

Rochdale Parish Church of St Chad



NEWS

(Please take one and pass it on)

August
2025

Welcome to Rochdale Parish Church of St Chad



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



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



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.



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



Please pray for
Amanda Jane McLeod
and
Lez Alan Wallwork
to be married at
Rochdale Parish Church of St Chad
on **Saturday 16 August 2025**



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.

A polite reminder...

PLEASE ENSURE YOUR PHONE IS

OFF

DURING THE SERVICE

Thank You



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY IN AUGUST

Sunday 3 • St Mary in the Baum 9.15 am - BCP Holy Communion

TRINITY 7 • St Luke's Deepdish 10.00 am - Service of the Word

• St Chad's 11.15 am - Choral Eucharist



Sunday 10 • St Mary in the Baum 9.15 am - Holy Communion

TRINITY 8 • St Luke's Deepdish 10.00 am - Holy Communion

• St Chad's 11.15 am - Choral Eucharist

Wednesday 13 August

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

Everyone Welcome - Refreshments provided



Sunday 17 • St Mary in the Baum 9.15 am - Holy Communion

TRINITY 9 • St Luke's Deepdish 10.00 am - Service of the Word

• St Chad's 11.15 am - Choral Eucharist

Saturday 23

SCOTT BROTHERS DUO

Celebrity Piano Duet Concert at 3.00 pm

Sunday 24 • St Mary in the Baum 9.15 am - Holy Communion

TRINITY 10 • St Luke's Deepdish 10.00 am - Holy Communion

• St Chad's 11.15 am - Choral Eucharist

Sunday 31 • St Mary in the Baum 9.15 am - Holy Communion

TRINITY 11 • St Luke's Deepdish 10.00 am - Service of the Word

• St Chad's 11.15 am - Choral Eucharist

Sunday 31 August 2025 - 3.00 pm

St Aidan's Church, Sudden

***The Revd Anne Gilbert's Licensing Service
as Area Dean of Rochdale***

There's still time to take part in the 2025

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 on 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.*

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



Test your Bible knowledge

1. Who went back to Jerusalem after captivity to encourage the people to build the walls of the city again?
2. Who was the first of the apostles to perform a miracle in the name of Jesus?
3. Where was Paul's home town?
4. Of the ten lepers Jesus healed, what was the nationality of the one who returned to thank him?
5. What was the name of Samson's father?
6. Why were the Israelites afraid to enter the Promised Land?
7. Who asked for an understanding heart to judge God's people?
8. Who refused to worship Nebuchadnezzar's golden image?
9. Which Christian doctrine did the Sadducees reject?
10. What did Saul see on the road approaching Damascus?



GARDENING

Wednesdays at 1.00 pm



CHURCH CLEANING

Thursdays at 10.30 am



**Please come along
and help maintain
our beautiful church**





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* ◀

Thank you to everyone who has given their time
to enable St Chad's to open its doors for this event.



**We will be collecting food,
personal toiletries
and monetary donations
in aid of Rochdale Foodbank
at our Harvest Festival Service
on Sunday 5 October 2025**





MARY SUMNER
Founder of The Mothers' Union
Commemorated on 9 August

Mary Sumner, nee Heywood, was born in Swinton (approx 11 miles, as the proverbial crow flies, from Rochdale) on 31 December 1828.

In 1832 the family moved to Colwall, near Ledbury, Herefordshire, where her mother held regular mothers' meetings at home. Mary's six-week old brother died in the year following their move and this,

together with her mother's strong faith, may well have influenced her decision to begin The Mothers' Union.

Home-educated, Mary spoke three languages and was an accomplished singer. She travelled to Rome to complete her musical education and it was there that she met George Henry Sumner, son of the Bishop of Winchester and a relative of William Wilberforce.

George was ordained in 1847 as an Anglican minister and they were married on 26 July 1848 in Colwall. The couple had three children: Margaret, Louise and George. In 1851 Revd George became Rector of St Mary's Church in Old Alresford, Hampshire. Mary dedicated herself to the raising of the children, and also helped her husband by providing music and Bible study classes.

After eldest daughter Margaret gave birth in 1876, Mary felt young mothers in the parish would benefit by being offered support and, while initially feeling nervous about this, decided to put her plans into action and called a meeting in the Rectory at Old Alresford. She was nervous at first, and Revd George had to speak on her behalf, but she soon gathered her courage and was able to speak at the next meeting.

