Rochdale Parish Church
of St Chad

NEWS

(Please take one and pass it on)

21 June
2026

Welcome to
Rochdale Parish Church of St Chad

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

PLEASE SWITCH YOUR PHONE TO

*** SILENT ***

DURING THE SERVICE

Thank You

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

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.

Sunday Services at St Chad's - 11.15 am

21 June - Trinity 3
Choral Eucharist, led by The Revd Pamela Parr

28 June - Trinity 4
Choral Eucharist, led by The Revd Pamela Parr

5 July - Trinity 5
Choral Eucharist, led by The Revd Sue Morgan

12 July - Trinity 6
Matins, led by The Revd Pamela Parr

19 July - Trinity 7
Choral Eucharist, led by The Revd Pamela Parr

26 July - Trinity 8
Choral Eucharist, led by The Revd Pamela Parr

2 August - Trinity 9
Choral Eucharist, led by The Revd Anne Gilbert
Area Dean of Rochdale

9 August - Trinity 10
Matins, led by The Revd James Read

16 August - Trinity 11
Choral Eucharist, led by The Revd Pamela Parr

23 August - Trinity 12
Choral Eucharist, led by The Revd Pamela Parr

30 August - Trinity 13
● JOINT SERVICE AT ST CHAD'S - 10.00 am ●
Choral Eucharist, led by The Revd Canon Sharon Jones

CHURCH OPEN DAYS 2026

Our historic Grade 2* listed church
will be open 2.00 - 4.00 pm on Wednesdays and Thursdays from

2 JUNE to 10 SEPTEMBER

and then continuing through the

HERITAGE WEEKEND

(organised by The National Trust)

FRIDAY 11 SEPTEMBER : 2 - 4 pm
SATURDAY 12 SEPTEMBER : 11.30 am - 4 pm
SUNDAY 13 SEPTEMBER : 12.30 - 4 pm

Pease note that our Sunday Services of Worship will be at their usual times

The next Full Moon will be on Tuesday 30 June at 12.57 am.

It's known as the Strawberry Moon after the wild strawberries that began to ripen around this time and picked by the Native American tribes.

Summer Solstice 2026

Sunday 21 June at 09:24 BST

Following on from the Spring Equinox in March, our journey around the Sun has continued and we've arrived at the Summer Solstice again.

'Solstice' comes from the Latin *solstitium* meaning 'Sun stands still', as the apparent movement of the Sun's path stops before changing direction and begins its journey on to the Autumnal Equinox.

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 furthermost 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.

Enjoy the day... as whilst we look forward to the warmer weather that summer can bring we're also now on our way to the Autumnal Equinox on Wednesday 23 September at 12:06 GMT (01:06 BST), losing approx 2 minutes of daylight each day in the process, and then from there steadily travelling on to the Winter Solstice on Monday 21 December at 08:50 GMT and the shortest day of the year.

What is the difference between Midsummer's Day and the summer solstice?

Midsummer's Day occurs on 24 June each year and it is one of the four Quarter Days in the UK's Legal Calendar.

The other Quarter Days are:

Lady Day - 25 March
Michaelmas - 29 September
Christmas Day - 25 December

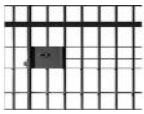
Broadfield Park Slopes Medieval Fayre

St Chad's hosted two events as part of the Medieval-themed Fayre organised by Rochdale Development Agency earlier this month.

On Saturday 6 June there was a Medieval Manuscript Workshop and on Sunday 7 June visitors were entertained by Medieval Musicians.

Thanks go to Brenda Boulton for sharing some photos from the latter event.

A VIEW BEHIND BARS - *WHEN GOOD TURNS BAD*



Martin wrote back to me. I try to write to the men who've been regulars at chapel and who then move on to Cat D prisons. They don't always respond - which is fine.

He was finding his feet and appreciated the level of additional freedom which includes being able to go for a run around the grounds when you feel like it, rather than at a fixed time, and looking towards the hallowed prize of home visits after the 'lie-down' period.

