



Rochdale Parish Church  
of St Chad



**NEWS**

*(Please take one and pass it on)*

**JULY  
2024**

Welcome to  
Rochdale Parish Church of St Chad

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*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 ENSURE YOUR  
PHONE IS  
\*OFF\*  
DURING THE SERVICE**

*Thank You*

**Contactless  
Payments  
for donations  
are now  
available**





PLEASE PRAY  
FOR THOSE TO BE BAPTISED  
AT **ST CHAD'S**

Sunday 14 July  
Hedley Thomas Jones



### DAY BY DAY

Thanks be to you, my Lord Jesus Christ,  
for all the benefits which you have given me,  
for all the pains and insults  
which you have borne for me.  
O most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother,  
may I know you more clearly,  
love you more dearly,  
and follow you more nearly,  
day by day.

*St Richard of Chichester*



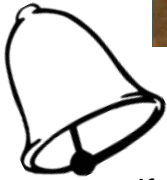
Can you spare an occasional hour  
on Wednesdays or Thursdays  
to help with cleaning the church  
or tidying the garden areas?

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

*Your help in maintaining our  
wonderful church will be appreciated.*



# Name The Bells Competition



Our bells need names

If you would like to enter with a suggestion for a name complete an entry slip and post it in the box on the table.

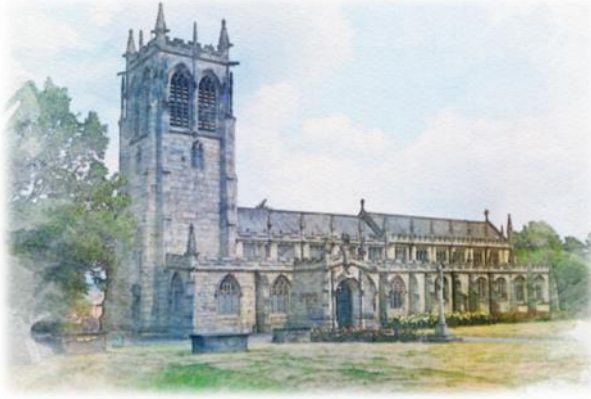
The winning names will be announced in the installation service by The Bishop of Manchester on 6th October at 2 pm.

A photo of each bell and its new name will be displayed in church for the service and then hung in the belfry.

**£1 entry fee**

*(for each name)*





## **CHURCH OPEN DAYS at ST CHAD'S 2024**

**Our historic Grade 2\* listed church  
will be open from 2 - 4 pm  
on Wednesdays and Thursdays from  
5 JUNE**

**and continuing through to the  
HERITAGE WEEKEND**

**on  
Fri 6 / Sat 7 / Sun 8 SEPTEMBER**

*➤ Our Sunday and Thursday Services of Worship will be at their usual times ◀*

**WE RELY ON YOUR SUPPORT TO ENABLE THIS EVENT TO TAKE PLACE EACH YEAR.**

**THERE ARE A FEW SPACES TO FILL ON THE ROTA,  
SO IF YOU ARE ABLE TO GIVE 2 HOURS OF YOUR TIME  
ON ANY OF THE DAYS MENTIONED THEN PLEASE SEE GRAHAM KNOX.**

