Rochdale Parish Church
of St Chad

NEWS

(Please take one and pass it on)

Easter
2025

Welcome to
Rochdale Parish Church of St Chad

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

Prayer Request

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

A polite reminder...

PLEASE ENSURE YOUR PHONE IS

OFF

DURING THE SERVICE

Thank You

HE IS RISEN

alleluia

CHURCH OPEN DAYS at ST CHAD'S 2025

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

4 JUNE

and continuing through to the

HERITAGE WEEKEND

FRIDAY 12 SEPTEMBER : 2 - 4 pm
SATURDAY 13 SEPTEMBER : 11.30 am - 4 pm
SUNDAY 14 SEPTEMBER : 12.30 - 4 pm

➢ *Our Sunday and Thursday Services of Worship will be at their usual times* ➣

Please speak with Graham Knox
to arrange your dates on the rota for volunteer helpers.

Please pray for

Gaynor Whitham

and

Paul Bollington

to be married at

Rochdale Parish Church of St Chad

on Saturday 3 May

We meet as family in the presence of our heavenly Father.

We meet as brothers and sisters in Christ,
accepting the responsibility this places upon us -
to love one another as you have loved us.

We meet as your lights in this dark world,
and pray that through our words and our lives
others might be drawn into your family,
and accept you as their Saviour and Lord.

Amen

from: faithandworship.com

St Chad's Altar Guild
would like to thank everyone
who has donated
towards the cost of
the Easter Lilies.

The St George's Flag will be flying from the tower at St Chad's today, Sunday 20 April, in readiness for St George's Day on 23 April.

Whether George actually existed or not, most of us will have learned of his story during our school days or read about him in adventure story books, the tale of a damsel in distress being rescued by a brave knight in shining armour who then slayed the troublesome dragon… but his name went on beyond this to be connected with people, places and events during the following centuries.

We are told that George was born in Cappadocia, now modern day Turkey, in the 3rd century and, whilst often depicted as a knight in armour, he was probably an officer in the Roman Army.

Cappadocia was the first setting for the legend in the 11th and 12th centuries, but then in the 13th century Jacobus de Voragine's *Golden Legend* places it in Libya.

Jacobus (c.1230-1298) was archbishop of Genoa and he authored, although compiled would be more accurate, the *Golden Legend,* a popular account of the legendary lives of the medieval church's greater saints. (Stories of military saints and their exploits of slaying dragons were a simple way of symbolising good triumphing over evil or the devil at that time.)

The legend is that there was a dragon who lived in a lake near to Silene, in Libya, who demanded tribute from the people there by way of livestock and trinkets, and when the people were no longer able to provide these then a human tribute was made each year instead. Some versions of the legend mention the sacrifice of a beautiful maiden each day rather than each year, but we won't let that uncertainty spoil the story!

The people accepted this until the time came when all the maidens had been sacrificed and the king's daughter was chosen to be the next tribute offering. In order to spare his daughter the king offered all of his gold and silver, but the people would not accept this so, dressed as a bride, she was taken to the lake ready to be fed to the dragon.

By chance, George arrived at the scene on his trusty steed, vowing to remain despite the princess telling him to go away. Then, the dragon emerged from the lake… George made the Sign of the Cross, charged at the dragon and inflicted a serious wound to it with his lance. George asked the princess to throw her belt

to him and he placed this around the neck of the dragon, who then followed the princess like a pet on a leash. They then led the dragon back to Silene where it terrified the people there, so George made them an offer that he would kill the dragon in exchange for them becoming Christians and being baptised. The story continues with some 15,000 men, including the king, converting to Christianity. Then George killed the dragon and beheaded it with his sword.

The king built a church to the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint George on the site where the dragon died and a spring flowed from its altar with water that cured all disease.

Like many saints, St George was described as a martyr after he had died for his Christian faith. It is believed that he died in Lydda, now Lod (part of modern day Israel, south-east of Tel Aviv) after being tortured and beheaded having resigned his military post, protesting again his pagan leader Emperor Diocletian (245-313 AD) who led the persecution of Christians in Rome in the early 4th century, and for refusing to make a sacrifice in honour of the pagan gods. The Emperor's wife was also executed later for her faith, having converted to Christianity after being inspired by George's bravery and strength of faith.