He told me about his reflections on the life of Jonah – which I had suggested he read, as a former naval man used to the sea. Martin had found himself crying out to God in the depths of his soul and Jonah's prayer connected with him personally. This is not so much of a children's story as a pretty dark tale of struggles with obedience, grace for people who Jonah thinks don't deserve it, and the sense of overwhelming trouble. Jonah now feels like a friend Martin once knew, whilst God is a friend he knows now. Martin clambered out of the depths but has now decided to add a picture of Jonah to his militarily-tattooed arm.

The world and its twists and turns sends some good people down very difficult paths, as we all know.

Barry is an older man with a good voice (incidentally, Martin has a good voice too, as does Andy, both of whom have left our little congregation recently. I hope they keep singing. Musical theatre was apparently a love of one of them. I felt a connection.)

Barry came to our group study for the first time a few weeks ago and ended up talking about a piece by Handel. That's unusual. Turns out he sang bass in a cathedral choir. Why is he with us? Fraud is the charge but he says he was 'stitched up' by the fraudulent group he tried to expose. It involves houses and complicated arrangements with solicitors. Meanwhile, his home has gone, his wife is close to breakdown and she has moved in with friends whilst he tries to sort things out from inside a jail.

Paddy is engrossed in his Bible most of the time when he's not actually doing something else. In fact, as far as his work for us in the chapel is concerned, he could do with being a bit less heavenly minded and rather more earthly use and remembering to take the rubbish away instead of us having to remind him for the umpteenth time this week.

Our staff briefing this month involved a visit from one of the dog handlers. There are some fluffy, cuddly-looking ones that appear from time to time, and some that I wouldn't want to meet anywhere close on a clear day, let alone a dark night.

cont'd on page 9

It's World Cup Season, so ... 30 Football-related questions

1. What did football referees get in 1970 that they hadn't had before?
2. How many yards is the penalty spot from a football goal line?
3. Who won the Golden Boot in the 2018 World Cup?
4. Who has won the Ballon d'Or 7 times?
5. Who is the all-time top scorer for Manchester United?
6. What is the name of the arc at the top of the penalty box?
7. Can a player be offside in their own half?
8. Which team won the first Premier League title in 1992–93?
9. Who was Britian's first one million pound player?
10. What year was the first FIFA World Cup held, also host country and winner?
11. Can a goalkeeper touch the ball with their hands outside the penalty area?
12. What is the most goals scored in a single World Cup match by one team?
13. Name three captains of England who have all played for Scunthorpe United?
14. Name the youngest and oldest members of England's 1966 World Cup winning squad.
15. What colour sweatshirt did Brian Clough always wear to matches?
16. Why did India withdraw from the World Cup in 1950?
17. Name the only person to play at the Cricket World Cup and qualifying rounds of the Football World Cup
18. David Beckham scored an amazing halfway line goal on the opening day of the 1996/97 season. Which goalkeeper and team was it scored against?
19. Which player has won the Premier League at Manchester Utd and Manchester City?
20. How many hat-tricks did Eric Cantona score for Manchester United?
21. In 2011, what was unusual about referee Peter Walton's booking of Birmingham's Jordan Mutch in a match at Everton?
22. Who was in goal when Bobby Moore scored his last televised goal?
23. Which country did England play in the 1966 World Cup semi finals?
24. What was Switzerland's Gottfried Dienst's claim to fame
25. On 15 May 1957, Stanley Matthews became the oldest player ever to represent England. How old was he (to the nearest year)?
26. What colour ball was used in the 1973 FA Cup Final and never used again?
27. Edson Arantes do Nascimento is the birth name of which famous footballer?
28. What is the term for a method of restarting play after a foul, where the ball is placed and kicked from the ground by a stationary player?
29. Kevin De Bruyne never won Premier League Player of the Month. True or False?
30. What is the name of the trophy awarded to the World Cup winner?