**THANK YOU.**

◆ **Wednesday 10 July** ◆

**Friends Together Bereavement Support Group**

at St Chad's 10 am - 12 noon

Everyone Welcome • Refreshments provided

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**



➤ **JULY**

**Thursday 4**

Morning Prayer at St Chad's 10.00 am

**Sunday 7**

**6th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

Choral Eucharist at St Chad's 11.15 am

**Wednesday 10**

Friends Together Bereavement Support Group  
at St Chad's 10.00 am - 12 noon

All welcome - Refreshments provided

**Thursday 11**

Said Eucharist at St Chad's 10.00 am

**Sunday 14**

**7th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

Matins at St Chad's 11.15 am

**Thursday 18**

Said Eucharist at St Chad's 10.00 am

**Sunday 21**

**8th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

Choral Eucharist at St Chad's 11.15 am

**Thursday 25**

Morning Prayer at St Chad's 10.00 am

**Sunday 28**

**9th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

Choral Eucharist at St Chad's 11.15 am



**You are invited to join us for the mid-week service  
at St Chad's on Thursdays at 10 am**

Weeks 1, 4 and 5\* Morning Prayer

Week 2 and 3 Holy Communion\*\*



*\* months with a 5th Thursday*

*\*\* for those who wish to receive the sacrament in the week*



MUSIC ON SATURDAYS AT ST CHAD'S

ROCHDALE PARISH CHURCH  
SATURDAY 17TH AUGUST 2024 3pm

**SCOTT BROTHERS DUO**  
**(Jonathan & Tom Scott)**  
**CELEBRITY PIANO DUET CONCERT**



*"I don't think I've ever met two people  
so talented as the Scott Brothers ..."*  
MANCHESTER EVENING NEWS

TICKETS: £10 available on door (includes light refreshments)  
or in advance: 01706 639162 j.midgley448@btinternet.com

St Chad's Parish Church  
Sparrow Hill, Rochdale, OL16 1QT

<https://rochdaleparishchurches.org.uk>

[www.scottbrothersduo.com](http://www.scottbrothersduo.com)

***It's St Swithun's Day on 15 July...  
so it's time for the St Swithun's challenge again!***

## **St Swithun**

St Swithun, also spelt Swithin, *Old English: Swīþhūn*, was born c800 in Winchester, capital of the kingdom of Wessex, in the reign of Egbert of Wessex. There is little known for definite about his early life but he is thought to have been of noble parentage.

He was educated at the old monastery in Winchester, ordained priest by Helinstan or Helmstan, bishop of Winchester (c838-852) and was a pious man known for his humility, building churches and charitable giving.

It is said he was spiritual adviser to the King of Wessex, Æthelwulf, and became tutor and mentor to the king's son Alfred, who later became 'Alfred the Great' and ruler of Wessex. Swithun must have tutored Alfred well as he is the only English monarch to have 'the Great' as part his title

Æthelwulf donated a good portion of his royal land to Swithun, enabling him to build many churches and restore others.

In addition, reference to surviving documents tells us that Swithun was involved in significant decisions and reforms relating to both the Church and English land-law. Legislation passed in 854 that set aside tithes payments (a tithe being a tenth of all produce or income) for upkeep on the Church and its ministrations has Swithun's signature on it, along with those of king Æthelwulf and his son Alfred.

Swithun was later elected to the Bishopric of Winchester on 30 Oct 852, consecrated by Ceolnoth, Archbishop of Canterbury.

He died on 2 July 862 (863?), and the story is that whilst he lay dying Swithun insisted on being buried outside the north wall of the cathedral, so people could pass over his grave and that raindrops from the eaves were able to fall upon it. These wishes were respected and he rested here for over 100 years.

By 971 the monastic reform movement had become established with secular clergy being expelled from monasteries and cathedrals to be replaced by monks, and so on 15 July of that year Bishop Swithun's remains were moved from his simple grave, placed into a precious reliquary donated by King Edgar\* (the Peaceful) and then interred with great ceremony in a shrine commissioned by Bishop Æthelwold of Winchester at the new Cathedral, now the largest church in Europe at that time. Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury, decreed Swithun to be its patron saint.

(\*King Edgar's coronation was organised by Dunstan and took place 973 in Bath, and forms the basis for the current coronation ceremony.)

→→→



You are invited to take part in the 2024

## St Swithun's Challenge

It's easy to do...  
no marathon running or abseiling required!

Just sign up to pledge a donation  
of between 10p - £1 for each day it rains  
between St Swithun's Day on 15 July  
and 23 August.