At first the Mothers' Union was limited to Mary's parish. Then in 1885 she was in the audience of the Portsmouth Church Congress, 20 miles from home and was asked to speak. Although nervous, she gave a passionate talk about national morality and the importance of the mother's role in the home. After this meeting, some of the women present returned to their own parishes and founded mothers' meetings based on Mary's teaching.

The Mothers' Union concept spread rapidly to other dioceses and by the turn of the century had 169,000 members. 1893 saw the beginning of their annual general meetings and the Mothers' Union Central Council was created three years later.

There are more than four million members in 84 countries who continue to promote family life through its work with parents' groups, marriage support, families affected by homelessness, imprisonment, relationship breakdown and speaking out for policies that support families,

Mary Sumner was unanimously elected president and held this post into her nineties. Queen Victoria became patron during her Diamond Jubilee in 1897, which gave it an unprecedented seal of approval, and branches were set up throughout the British Empire.

Mary lived to lead the Mothers' Union to act in rebuilding the heart of Britain after the First World War and also saw the first Mothers' Union Conference of Overseas Workers take place in 1920.

The central headquarters for the now worldwide organisation was established a short distance from Westminster Abbey in London in 1925 and known as Mary Sumner House.

In 1926, at its 50th Jubilee, a Royal Charter was granted to The Mothers' Union by His Majesty King George V.

Mary Sumner died on 11 August 1921, aged 92, and is buried in the grounds of Winchester Cathedral together with her husband (who had died 12 years previously).

She is commemorated in the Church of England's liturgical calendar on 9 August; as 11 August was already the liturgical feast day of St Clare of Assisi it may have been considered inappropriate to honour these two notable Christian women on the same day, so Mary is commemorated on 9 August.

Prayer continues to be at the heart of this organisation, and so I'll conclude this article with Mary Sumner's personal prayer:

All this day, O Lord,
let me touch as many lives as possible for thee;
and every life I touch, do thou by thy spirit quicken,
whether through the word I speak,
the prayer I breathe,
or the life I live.
Amen.



Linda G.



Sarah Coleridge - The Months

*August brings the sheaves of corn,
Then the harvest home is borne.*



We've now arrived at August with its 31 days, and the eighth month in the Gregorian calendar... and there's a Bank Holiday to look forward to on the 25th!!!

In the Roman calendar this month was called "Sextilis" being the sixth month of their year and it had 29 days before Augustus added an additional two days to give it an equal number of days to July (named after Julius Caesar). In 8BC the month was renamed "Augustus" to honour the Roman Emperor Augustus Caesar.

During Anglo-Saxon times the month was referred to as "*Weod monath*", which meant "weed month" due to the rapid growth of plants and weeds during this time of the year.

An interesting, perhaps quirky, fact about this month is that in a non-leap year no other month begins on the same day of the week as August. However, in a leap year February does begin on the same day of the week as August!

There's a full moon on 9 August, rising at 21.13 BST, called the Sturgeon Moon after the large number of sturgeon fish that could be found in the North American Great Lakes at this time of year.

The Perseid meteor shower peaks in mid-August and is one of the year's most spectacular meteor showers.

The night of 10th August is known as "*la notte di San Lorenzo*" (the night of St Lawrence) in Italy, when Italians gather outdoors to watch for shooting stars in the sky. "Star parties" are also popular in many other countries around the world.

Back to the ancient Romans... they named the days from 3 July to 11 August as "dog days" after Sirius, the "Dog Star", when it rises with the sun.



Flowers of the month

GLADIOLUS

symbolising strength of character

POPPIES

representing creativity, imagination
and eternal sleep



1 August is **Lammas Day**, its origins being an Anglo-Saxon festival that was popular across Europe. Originating from the Old English *hlāfmæsse* or “loaf mass” it was celebrated by milling the first grain of the harvest, baking it into a loaf (typically by one of the congregation) and then taken into church to be blessed. It is one of the Pagan festivals of Celtic origin which split the year into four and also corresponds with the Hebrew Festival of Weeks when a sheaf of barley from the harvest is blessed. Also, **Lammastide** falls at the halfway point between the summer solstice and the autumn equinox.