MUSIC ON SATURDAYS AT ST CHAD'S

➢ **SATURDAY 27 JUNE - 12 noon**

Callum Bisson *Piano - RNCM*

Entrance Fee £6

including refreshments beforehand - doors open 11.20 am

➢ **Concerts being planned for 11 July, 1 and 22 August - watch this space!** ≺

Some are there to search people for things they shouldn't have; some are there to search places; others are for purely deterrent effect or (though it's not been needed at Buckley Hall) to enter the fray when prisoners have become uncontrollable.

Should a German Shepherd in 'drive' mode with teeth bared be flying towards them, it's hoped that most people would see sense and retreat. Apparently more dog bites are sustained by staff than prisoners because they get too close. Lessons learnt, we assume.

Of course the search dogs don't always succeed. There are drugs getting into prison now that are no more than paper laced with a cocktail of chemicals with an unknown effect. You can't train a dog to find those specific potions. Nor, it seems, can you train some men to avoid them because their life, seriously, is at risk. The good can turn bad very quickly.

The life which took Charlie away from years as a horticulturalist, working in gardens and growing businesses and then teaching others about plants, rolls on. He has a job in the polytunnel as a mentor. The three older men in the group are all 'red bands' who can show their 'red band' to access areas where they're permitted to go, without having to be escorted there by officers.

It's like 'Last of the Summer Wine' in there with just the three of them. They natter away but they also work hard. Hundreds of seedlings are now potted up, some already transplanted and waiting to go outside. They've completed the new brick-built compost area and the circular raised bed that is full of herbs. I'm also glad to say that they have provided this year's tomato plants for your truly. They're a wee bit smaller and more fragile than in previous years. I feel a weight of responsibility to see them through.

Meanwhile, fourteen years over his tariff, Jimmy has been told to wait 'a few more weeks' for results of his paper parole hearing, as if it really can't matter that much to add just a few weeks more onto his prison life. He told me that their wing (for people who are over tariff just like him) is looking forward to 'cheesecake night' in a couple of weeks' time. It sounds like too much of a treat but they'll have to pay from their own funds and it's the small things that keep them from madness. A piece of cheesecake.

Good can so easily turn bad. I don't pretend to try convincing you that our prisons are full of lovely people who are all really innocent. It's anything but the truth. Yet sometimes the good ones find their way down the twists and turns right into the gates. Then it's our job to show them how to keep going.

Hilary Edgerton – Chaplain
HMP Buckley Hall, Rochdale
April 2026

St Chad, Rochdale

'Demonstrator Church' Project

June 2026

The Church of England is aiming towards net zero carbon by 2030. This involves reducing our reliance on fossil fuels in our parishes, which in St Chad's case means the heavy use of gas heating.

St Chad's was selected to be one of the Church of England's national 'Demonstrator Churches' and has been awarded a Stage 1 grant to identify and design a retrofit net zero heating and energy solution.

Stage 1 of the project involves defining a full technical specification and undertaking a structural survey. We will then develop tenders and contracts. To assist us, consultants are providingfundraising support and independent technical advice.

Latest update

Extensive roof repairs were completed in February 2026. In addition, a new air curtain and other draughtproofing measures are are aimed to be completed by the end of June. Our firm of architects, Buttress, have been appointed by the PCC to be our technical advisors for architectural and heritage, liaise with the Diocese's Advisory Committee (DAC), and to develop contracts and procurement. The recently-completed decarbonisation audit will be reviewed by their engineers, and Quantity Surveyors will also visit during June to map the floor, roof, boiler, room, external elevations and utilities.

We still aim to complete **Stage 1** applied for **Stage 2**, (i.e. agreeing the physical works) by late autumn/early winter 2026.

A Word Search puzzle to find the names of the kings (and a queen) who ruled Judah and Israel as found in the books of I Kings and II Kings.

Note: there were two kings named Jeroboam and Ahaziah but their names are only included once in the puzzle.