St George was one of the saints (the 'Fourteen Holy Helpers') that people living in the Middle Ages believed could be of help during times of infection and/or epidemic disease, such as the plague and leprosy, and also against venomous snakes.

There is no record of St George visiting England but his feast day was celebrated here on 23 April from the 9th century. His reputation as a character of virtue and holiness had spread throughout Europe. He has been adopted as the patron saint of Catalonia and Ethiopia, and St George's day is also celebrated in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Portugal, the Republic of Macedonia and Serbia. Christians in middle-eastern countries also celebrate this.

In the 9th century St Edmund, Edmund the Martyr, the King of East Anglia, was England's patron saint, with his feast day celebrated on 10 November.

➢*page 12*

Sarah Coleridge - The Months

April brings the primrose sweet,
Scatters daises at our feet.

FLOWER(S) OF THE MONTH

Daisies and Sweet Peas

Daisies symbolise innocence, purity and true love.
Sweet Peas represent kindness, gratitude and friendship.

Aries and Taurus
are the month's Zodiac signs.

Aries

21 Mar - 19 Apr

Taurus

20 Apr—20 May

April's birthstone is
Diamond

symbolising eternal love
and commitment.

There are 30 days in April, the fourth month in our calendar year, and it brings us the Pink Moon on April 13, the first full moon of Spring.

The month's name is derived from "aperire", a Latin word meaning "to open", and refers to the opening and/or blossoming of the flowers and trees in Spring.

April was originally the **second** month in the ancient Roman calendar before King Numa Pompilius added January and February c700BC.

And, if you're thirsting for more facts…
in Old English, this month was known as "Eastermonath", named after the goddess Eostre and associated with Spring and fertility!

Our website is moving to a new home,
and there's a slight change of address.

https://rochdaleparishchurches.co.uk
(*was org.uk*)

Please update your bookmarks/favourites
in your web browser.

ST CHAD'S

GARDENING
Wednesdays at 1.00 pm

CHURCH CLEANING
Thursdays at 10.30 am

EVERYONE WELCOME!

CRIMESTOPPERS
0800 555 111
Call anonymously with information about crime

https://crimestoppers-uk.org/

Always 100% Anonymous

Saturday 26 April at 12 noon

Voci
voices

Elizabeth Ambrose, *Soprano* : Margaret Ferguson, *Soprano*
Eric Cymbir, *Tenor* : David Cane, *Baritone* : Mackenzie Paget, *Accompanist*

VociVoices are a quartet of classically trained singers who enjoy singing all kinds of music in four parts harmony with piano accompaniment or a cappella.

We are based in Greater Manchester and met at City of Manchester Opera, and our repertoire includes opera, operetta, sacred music, musicals, jazz, swing and evergreens, a balanced selection for everyone to enjoy.

Programme includes

Gloria in Excelsis Deo Gloria A. Vivaldi
The Lord is My Shepherd F. Schubert
Cantique de Jean Racine G. Fauré
Plaisir D'Amour G. Martini
The Blue Danube Johann Strauss II
What a Wonderful World G.D. Weiss & B. Thiele
You Raise Me Up B. Graham & R. Loyland
The Phantom of the Opera A.L. Webber

(Concert lasts until 12.50pm)

Admission £6 - pay on the door
including refreshments available from 11.30 pm

Details of our concerts on Saturdays 10 May, 14 June, 19 July, and Scott Brothers Duo on 23 August
are in the tri-fold leaflet located on the front desk.
Please share this with your musically-minded friends!