1 August 1774 Joseph Priestley discovered oxygen in a laboratory at Bowood House, Wiltshire.

3 August 1492 Columbus and 90 crewmen set sail from Palos de la Frontera in south-west Spain with three ships, the Santa Maria, the Pinta and the Niña. Their first port of call was San Sebastian de La Gomera in the Canary Islands where they restocked provisions, made repairs, then set sail again on a five week voyage that took them to an island Columbus named San Salvador, now The Bahamas.

4 August 1914 First World War began, ending on 11 November 1918

6 August 6th 1945 The USA deployed the first atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

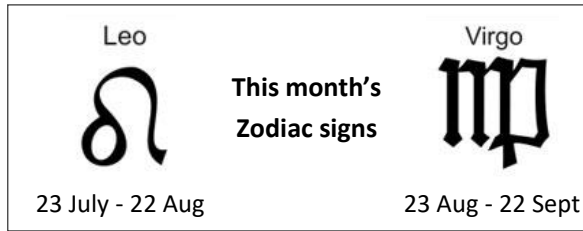
8 August 1963 The Great Train Robbery took place at Bridego (now Mentmore) Railway Bridge, Ledburn, Bucks, with £2.61 million being stolen from the overnight Royal Mail train travelling on the West Coast Main Line from Glasgow to London.

12 August 1960 The first communications satellite, Echo 1, was launched from Cape Canaveral in Florida.

14 August 1948 The Summer Olympics, officially the Games of the XIV Olympiad and branded as London 1948, ended. The games were an international multi-sport event held from 29 July to 14 August 1948. They were also known as the “Austerity Games” due to the post-war financial challenges and continuing rationing. London had previously hosted the Olympics in 1908, so the 1948 event meant the city became the second to host the games twice, following Paris who had hosted the games in 1900 and 1924. London would host the games for a third time in 2012, with Paris hosting their third games in 2024 and Los Angeles hosting the event for a third time in 2028.



➤➤➤➤



15 August 1872 The first regular detective force in Britain was formed.

18 August 1941 A National Fire Service was established in Britain.

19 August World Humanitarian Day.

“Optimism doesn’t mean that you are blind to the reality of the situation.

It means that you remain motivated to seek a solution to whatever problems arise”

The Dalai Lama

21 August 1911 The Mona Lisa was stolen from the Louvre Museum in Paris by Vincenzo Peruggia, the painting being recovered after his arrest on 12 December 1913.

22 August 1483 Henry VII defeated Richard III at The Battle of Bosworth.

24 August 79AD Mount Vesuvius erupted near to Pompeii in southern Italy. Approx half of the population escaped towards the sea, but more than 2,000 were buried under 7 ft of lava, ash and pumice.

25 August 1919 Scheduled daily flights between London and Paris began, establishing the first regular international service.

26 August 1936 The first high-definition television pictures in Britain were transmitted by the BBC.

27 August 55BC The official date of Romans landing in Britain led by Julius Caesar with 10,000 men from the 7th and 10th Roman Legions.

27 August 1966 Francis Chichester sailed from Plymouth in Gypsy Moth IV in the first successful attempt to sail single-handed around the world, returning there on 28 May 1967 having circumnavigated the globe with just one stop in Sydney.

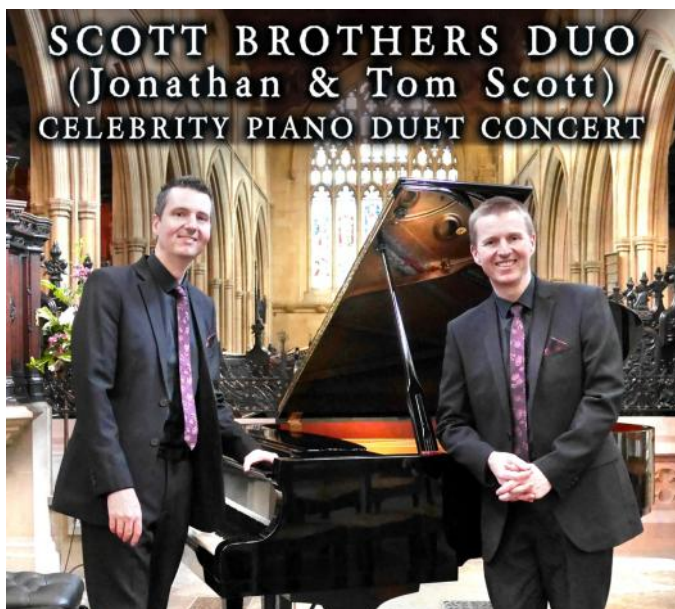
31 August 1997 Princess Diana died in a car accident in Paris.