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

REHOBOAM
ABIJAM
ASA
JEHOSHAPHAT
JEHORAM
AHAZIAH
ATHALIAH
JOASH
AMAZIAH

UZZIAH
JOTHAM
AHAZ
HEZEKIAH
MANASSEH
AMON
JOSIAH
JEHOAHAZ
JEHOIAKIM
JEHOIACHIN

ZEDEKIAH
JEROBOAM
NADAB
BAASHA
ELAH
ZIMRI
OMRI
AHAB
JEHORAM
JEHU

JEHOAHAZ
JEHOASH
ZECHARIAH
SHALLUM
MENAHEM
PEKAHIAH
PEKAH
HOSHEA

Lord, may this be a day of kind words, listening,
patience, generosity of time, skills and resource.

Lord, may this be a day of giving and receiving,
both seeing and feeling the blessing of your love.

Lord, may this be a day of comfort and healing,
friendship, truthfulness, honesty and openness.

Lord, may this be a day to put a smile on your face!

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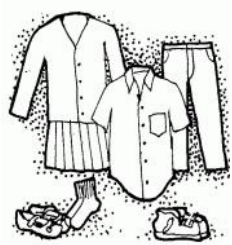

SCHOOL UNIFORMS

"Uniform For All" is a community uniform recycling project set-up with the aim of helping parents who are struggling to afford school uniform; however it is also a way to help recycle and try and protect the environment from wearable clothing being taken to landfill.

Established in 2020, by 2023 over 500 families had been helped, with more than 7,200 items of uniform being made available for:
Falinge Park, Oulder Hill, Redwood and St Cuthbert's High Schools, and Spotland, Meanwood, St Vincent's RC, Caldershaw and Norden Primary Schools in Rochdale as well as schools in Heywood and Middleton.

Since then many more items of uniform have been distributed, so helping families and also protecting the environment.

Items required: jumpers, cardigans, shirts, skirts, ties, trousers, blazers, shoes, PE bags, summer dresses, coats, and lunch bags.

Perhaps you know someone who would benefit from this scheme, have school uniform to donate or would like to volunteer?

There is more information on the group's Facebook page:
https://m.facebook.com/Uniform4A/ or contact Councillor Rachel Massey
https://www.uniformforall.co.uk/

9	1				5			4
			7					
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	8			6		4	3	
1								5
	3	6		5			2	
8	5	9		3		7		
					7			
2			8				5	3

8		2		5		1	6	
3					7			8
6	4				8		7	
	9			4				
	6						3	
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	8		7				1	2
7			8					5
	2	6		1		9		7

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2		5			6	8		7
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				6		4	2	
					7		8	
4		1	6			9		2
9			2					

CHURCH
FOR A
DIFFERENT
WORLD

Our Diocesan Prayer of Thanksgiving and Hope

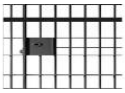
Living and Loving God,
as your pilgrim people in Manchester Diocese
we thank you for the great commission
with which you have entrusted us:
to love and serve, and to bring
our parishes, schools, chaplaincies,
and all our communities
into new life in Jesus Christ.

Through your abundant love
lead us into your Kingdom
and grant us the trust to follow you;
meet our weariness, our griefs and fears
with your tender and comforting Spirit
that we may greet the promise
of each new day with joy and trust.

Teach us to pray in faith, hope and love,
that we may go out into your world
confident in your wondrous mission
and full of the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

A VIEW BEHIND BARS – *ESCAPE*



Ken first popped onto my radar when he arrived at a Bible Study – by mistake. Clutching his appointment slip for 'chapel' he'd misread the date and rolled up a day early for some completely different meeting. Movement had ceased so his options were to stay and join in or wait in the corridor for an hour. He stayed.

He has the thinnest, longest, craggiest face I've seen, to go with his lanky body, with clothes that look as though they could slide off him at any moment. His expression and demeanour were weary and downbeat.

Ken has been around the system. Apart from ten months on the out he's been in prison – wait for it – forty-four years. He's been back inside since November last year because he was late for an appointment, which breached his licence conditions, and he was found with drugs in his system, taken because he'd felt low about the fact that his mum, dad and sister have all died whilst he's been in jail and he's pretty much alone.