Come and Sing

MOZART

Ave verum corpus K 617
Laudate Dominum (from Vespers K 339)
Missa Brevis in B Flat K275

Saturday 31st May 2025

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

Workshops 10am-2.30pm
(Registration 9.45)
Public Concert at 3pm

Full Day £12.00 Per Person

Alicia Cadwgan

Soprano

Philip O'Connor

Director

Philip Lowe

Accompanist

Price includes tuition, sheet music, drinks at morning and lunchtime breaks.
Please bring along a packed lunch.
To book your place and for further information please contact Jill Midgley
j.midgley448@btinternet.com
Tel-01706 639162

Easter Word Search

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

ANGELS
APOSTLES
BETRAYAL
BLOOD
CALVARY
CROSS
CROWN OF THORNS
CRUCIFIXION
DARKNESS
DEATH
EARTHQUAKE
EASTER
GOLGOTHA
HIGH PRIEST
JESUS CHRIST
JOSEPH
JUDAS ISCARIOT
KING
LAMB
MARY
NAILS
PASSOVER
PIECES OF SILVER
PIERCED
PILATE
RESURRECTION
ROBE
ROMANS
SACRIFICE
SIMON OF CYRENE
SOLDIERS
SON OF GOD
SPEAR
STONE
TEMPLE
THIEVES
THREE DAYS
TOMB

God, give us eyes to see
the beauty of the Spring,
And to behold Your majesty
in every living thing -
And may we see in lacy leaves
and every budding flower
The Hand that rules the universe
with gentleness and power -
And may this Easter grandeur
that Spring lavishly imparts
Awaken faded flowers of faith
lying dormant in our hearts,
And give us ears to hear, dear God,
the Springtime song of birds
With messages more meaningful
than man's often empty words
Telling harried human beings
who are lost in dark despair -
'Be like us and do not worry
for God has you in His care.

Helen Steiner Rice

➢➢➢ Born on Christmas Day 841, he was the patron saint of England for more than 300 years, having fought alongside King Alfred to repel the Viking and Norse pagan invaders. Edmund was captured after his forces had been defeated; he refused to renounce his faith and also to share power with the invaders, so was tied to a tree and the Viking bowmen used him for target practice before beheading him. His date of death is given as 20 November 869/70.

Attempts to restore Edmund as England's patron saint have been made but without success and St George retains this position, but he is patron of kings, pandemics/plagues, torture victims and wolves.

The Crusades spanned two centuries, from the late 1096 to 1291, and were a series of religious wars fought in the Holy Lands with the aim of securing control of the holy sites considered sacred to both Christians and Muslims.

St Edmund's popularity was gradually waning. On the eve of a battle in 1199 during the Third Crusade, King Richard I visited St George's tomb in Lydda and went on to win a great victory the following day. After this success Richard decided to adopt St George as his personal patron and protector of the army, after which his soldiers then wore the emblem of a red cross on a white background to avoid confusion during future battles.

Later, Edward I (1272-1307) had banners with a red cross on a white background, the emblem of St George, and his troops wore the St George's cross when fighting the Welsh. In 1300 Edward raised the St George's flag at Caerlaverock Castle in Scotland after its capture.

Edward III (1327-77) owned a relic of St George's blood and took a great interest in the legend. However it wasn't until Henry VIII was king that the St George cross was used to represent England.

The English army had sought St George's help and protection from around the year 1100. King Henry V was extremely devoted to St George, and there is also reference to this in Shakespeare's 'Henry V' when the king calls on the saint during the Battle of Harfleur with the famous words "Once more unto the breach, dear friends", and crying "God for Harry! England, and St George!"

It was later suggested that St George had actually appeared to the English troops during the Battle of Agincourt in 1415 when they claimed a stunning victory against the French, and after this 23 April became one of the English calendar's most important feast days.

William Shakespeare was born on or close to St George's Day in 1564, and is also said to have died on St George's Day in 1616. Appropriate dates for the playwright whose writing helped St George become immortalised in English literature and traditions.

Some 500 years after Agincourt, British troops are said to have been aided by a ghostly apparition of St George during their retreat from Mons, Belgium, during WW1.

Whether fiction or fact, it is said that soldiers were helped by celestial figures to survive the battle (with 'The Angels of Mons' appearing as archers also being part of this WW1 story).

Back to 1348 and Edward III establishes The Order of the Garter as the country's highest order of chivalry and the Garter badge still includes the St George cross .

The award of The George Cross was created by King George VI in 1940 to acknowledge acts of outstanding courage or heroism during extreme danger and shows an image of St George vanquishing the dragon.

Many of the memorials built to honour those killed during WW1 also include images of St George.

Again in more recent times, UNESCO created World Book Day on 23 April 1995 to mark this historic day, celebrated in more than 100 countries around the world.