Then, tick off the rainy days  
on your personal St Swithun's Challenge calendar,  
calculate the amount due  
and give in your donation by the end of August.

I pledge to donate \*

.....

to St Chad's for each day it rains for the 40 days  
from St Swithun's Day, 15 July.

Thank you for your support.



\* *Between 10p - £1 please . . .  
but do not write the amount you are pledging  
on the signing-up form.*

<b>JULY</b>		<b>3</b>	
<b>15</b>		<b>4</b>	
<b>16</b>		<b>5</b>	
<b>17</b>		<b>6</b>	
<b>18</b>		<b>7</b>	
<b>19</b>		<b>8</b>	
<b>20</b>		<b>9</b>	
<b>21</b>		<b>10</b>	
<b>22</b>		<b>11</b>	
<b>23</b>		<b>12</b>	
<b>24</b>		<b>13</b>	
<b>25</b>		<b>14</b>	
<b>26</b>		<b>15</b>	
<b>27</b>		<b>16</b>	
<b>28</b>		<b>17</b>	
<b>29</b>		<b>18</b>	
<b>30</b>		<b>19</b>	
<b>31</b>		<b>20</b>	
<b>AUGUST</b>		<b>21</b>	
<b>1</b>		<b>22</b>	
<b>2</b>		<b>23</b>	

←←← As was religious practise of the day, Swithun's head was later detached and taken to Canterbury Cathedral, with other parts of his body sent to smaller shrines; an arm was sent to the abbey at Peterborough.

In 1093 his main shrine was moved to its new position behind the high altar in Bishop Walkelin's new Norman Cathedral and remained there until 1450. The shrine was popular with pilgrims as Swithun's bones were considered to have healing powers. An even larger shrine was inaugurated in 1476, and grateful pilgrims decorated the shrine with gifts of gold, silver and many jewels.

The shrine was destroyed in 1538 during the English Reformation when control of the Catholic Church in England was seized by King Henry VIII who had declared himself to be the head of the Church of England. The relics became scattered but a memorial to the shrine remains in the Cathedral to this day.

Before its destruction, St. Swithun's Shrine in Winchester Cathedral was probably the second most popular place of pilgrimage in Medieval England. Unfortunately, despite its popularity, no detailed descriptions or illustrations of the shrine from those times have survived.

According to legend, forty days of terrible weather followed the move in 15 July 971, suggesting perhaps that St Swithun was none too happy with his relocation! Since then, it has been said that the weather on 15 July supposedly determines the weather for the next forty days, as noted in the popular Elizabethan verse:

*"St Swithin's day if thou dost rain  
For forty days it will remain  
St Swithin's day if thou be fair  
For forty days will rain na mair"*

There are similar weather-based 'rules' in other western Europe countries, with 'Weather Saints' credited with influencing the weather.

In France, there is St Medard of Noyon, 8 June (for people who work in the fields, for good harvests), and folklore states *"Quand il pleut a la Saint Gervais Il pleut quarante jours apres"* - rain on St Gervais' and St Protais day, 19 July, will bring rain for the next forty days. The Flemish celebrate St Godelieve's Day on 6 July and in Germany farmers, harvesters, haymakers, venerated St Gervasius (St Gervase) *"Wenn's regnet auf Gervasius / es vierzig Tage regnen muss"* - *"When it rains on St Gervasius' Day / forty days of rain will follow"*. Also in Germany, 27 June, Seven Sleepers' Day (*Siebenschlāfertag*).

Whatever you choose to believe, it can make for an interesting conversation when weather is mentioned.

Interestingly, St Swithun is one of the saints traditionally prayed to for rain in times of drought!

Swithun was canonised by popular request after miraculous cures had been reported. The known miracle during his lifetime relates to a basket of eggs being dropped by a flustered lady of his parish. There are different reports as to how the basket came to be dropped - on unexpectedly encountering the Bishop, or while being harassed by workmen. Whichever it was, the eggs were miraculously made whole again when Swithun picked them up and gave them back to the lady.

