand and asked if he was alright. A third helped me with the tray for drinks and a fourth put out the chairs.

They listened to each other, they encouraged one another, they asked honest questions – ‘*What IS belief?*’ (the easy ones....) and opened up about their difficulties.

When people wonder if faith matters in places like this, I would wholeheartedly say it does.

It may just be the beginning of planting seeds that grow into the kind of character that no longer needs to be aggressive, complaining and ultimately desperate enough to try to die to get away from all the bubbling and uncontrolled mess of life without a clear and future hope.

Hilary Edgerton, Chaplain
HMP Buckley Hall, Rochdale
November 2024



A picture to colour in.

The Holy Night

We sate among the stalls at Bethlehem;
The dumb kine from their fodder turning them,
Softened their horned faces
To almost human gazes
Toward the newly Born:
The simple shepherds from the star-lit brooks
Brought their visionary looks,
As yet in their astonied hearing rung
The strange sweet angel-tongue:
The magi of the East, in sandals worn,
Knelt reverent, sweeping round,
With long pale beards, their gifts upon the ground,
The incense, myrrh, and gold
These baby hands were impotent to hold:
So let all earthlies and celestials wait
Upon thy royal state.
Sleep, sleep, my kingly One!

Elizabeth Barrett Browning (1806-1861)



M	B	L	C	A	G	V	D	E	T	H	G	I	N	Y	L	O	H	Q	C	P	E	E	H	S
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V	J	S	L	D	N	B	B	P	J	I	R	E	P	E	E	K	N	N	I	E	C	P	T	B

ADESTE FIDELES ADVENT ANGELS BETHLEHEM BOXING DAY
CANDLES CAROLS CELEBRATION CHOIR CHRISTMAS
CHRISTMAS CAKE CHRISTMAS DAY CRACKERS DONKEY EMMANUEL
EPIPHANY FAMILY FESTIVAL FRANKINCENSE GALILEE GIFTS
GOLD HALLELUJAH HEROD HOLLY HOLY NIGHT INNKEEPER
IVY JERUSALEM JESUS JOSEPH LAMBS LIGHTS MAGI
MANGER MARY MINCE PIES MISTLETOE MYRRH NATIVITY
NOEL PUDDING SHEEP SHEPHERDS STAR STABLE
STRAW SWADDLING TURKEY YULE LOG



Christmas Bucket List

1. ^{Be}~~Buy~~ Presents

2. Wrap ~~Gifts~~ someone in a hug

3. Send ~~Gifts~~ Love

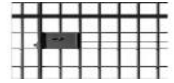
4. ^{Donate}~~Shop For~~ Food

5. Make ~~Cookies~~ Memories

6. ^{Be}~~See~~ The Lights



A VIEW BEHIND BARS – A DUTY OF CARE



A couple of seagulls whirled overhead, drawn, no doubt, by the waste bags waiting to be collected outside various locations. Dan, the Property Maintenance tutor, emerged at roughly the same time as I did from our respective buildings, both of us then drawn by the aforementioned birds' cries. *'If I close my eyes it's like being at the beach, don't you think?'* he said. *'Erm....apart from the barbed wire and the metal gates and the concrete and the temperature...'* was my reply. *'Blackpool beach, then'* he offered. [Cue a flurry of harrumphing emails from insulted residents, stating the pleasures of Blackpool beach - see what I did there?]

Dan is a cheery chappie who takes real delight in helping men to learn the finer points of dovetail joints, door frames and wall-building.

When I passed by later in the day he was sitting on the railings watching a prisoner measuring the distances between one brick and another and its mortar bed. In-between times he had attended to a smaller job that I'd requested ages ago - to produce some candle holders that would fit inside our existing advent ring holders, enabling us to use a variety of sizes of candle.

The prisoner tasked with the job months ago has left. Dan needed

three attempts to get these right but he's done it, satisfied to have finished it off.

The staff are sometimes overlooked. Just there for the money or for the 'DUTY of care', is what the prisoners sometimes think.

Maybe there are those staff who are jaded and tired of having prisoners who just want to be in a workshop – for the money- and have no interest in the work; or who join a programme because they are required to do but don't want to learn.

Who can blame the tutors who are fed up with that lacklustre approach? Or with the men who make regular demands without thanks, and more regular complaints?

Last week, this aged set of buildings had no heating, then had heating but no gas supply in the kitchens, then had gas in the kitchens but no hot water in the showers....so it goes on.

The Works department staff continue to cope with one crisis after another, as well as carrying out the regular maintenance – lights to replace, gates to oil, paths to mend, white lines to mark, and cell doors, bells, observation flaps, floors and plumbing to attend to, often damaged by the same prisoners who make the complaints that no one is interested in them.

The cynical amongst them decide that it's only a DUTY of care, without real meaning, that is carried out by other staff, too.

Yet last week I was in the middle of efforts to help David, whose father has died unexpectedly. As well as trying to support him in grief (he has had another bereavement in the last few months and his partner has suffered a personal trauma), he has discovered that money and possessions were taken from his father's home by others in the family. There is no money for a funeral. David has a step-relative who needed to know his father has died but he has no contact details. As next of kin he needs to arrange a funeral but cannot make phone calls to anyone not on his personal phone numbers list.