Also, Lord Baden Powell chose St George to be patron saint of Scouting when founding the organisation in 1908.

Celebrations of the day in England are often low-key events now, although there may be typically English activities such as Morris Dancing, watching a Punch and Judy show or eating our favourite dish of fish and chips.

George's name also means 'earth-worker' or farmer, and with the feast day being in springtime people have prayed to St George to help them have a good harvest.

However you're planning to celebrate St George's day, enjoy.

Linda G.

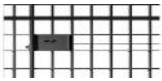
An Easter Quiz…

1) Pasqua is the name for Easter in which language?
2) The earliest date in the calendar that Easter Sunday can take place is _____
3) In the Bible, which job did Zacchaeus hold?
4) Who wrote the popular Easter hymn "Christ the Lord is Risen Today"?
5) Which 3 disciples went furthest into Gethsemane with Jesus?
6) Which Jewish feast coincides with the celebration of Easter weekend?
7) The Easter Triduum refers to which 3 days at Easter?
8) Which 2 disciples did Jesus send to prepare the room for the Last Supper?
9) When Peter denied knowing Jesus, what gave him away?
10) How many angels were guarding the sepulchre?
11) In 1873 which company introduced the first chocolate Easter egg in Britain?
12) After being resurrected, Jesus shows himself to the disciples beside which sea?
13) Which disciple is not present at this event?
14) What foodstuff in the shape of a lamb is displayed on the dinner table in some eastern European countries?
15) Which prisoner was released instead of Jesus?
16) Who was the last monarch to wash the feet of the poor on Maundy Thursday as an act of humility in remembrance of Jesus washing the disciples' feet?
17) Name the other biblical character who helped Joseph of Arimathea prepare the body of Jesus for burial?
18) The Latin question 'Quem quaeritis ' translates to what in modern day English?
19) Which Scottish Football Club plays their matches at Easter Road?
20) The Osterbrunnen is a German tradition of decorating _____ with Easter eggs for Easter?
21) What is the popular dish 'Angelino' enjoyed at Easter each year in Italy?
22) In which country is 'Capirotada', a traditional food which resembles bread pudding, eaten on Good Friday?
23) What do the eleven balls of marzipan on a Simnel cake traditionally represent?
24) What famous tradition takes place on Corfu on Holy Saturday?

25) In which city was Jesus' body buried?
26) What is the large white candle that is blessed and lit every year at Easter called?
27) Klinghammer's computus is a mechanism which determines the date of Easter in 'which' calendar?

28) In Switzerland, what animal delivers Easter eggs to children?
29) Name the Russian jewellery firm famed for designing elaborate jewel-encrusted eggs?
30) The traditional Ukrainian way of painting Easter eggs is called _____
31) What is the two-word name given to Holy Week in Spain?
32) Kite-flying is a famous Good Friday tradition In which British overseas territory?
33) Nick Easter is a former professional sportsman in which sport, and for which club is he best known for playing for?
34) What was the main objective of the Easter Act 1928?
35) Which is the only Shakespeare play that mentions Easter?
36) True or false? In New Zealand, Easter is always celebrated on the first Sunday in April.
37) In what year were Cadbury Creme Eggs introduced?
38) What decides the date of Easter Sunday?
39) Due to its twists resembling arms crossed in prayer, what savoury snack was associated with Easter?
40) The Dutch were the first Europeans to discover Easter Island on Easter Sunday in what year? Also, name the South American country that it now forms part of, and the ocean in which the Island is situated.
41) The spices inside hot cross buns signify what?
42) What type of dancing is traditional at Easter?
43) Who did Jesus ask to come down from a tree when passing through Jericho on his way to Jerusalem?
44) What is the name given to the street in Jerusalem where Jesus walked his path, carrying the cross, on his way to crucifixion?
45) In some countries, including Spain, Mexico and Greece, they burn what on Easter bonfires?
46) What kind of cloth was used to wrap the body of Jesus?
47) Kulich is a traditional Easter bread in which country?
48) A man named Simon was compelled to carry the cross of Jesus. In which Gospel are we told the names of his two sons, and what were their names?
49) What happened in the Temple as Jesus died?
50) Buying what for Easter is said to bring good luck for the rest of the year?