Peridot is the traditional birthstone for August, known for its lime-green colour.

An alternative is **Sardonyx**, featuring bands of red and white. **Spinel** has become the modern birthstone for this month, available in a variety of colours.



MUSIC ON SATURDAYS AT ST CHAD'S



Saturday 23 August 2025 at 3.00 pm

Tickets £12

pay on the door

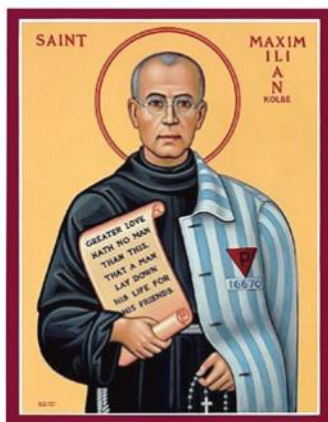
(includes light refreshments)

Other musical events are in the process of being arranged.

More info in next month's newsletter!

Details will also be posted on the **Diary & Events** page
on our website as and when available.

<https://rochdaleparishchurches.co.uk/diary.html>



St Maximilian Kolbe was born Raymund Kolbe on 8 January 1894 in Zduńska Wola, Poland, part of the Russian Empire at that time.

His parents were Julius Kolbe, a weaver, and Maria Dabrowska, a midwife, and Raymund was the second eldest of their four sons.

At the age of 12, he had a vision of the Virgin Mary and this was a strong influence on his life...

"That night I asked the Mother of God what was to become of me. Then she came to me holding two crowns, one white, the other red. She asked me if I was willing to accept either of these crowns. The white one

meant that I should persevere in purity and the red that I should become a martyr. I said that I would accept them both."

So, in 1910 he joined the Franciscan order and took the name of Maximilian, also adding Maria as an additional name. In 1914 he was sent to study in Rome, was ordained a priest on 28 April 1918, then in 1919 returned to Poland. He also began to suffer from tuberculosis in that year.

He travelled, establishing an evangelization centre near to Warsaw in 1927, and by 1939 the city had grown from having 18 friars to an incredible 650 which made it the largest Catholic religious house in the world at that time.

Then in 1930 he travelled to Japan and founded a monastery close to Nagasaki, and also a seminary. By 1936 he was seriously ill and returned to Poland but still continued with his work.

After the start of World War II he provided shelter to refugees from Poland, including some 2,000 Jews, who he managed to hide from Nazi persecution.

Kolbe was arrested on 17 February 1941, when Gestapo soldiers came to the monastery, and sent to Pawiak prison, then was transferred to the Auschwitz death camp on 28 May of the same year where he became prisoner 16670.

Despite violent harassment, beatings and lashings, Kolbe continued to act as a priest. Then, a prisoner escaped from the camp late July 1941, which led to the deputy camp commander SS-Hauptsturmführer Karl Fritzsch selecting ten prisoners to be killed by starvation as a reprisal for the escape and to act as a deterrent to others.

One of the selected prisoners, Franciszek Gajowniczek, a Polish Army sergeant, cried out, distraught, "My wife! My children! I will never see them again!", at which point

Kolbe volunteered to take the place of this prisoner. The request was granted and while they waited for their deaths to come Kolbe led the prisoners in song and prayer.

An assistant janitor gave an eyewitness account that whenever the guards checked in the cell Kolbe was standing or kneeling in the middle of the cell, looking at those who had entered with calm and composure.

After two weeks of starvation and dehydration from having no food and water Kolbe was the only one of those initial ten prisoners still alive. In their impatience to empty the cell ready for more prisoners, the guards administered a lethal injection of carbolic acid (phenol). (This type of injection was given to thousands of prisoners in concentration camps, especially at Auschwitz, typically intravenously in the arm but later directly into the heart became the preferred method.)

It was reported that Kolbe calmly raised his left arm ready for the deadly injection to be administered. He was killed on 14 August 1941, and his remains were cremated on 15 August which is the feast day of the Assumption of Mary.

Kolbe was declared venerable on 30 January 1969 by Pope Paul VI, beatified as a Confessor of the Faith in 1971 by the same Pope, and canonized as a saint on 10 October 1982 by Pope John Paul II who said: "Maximilian did not die but gave his life ... for his brother."