It needs a lot of work - chaplaincy, Offender Management, keyworker, Wing staff and mental health team members have all been playing their part: not only because there is a duty to care but because we actually do.

Meanwhile, if seagulls filled the air at the start of one day last week, other creatures were present on different days.

I confronted the squirrel in the foyer of Bravo wing. Opportunists as they are, this one had ventured even beyond the bins outside and got under the main Wing gate. It contemplated running onto the Wing, saw me and decided against it. Even less pleasant was to

spot the unmistakable grey-brown back of a rat heading round and under a teaching block. It's a constant problem. They work hard on it. Eliminating them is an uphill task.

We finished the week making a 'joyful noise to the Lord' when some members of the choir from a local black Pentecostal church came to chapel. One of our mental health team, Anna, attends the church.

Theirs were not the most tuneful of voices. To be honest, and the officer in attendance needed to tune one of the musicians' guitars for him. The rhythm went astray at one point and one man was so keen to clear up quickly that he continued to rustle leads and bags all through the prayer time that I was leading near the end! Yet for enthusiasm and joy and genuineness, they could not be faulted. Live music, freedom from inhibition and formality, real heart and faith plus some generously given bags of goodies for each prisoner, meant the men went back uplifted – and asking for the same kind of glamour that Anna had been dressed in on Sunday, when they would next meet her on Monday!

Caring is not easy, especially when it's not acknowledged. Of course, plenty of people do say thanks, but the genuine care is given whether it's noticed or it's not and can be its own reward because it's the right and hopeful thing to do.

*Hilary Edgerton, Chaplain
HMP Buckley Hall, Rochdale Nov 2024*

PLEASE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT ROCHDALE FOODBANK



is currently supporting over 100 families / single people each week and stocks are **LOW** due to the increasing demand. People who once contributed to the foodbank now find themselves its clients, including those who are working full time, pensioners, Universal Credit claimants (5 week wait for benefits), and every item you donate will enable the Foodbank to continue helping local people in need of support during these difficult times.

ALL items are urgently required...

Whole or Semi-Skimmed Milk (1 litre, UHT) • Tea Bags
Instant Coffee • Sugar • Cup-A-Soups • Long Life Fruit Juice
Pasta / Cooking Sauces • Tomato Ketchup (small)

Tinned Foods: Tomatoes • Soups • Peas • Carrots • Sweetcorn • Potatoes
Meat • Fish • Baked Beans • Spaghetti • Fruit • Rice Pudding • Custard (or packet)
Instant Mash Potatoes • Rice (500g) • Pasta (500g)

Jam / Honey (Jar) • Breakfast Cereal • Snacks • Crisps • Biscuits (packets)
Personal Toiletries, including: Shower Gel • Soap • Shampoo • Deodorant
Toothbrushes • Toothpaste • Feminine Hygiene Products • Disposable Nappies

Rochdale Foodbank Warehouse is open to accept your donations

Monday to Friday, 10 am - 12 noon

Exchange Shopping Centre Service Entrance,
Newgate, Rochdale Town Centre, OL16 1XB
(under the bridge).

Our sign will be on the door.

**There are also in-store donation points
at many of our local supermarkets**





Your continuing support by means other than the envelope scheme will be appreciated, and there are a number of ways you can help:

Transfer to a monthly **Standing Order**
(please ask for a form when you're in church)

Use **online/internet banking** by transferring
from your account to:

Virgin Money, 9/11 Yorkshire Street, Rochdale OL16 1BL

Account to be credited:

Rochdale Parish Church Account No: 24990011 Sort Code: 05-07-22

Pay by **cheque** and send to:

Rochdale Parish Church, c/o 17 Dale View, Littleborough, OL15 0BP

Whichever option you chose, confidentiality will be maintained.

Martin Butterworth, Treasurer.

**Contactless Payments
for donations now available!**



ST CHAD'S

Sundays 11.15 am Choral Eucharist (*Matins on 2nd Sunday of month*)

2.00 - 3.30 pm Asian Fellowship

Thursdays 10.00 am Said Eucharist on 2nd Thursday of the month



CONTACT INFO

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M Butterworth

PCC Sec & Newsletter:

L Goddard

Focal Lead:

L Goddard

Asian Fellowship:

Janice Julius 07983 388169

<https://rochdaleparishchurches.org.uk>

www.facebook.com/rochdaleparishchurches @RochdaleStChads

*To book a Wedding or Baptism/Christening at any of our churches
please come along to church on Sunday morning
or phone the vicar to make arrangements.*

ST MARY IN THE BAUM

Sundays 9.15 am

Week 1 - BCP Communion

Weeks 2, 3, 4 and 5* CW

* when there is a 5th Sunday
in a month

ST LUKE'S DEEPLISH

Sundays 10.00 am

Holy Communion, Family Worship

or Service of the Word

Mondays 10.30 am Bible Study

Wednesday 11 am Morning Prayer