A VIEW BEHIND BARS – *STICKING AT IT*



'I think I'm going to give up that job, Miss' said Martin when I asked how he was getting along. He told me he was bored and he wasn't being appreciated and he didn't really know what he was meant to do.

The job was a new, trusted role, helping those who are young adults in the prison and those who have spent a lot of time in Care.

He needed to take initiative for himself, rather than being told what to do, as he had been as a building site labourer in a previous life. He had been thrilled to have been chosen to do the job but now he was all for giving up.

I asked him how long he had been doing it for by this stage. *'A week'* came the answer.

I resisted the urge to laugh and instead tried to coax him into believing he might get used to it if he gave it a little more time, and to encourage him that in the future, this experience would show he could be a 'self-starter' and help others along the way.

He told me that his mum had also told him not to *'jump ship'.* I was relieved to hear that his mum and I were on the same page.

A different level of perseverance has been needed for Ross, who came to talk about his bereavement issues.

Once again, it was for far more than the presenting topic that he needed to pour out at our first meeting.

Ross hisses the air in through his teeth as he talks, and it's rapid fire, thick with scouse accent and the occasional mumble.

My concentration was stretched to the limit after an hour and a half of intense and personal story at high speed and in fine details.

Ross had told me briefly on the Wing previously that he had a partner and two children and was the 'carer' for his mum until his recent re-call. I also knew that he had found his father on the day he had died.

He hadn't, though, told in advance the backstory about his abused partner and her family who targeted Ross after he gave courage and strength to her such that she walked out of the abusive home.

He hadn't told me that his young son has been having fits, or that he had lost a baby through a termination which they'd been advised to have on medical grounds and which they subsequently were told may not have been necessary.

He hadn't told me about the suddenness of his father's death or the depression of his partner.

Until I went to meet his family, as invited, on a Visit, I hadn't realised that his mother is severely crippled by her condition, unable to speak and only moved around in an adult-sized buggy.

As carer, Ross had put the plan in place that gave her effectively 24-hour care and he was the one who lifted her, washed her, talked to her, loved her.

Now his brother and partner have had to share the role.

His story is complicated and he has not committed a crime recently. His re-call is unfortunate, to say the least.

We get on well. He chose to have some photos sent in by his partner when he discovered that he and I have a common love of the hills.

He honoured me by showing them to me - happy family photos of man and woman, and two children at the top of Snowdown; a mate and himself backpacking in the Lakes; walks with the dog in winter.

Yet when we finally broached the subject of the baby he fell apart. A jumble of messy actions, feelings and struggles that he hadn't coped with in the past and would rather not face now.

But he did face them as we went on. We talked of the non-judgmental grace of God and the fact that Ross had somehow worked things through with his family.

We talked of the desire that he has to confess wrong and be forgiven.

We talked of the worry he has for his mum – who has since been in hospital almost unresponsive- and for his son – who has begun having fits at school.

I asked if they had given the unborn baby a name. They had not.

Perhaps it might help them, I tentatively suggested, to think of this *person* they have lost, rather than the tumult of the *events* around that time.

We talked of how they could involve the children in conversation about grief.

He perseveres. This week things have turned in a different direction.

He has moved onto an enhanced wing, got a single cell and is on a two week trial for a job.

His mum has somehow pulled through and is back home.

And Martin?

He has persevered as well. He grinned as he told me that he'd refused to kiss his new girlfriend in front of everyone on their visit but he's also stuck at the job, has had some help from another prisoner in working out a timetable for his week and is beginning to feel proud of himself.

Hilary Edgerton, Chaplain
HMP Buckley Hall, Rochdale
March 2025

ST CHAD'S

Sundays

11.15 am
Choral Eucharist
(*Matins on 2nd Sunday of month)*
2.00 - 3.30 pm
Asian Christian Fellowship

Thursdays *(on 2nd Thursday of month)*
10.00 am
Said Eucharist

CONTACT INFO

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M Butterworth

PCC Sec & Newsletter:
L Goddard

Focal Lead:
L Goddard

Asian Christian Fellowship:
Janice Julius 07983 388169

https://rochdaleparishchurches.co.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