Other miracles were credited to Swithun posthumously by contemporary writers and his enduring legend is due to events after his death on 2 July 862.

One posthumous miracle concerns Queen Cælgifa, or Emma as she is known, mother of King Edward (the Confessor). Things had not gone well for her (more about this another time perhaps), and then she had been accused of unchastity with Bishop Aelfwine (Alwyn) of Winchester. Proving innocence required her to undergo the ordeal of walking over nine red-hot ploughshares that had been placed on the pavement of the Cathedral nave. A great crowd had gathered to see this including her son Edward and all the nobles of the Kingdom. After a short prayer the Queen's shoes and stockings were removed then she was led to the ordeal with a bishop on either side holding her hands. The crowd cried out for St Swithun to help her, and the Queen prayed "St Swithun, rescue me from the fire that is prepared for me."

Miraculously, guided by the Bishops, she walked over the red-hot ploughshares and did not feel the metal or the fire, emerging from the ordeal unharmed and proclaimed innocent, with the miracle worked by St Swithun also given credit. (A variation is that St Swithun appeared to her the evening prior to the ordeal and told her "I am St Swithun whom you have invoked; fear not, the fire shall do you no hurt.")

St Swithun is honoured as far afield as Norway, commemorated at Stavanger Cathedral and also named in his memory is St Swithun's Lane in London and St. Swithun's quadrangle at Magdalen College, Oxford University.

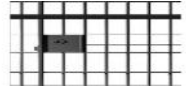
Linda G.

*There's a beautiful fragrant pink English Climbing Rose called St Swithun, something to consider if you're looking to add something new to your garden.*

*It was named to commemorate the 900th anniversary of the consecration of Winchester Cathedral, and grown by David Austin Roses.*



## A VIEW BEHIND BARS – ‘A LITTLE CHILD WILL LEAD THEM’



The second hand sofa on Alpha wing was a surprise. Two men were relaxing, for all the world looking as if they were about to turn the Telly on, open a couple of cans and sit back to watch the footie. I paused to comment. *‘DHS were having a sale so we picked it up in the van yesterday’* one quipped. We joked about furniture shops and their fantasy trip to buy bargains for the prison before I moved on to ask where they would like to be going next. One talked about the cat ‘D’ prison and then his plans for home. *‘And you?’* I asked the second. With brilliant comedic timing he smiled, waved his arm airily over the sofa and said *‘I think I might stay here for a bit. It’s got a nice ambience....’*

They are making the best of it.

Another who is making the best of it is Shaun. Seeming nervous and vulnerable, he arrived for a first 1:1 conversation ostensibly about ‘bereavement issues’. His sad story is of his little boy who died, aged just four, after a diagnosis of a threatening and rare condition. The effort to be strong for his wife and other children led Shaun into such stress that he had a heart attack and a sense of failure that moved him on into crime.

He has not been able to confront his feelings of trauma at Luke’s (*not his real name*) death since then.

Shaun was surprised when I asked if we could start with talking about other aspects of his life, his story, his family, his other bereavements. Over four sessions we have talked about his lack of confidence, his older children, his previous spell in prison, his love for his wife and sense of low self worth and his hard work at his job.

Most people who need to remember anniversaries and birthdays consult their phones, their diary, or maybe a piece of paper on the kitchen noticeboard. When I asked Shaun about one of his children, he rolled up his T-Shirt to consult the diary tattooed on his torso. Every one of his seven children are dated on there somewhere.

*/cont’d on page 12*

# Summer Solstice 2024

**THURSDAY 20 JUNE AT 03:06 BST**

Following on from the Spring Equinox in March, our journey around the Sun continued and we arrived at the Summer Solstice on 20 June.

It's the first day of astronomical Summer and this transitional point is a key stage between the seasons of Spring and Summer.