The man that Kolbe had saved at Auschwitz, Franciszek Gajowniczek, survived the Holocaust and was able to be present as a guest at both the beatification and canonization ceremonies.



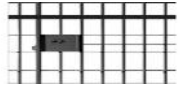
After canonisation, a feast day for Maximilian Kolbe was added to the liturgical calendar, and he is one of the statues of the ten 20th century martyrs depicted above the Great West Door of Westminster Abbey.

The Church of England also remembers Maximilian Kolbe with a commemoration on 14 August. This day falls one week after Nagasaki Day, a day for us to reflect on the devastating atomic bomb that was dropped over Nagasaki on 9 August 1945. (Hiroshima Day is on 6 August.)

Miraculously, the monastery founded by Kolbe in 1930 survived the devastation of that event. So, each year, as we take time to celebrate the life and sainthood of Maximilian Kolbe as a hero and martyr of the church, we are also given an opportunity to reflect on the best and the worst that human beings are capable of.

Linda G.

A VIEW BEHIND BARS - IN THE MIDST OF LIFE



I wouldn't have been surprised if I'd been standing on the Landing alone for a few minutes before needing to turn on my heels and go elsewhere. Then they came...

Ten men and four staff. We stood outside the padlocked cell where a few days earlier one man became the next 'death in custody' statistic. I had offered to hold a time of reflection and prayers. Anyone who wanted to say something about Gary could do so. A few did.

Whilst it was an informal setting, I felt that some of the liturgical prayers for times of death were more appropriate, somehow, and when I reached the Lord's prayer, people joined in as best they could. Then life went on. A 'normal' Sunday afternoon.

The death had been due to natural causes but was very unexpected. The friend and next door neighbour who found him dying was upset. The staff from healthcare and the Wing officers who tried to coax him back into life before the paramedics arrived, were traumatised. The Wing was in shock that day and whilst we could have invited men to chapel, it felt right to go to them instead, on the Sunday afterwards.

Death upends people just the same in prison as outside. I said to someone that I didn't really know the man and was told that this wasn't a surprise because he never fussed, never pushed himself forward; just got on with '*doing his jail*'. But the little community of that Wing had a heavy atmosphere about them for days.

Who would have thought that this death would be followed just a few weeks later by another? This time the man took his own life and the trauma will be greater for those who found him hanging. There will be investigations and procedures and details will be examined with a fine toothcomb to check whether there has been any negligence whatsoever. Whilst Gary's family were grateful for the help offered, and invited staff to his funeral, I doubt it will be the same for Adam's family, despite every effort made to help him.

Even the usually grumpy and uncommunicative Darren was in thoughtful mood when I saw him a few days later. He felt sympathy, he was affected by the sadness of someone feeling there's nothing left, the feelings of someone who can't just carry on, the feelings of the family who've lost him forever.

'In the midst of life we are in death' is a phrase sometimes used at funeral services. It really relates to the sense of sin meaning that we're not really living in fullness, but sometimes it seems as if death is pretty close at hand in a physical sense as well.

cont'd on p16

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

A form is available on the front desk,
or you can download one from the website's news page*

Use online/internet banking

by transferring from your account to:

A/c name: Rochdale Parish Church

Sort code: 05-07-22 A/c no: 24990011

Contactless Payments

for donations are now available
via the payment machine near to the main door



Pay by cheque

and send to: Rochdale Parish Church
c/o 17 Dale View, Littleborough, OL15 0BP

Continue to use your envelopes

and save for future collection

Whichever option you chose, confidentiality will be maintained

Any questions? Please ask Martin Butterworth (treasurer)

* <https://rochdaleparishchurches.co.uk/news.html>

It was a draining day of death and depression.

It had begun early when Tom came to light a candle on the second anniversary of his offence, the time when his girlfriend died in the car he was driving. He was inconsolable with guilt and grief and pent up because he shares a cell and has no space to just let out the emotion.

That was followed by Andrew, whose bereavement of a fairly distant relative has more to it than meets the eye.

Then came Graham, whose mate was described *'We were like brothers. Wherever he went, I went; wherever I went, he went. His house was mine. My house was his'*. Grafted together from the age of six, Graham cannot live without him now that he has died.