The depression struck again a week or two later. Ken was in 'the block' when I saw him next, in the garish and very-easy-to-spot blue and yellow harlequin tracksuit gear that indicates a potential escape-list prisoner.

After his ACCT review I asked if I could speak to him for a bit longer. Five minutes were promised – short because he needed three officers to escort him to his cell. The man in front of me didn't look like he could possibly do a runner. His chin was practically on the floor but that's what happens when you've gone AWOL.

Five minutes stretched, mercifully, to around fifteen and I discovered more that would make my heart ache.

He'd been asked if he wanted to harm himself or had thoughts of suicide (the reason for most ACCTs to be opened). His answer was that he didn't but if a firing squad was in front of him he'd be happy.

His wasn't so much a desire to kill himself but a desire to die and be done with it all. Had he wanted to escape? No, just to get away and have a bit of space.

You have to hand it to him. He'd managed to climb through a (very small) window of a workshop and then took refuge in the Tardis – yes, literally. There's a painted phone box which was once entered for a competition. He stayed there for quite some time until he was found, causing chaos to the regime whilst the search went on.

cont'd on page 17

GARDENING ON WEDNESDAYS AT ST CHAD'S

1 - 3 PM

"WEATHER PERMITTING"

Church Cleaning at St Chad's

Thursdays 10.30 am – 12 noon

URGENT

PLEASE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT Rochdale foodbank

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

HUNGER KNOWS NO SEASON

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)

'I've had sixty-three years of trouble' he said to me, as he began to cry. *'How old are you now?'* I asked. *'Sixty-three'* he replied. But it was the next sentence that got to me: *'It was my birthday last week and I didn't even realise'.*

In a few days' time I was about to celebrate my own birthday. I knew that I had a stack of cards already delivered at home, along with a few parcels. I knew I was going to be taken out for a meal and that I was going to share a holiday with friends. Meanwhile Ken's birthday had passed him by before he even realised the date had gone.

He talked with tenderness about the one friend who had stuck with him and with whom he'd shared his hobby of racing pigeons. He talked about the birds he could see over the field in the distance from his cell and told me that the birds I thought were finches on my bird feeder at home might well be siskins (I checked – he was right).

He was ready to give up. I tried to remind him that he had somehow managed the adjustment to the world outside for those ten months and he could do it again if he could just hold on.

And I wondered what terrible thing he had done to have lived so much of life in a prison. But right at that point I felt he needed just to know that he was important just for who he is. I reached across the table and touched his arm and tried to tell him to keep going, for the sake of his birds if nothing else!

The officers arrived and walked him back.

It's not permitted to give gifts to prisoners, of course, but I saved a slice of the cake that a colleague had produced for my birthday on the Sunday and took it to him, with a picture of pigeons and a message of hope.

The postscript to this is that people obviously decided that his escape potential is pretty low and they've moved him to a new, quieter wing. He was dressed differently, talking differently and moving differently when I saw him last week. He felt it was a new start. He showed me his bird book and I introduced him to the man on the other side of the landing who also used to race pigeons. They swapped info about their clubs and some jargon I didn't understand. I left them to it.

There's always hope.

Hilary Edgerton – Chaplain
HMP Buckley Hall, Rochdale
May 2026

ST CHAD'S

Sundays

11.15 am

Choral Eucharist

(*Matins on 2nd Sunday of month)*

2.00 - 3.30 pm

Asian Christian Fellowship

CONTACT INFO

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

Assistant Curate:
The Revd Pamela Parr
07580 782201

Churchwardens:
P Goddard 07564 635900
P Bollington 07566 983798

Treasurer:
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

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

ST MARY IN THE BAUM

Sundays 9.15 am
Holy Communion*
* BCP service week 1

Churchwarden:
A Pollock 07974 191 246

ST LUKE'S DEEPLISH

Sundays 10.00 am
Holy Communion, Family Worship
or Service of the Word

Wednesday 11.00 am Morning Prayer

Churchwarden:
D Smithers 07794 2559865