As our Earth travels around the Sun its elliptical orbit has brought us to the furthestmost point north of the equator, to Midsummer, to the day we receive our largest dose of daylight and so giving us the 'longest day' and 'shortest night' of our year.

Hopefully we will be enjoying some warm, pleasant weather as our journey takes us on through the summer season to the next astronomical waypoint, the Autumnal Equinox on 23 September at 06:50 GMT (07:50 BST), losing approx 2 minutes of daylight each day in the process, and then from there steadily travelling on to the Winter Solstice on 22 December at 03:27 GMT and the shortest day of the year.



Shaun felt he was *'In a waiting room'* in prison but we talked about the times of waiting in the Bible - waiting for the Lord, waiting for *'the morning'*, persevering to the end, waiting and hoping for what we don't yet see but trust is coming because of God's great goodness.

When he saw me next time, his attitude had changed. He was no longer just waiting but *'gathering tools'* to use when he got out. His whole demeanour was different.

He told me the story of the day of Luke's diagnosis. At the tender age of two, the doctors told the parents the hard news about a life-limiting condition. Luke sensed his dad's distress, put his arms round him and patted him on the back as they hugged each other. Shaun says he knows that is given for him to *'use'* when he needs comfort. He can feel it whenever he wants to, that little pat on the back from his little boy.

And so came the last session together. He has decided to turn negatives into positives. Instead of hardly daring to face the facts and emotions of his son's death, he wants to look at them straight and then rejoice in the good things of the gift of life they shared for four years. The anniversary comes soon and this time, Shaun will be using that date to *'accept'* and celebrate.

I can't describe the sense of privilege at being part of this little journey that has moved me emotionally and moved Shaun to a place where his eyes are bright with thankfulness and his body posture is lifted. He knows it's not all sorted but he knows how to make things different. There's a gospel verse that speaks of the little ones whose angels see the face of God. And every now and again perhaps they also give a little reassuring pat.

A vision of a re-created Eden is part of Isaiah's prophecy. Chapter 11 imagines a world where oxen and lions and goats and children and adders all get along quite happily without fear. The picture includes the startling phrase *'And a little child shall lead them'*. Luke seems to have led Shaun. We grown-ups need to take note.

Hilary Edgerton – June 2024  
HMP Buckley Hall, Rochdale

**URGENT**

PLEASE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT



The 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)

Their sign will be on the door

There are also in-store donation points at  
Asda Dane Street, Tesco Silk Street  
and other supermarkets



This link gives up-to-date info on items required:

<https://rochdale.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

*(currently everything on the Foodbank's shopping list)*

## FAIR FOR ALL

is the only dedicated Fair Trade outlet in the Municipal Borough of Rochdale, and is situated at 5 The Walk on the ground floor of Couzen's Hair Studio.

We continue to become busier, and people who didn't know about us are now finding us and coming into the shop to look round and discovering that as well as Fairtrade foods a varied selection of gifts and other items are also available.

The shop is staffed entirely by dedicated volunteers and we rely on people to give a few hours of their time to enable it to continue.

If you feel that you are able to help please contact  
Monica Fowler 01706 659453 / 07980 467228  
or email [mjfowler86@gmail.com](mailto:mjfowler86@gmail.com)



**FAIRTRADE**

Whether you come into the shop to browse/buy or to give a few hours of your time each week you will be made very welcome.



## 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

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

**Vicar:** The Revd Anne Gilbert

Vicarage: 01706 346 774

Mobile: 07865 293827

revannegilbert@gmail.com

**Churchwardens:**

A Wild 07905 837847

P Goddard 07564 635900

**Treasurer:**

M Butterworth

**PCC Sec & Newsletter:**

L Goddard

**Asian Fellowship:**

Janice Julius 07983 388169

<https://rochdaleparishchurches.org.uk>

[@RochdaleStChads](http://www.facebook.com/rochdaleparishchurches)

*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.*

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## 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