'I was his reasoning' Graham said, as he described their relationship. His mate was the impulsive one but *'he had my back and I had his'*. So if Callum said *'jump'* they were jumping together... right into a violent crime that put them in prison for a long time. For some years they were in the same place. Then they were moved to separate locations. They wrote to each other (no phone calls allowed). Then Callum had had enough of life and ended it all. *'If I'd been in the same place, he wouldn't have done it'* said Graham.

I couldn't fathom the depth of grief, several years on, till I asked for some advice from someone. She helped me work out a way of approaching their relationship and his identity.

It was like a key to unlock the floodgates of understanding and loss when I spoke to him the following week. Graham's safety, sense of worth and love were all locked up in this matey relationship, because home and family were definitely NOT safe and loving. His identity was forged with his friend, even though it led them down wrong paths. Who is he now, without this man alongside? He never really knew before. It will take a long time to work it out now.

My day of depression and death weighed heavily. Purpose and meaning are so vital for real LIFE, as opposed to mere existence. For me, that purpose is found with Christ and in living for others but for so many the purpose has been lost or tainted. It is a costly privilege to try to offer the hope of something greater, brighter, better, worth living for.

Hilary Edgerton - June 2025
Prison Chaplain
HMP Buckley Hall, Rochdale



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, we now also see it as a way to help recycle
and also try and protect the environment
from wearable clothing being taken to landfill.

If you know of anyone who would benefit from this scheme,
there is more information via their Facebook page:

<https://m.facebook.com/Uniform4A/>

We have, and also need, used school uniform items such as blazers,
skirts, trousers, shirts, t-shirts, ties, sportswear, coats, shoes and bags.

The new school year is here and we are asking if you would please
consider donating any good quality, reusable items of school uniform
for any school across the borough.

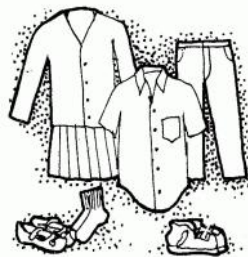
The project has already helped many families in the borough
and distributed 1,000s of school uniform items to those in need.

For more information, including how to volunteer, donate
or request school uniform, please visit their Facebook page:

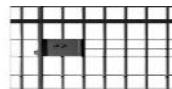
www.facebook.com/Uniform4A

or look on the website:

<https://uniformforall.co.uk/>



A VIEW BEHIND BARS - VARIED ACHIEVEMENTS



I'm not expecting to turn criminal any time soon but I've been offered a few tips and tricks over my time in the jail. There was the lesson in how to make hooch, and the explanation of how to steal a motorbike and pick a lock.

Last week I was introduced to the devious ways of a couple of ten year olds as Aidan told me that the old style ring-pull off a can of cheap coke, when doubled over, easily slotted into the mechanism that should have held a one pound coin to enable the release of a supermarket trolley.

Aidan and his mate, in their lazy bunking off school days, would spend their cash on a can, then collect a trolley, watching for someone who was heading towards the stack. Gullible shoppers would gratefully hand over their pound as the boys pretended they were taking the trolley back after mum had done the shopping. They made enough profit to keep saving for the expensive trainers that some of the other kids had and which their parents couldn't afford, the kind that made you feel important. I confess that when I went to Aldi later that day I was inspecting the coin slot more keenly than usual.

Aidan's tale was embedded in the greater story of his unsafe and insecure childhood, which meant he was constantly looking for a status that seemed to come once you had the right 'stuff'. He realises now that it was misguided.

We plumbed the sad depths but then clambered up and laughed at his tale, as well as the shaggy dog story which he told me of the sheer persistence of his pint-sized Staffie, and her athletic efforts to vault a high fence. It was cartoon comedy classic story-telling. Whilst I made a coffee for us, he also investigated the box on the wall which I'd never been curious enough to open and discovered – in the sweltering heat of our midsummer days - the controls for a fan! We have him to thank for our cool office now.

He says - regularly - that he'll come to chapel but usually I meet him late on Sunday afternoon looking bleary eyed and saying he's been asleep.

Jordan came triumphantly to the Bible study later that week having *'dragged him out of bed, Miss and told him "We can't let Hilary down"'*. The newcomer had showed interest. With Jordan on the case, he had to prove it!

So they did. Plenty of curious questions and answers flowed as the Bishop, who had come to visit a prison he hasn't previously been to, joined in. He was asked by more than one person that afternoon if he was coming to work here. Coloured shirts mean nothing to most men here. We're lucky if they recognise the symbolism of a clerical collar. Fruity language followed when he was asked what his

cont'd on p20

URGENT



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 (minimum 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). There is a sign on the door.

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



**We will be collecting food,
personal toiletries
and monetary donations
in aid of Rochdale Foodbank
at our Harvest Festival Service
on Sunday 5 October 2025**



job was and answered, honestly, *'I'm a Bishop'*. It will have been a change from the average Senior Diocesan Staff Meeting, I suppose.

On Alpha wing, the barber was in action with a going-home-haircut for one man, due to be released in a couple of days' time. Parole delays and the chaos of early releases or transfers, along with some who are impatiently waiting for the rubber stamp of the Ministry of Justice for what has been decided by the Parole Board, are a huge part of life here.

As a parole hearing draws near, the anxiety level grows. Graham struggles so much in trying to keep himself calm and he is to endure about another month of the torture of trying to stay sane, hoping that the positives are seen and the negatives which he believes are unfair, are refuted. If it fails to convince, then chaplains will be amongst those trying to pick up the pieces and steer him safe as he re-sets for yet another year. It will be a major achievement if he makes it through.

I paid a visit to the Works department. Billy has been learning a bit of woodwork on the side, from a workshop tutor. Billy is employed by the prison mostly to assist with stores deliveries, of which there are many, to every department in the prison. He supervises delivery, on an elderly milk float, of everything from toothpaste and toilet rolls to filing cabinets, parcels, library books, paint and healthcare supplies.

However his latest achievement has been to make a stand for our large Lent cross in the chapel. We had one made a couple of years ago. It saved us having to lean it on the wall. It has vanished. I am incredulous. How? Why? It matters not now. Billy has created another one, so I went to thank him.

A near miss with a (very) sweaty, (very) large individual who is finding the heat too much, and a conversation over faith, good news and 'The Great British Sewing Bee' (he's in the textiles workshop and learnt to sew years ago – doesn't care what people think about his saying he's made clothes for friends), and I was hailed by Jim, who told me his achievement of how many Park Runs he has completed. It's a huge number and he was glad to call 'Hilbob' over to tell me. No, there isn't anyone else who calls me that name. It makes me smile.

Meanwhile, Pete from horticulture will be glad to know that my tomatoes, taken home a couple of months ago as small potted plants, are flourishing. It won't be his concern any more, though, because he has finally, finally, moved to a Cat D prison from which, he trusts, he will be released in a couple of years, in his seventies, with his donated kidney, and his resolve to ignore the alcohol which was his downfall, to live out life with his family and put his very long prison past behind him. That will be the greatest achievement of all.

Hilary Edgerton - July 2025

Prison Chaplain, HMP Buckley Hall, Rochdale

Prayer for Peace

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace
and loves to bless the peacemakers,
at this time we particularly pray for
peace in our communities,
peace in our nation,
and peace across the world.

We pray that people may live in safety,
secure in your grace,
through Jesus Christ,
who died to bring us peace.

Amen.

The 5-Finger Prayer



Thumb: Pray for those closest to you: your family and friends.

Pointer finger: Pray for those who point you in the right direction: your teachers, and other leaders in your life. Pray for wisdom and support.

Middle finger (tallest): Pray for those that lead us: those in government, in business, in church leadership. Pray for guidance and wisdom.

Ring finger (weakest): Pray for those who are poor, sick, in pain, in trouble: those most in need.

Pinkie finger (smallest): Pray for yourself and your own needs.

SERVICES OF WORSHIP

♦ Sundays

ST MARY IN THE BAUM 9.15 am

Week 1 - BCP Communion Weeks 2, 3, 4 and 5* CW Communion

** where there is a 5th Sunday in a month*

ST LUKE'S DEEPLISH 10.00 am

Holy Communion, Service of the Word or Family Worship

ST CHAD'S 11.15 am

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

ST CHAD'S 1.30 - 3.00 pm

Asian Christian Fellowship

♦ Wednesdays

ST LUKE'S DEEPLISH 11.00 am

Morning Prayer or Holy Communion



CONTACT INFO

Churchwardens:

St Chad's: P Goddard 07564 635900 P Bollington 07566 983798

St Mary in the Baum: A Pollock 07974 191 246

St Luke's Deeplish: D Smithers 07794 2559865

Assistant Curate: The Revd Pamela Parr 07580 782201

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.*

