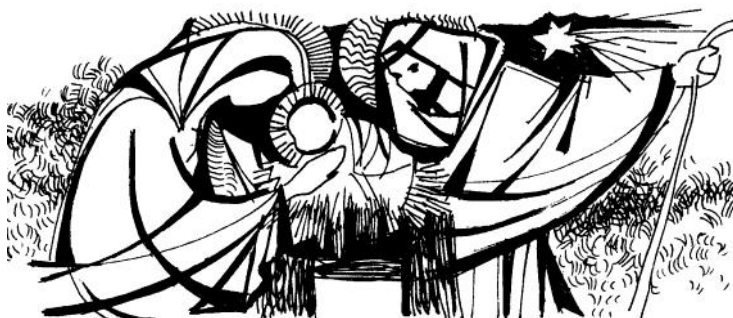




Rochdale Parish Church of St Chad



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

(Isaiah 9:6 KJV)

NEWS

(Please take one and pass it on)

DECEMBER

2025

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*



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



PLEASE SWITCH YOUR PHONE TO

*** SILENT ***

DURING THE SERVICE

Thank You



Inside front cover

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



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

Linda G.



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

We still need...

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

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



ST CHAD'S CHRISTMAS FAIR

SATURDAY 6 DECEMBER 2025
11 am - 1.30 pm



RAFFLES **TOMBOLAS** **CAKES & BAKES**
BRIC-A-BRAC **BOOKS & CDs** **CRAFTS**
TOYS **REFRESHMENTS & MORE**

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



Thank You!

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

THERE IS STILL TIME TO DONATE!

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

Also, to everyone who has donated items for St Chad's Christmas Fair
being held on Saturday 6 December from 11.00 am - 1.30 pm.

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

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



Can **you** spare an occasional hour on Thursdays mornings
to help with cleaning the church?

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

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

* Tidying the garden areas
has now ended for this year.



🧡 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 🧡



Springhill Hospice's 'Light Up A Life' Service

THURSDAY 4 DECEMBER at ST CHAD'S 7 pm

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

Sunday 7 December

St Chad's Asian Fellowship

White Gift Sunday

from 2 - 4 pm :: *Everyone Welcome*

Wednesday 10 December

Friends Together Bereavement Support Group

at St Chad's 10 am - 12 noon

Everyone Welcome - Refreshments provided

Thursday 11 December

MAYOR'S / CIVIC CAROL SERVICE

at ST CHAD'S 7.00 pm

Everyone Welcome

Sunday 14 December

ST JOHN'S AMBULANCE CAROL SERVICE 3.00 pm

led by The Rt Revd Mark Davies, Bishop of Middleton



Christmas Services 2025

St Mary in the Baum

Sunday 30 November - Advent 1

Holy Communion

9.15 am

led by The Revd Canon Roger Hill

Sunday 7 December - Advent 2

BCP Holy Communion

9.15 am

led by The Revd Pam Parr

Sunday 14 December - Advent 3

HOLY COMMUNION with CAROLS

9.15 am

*led by The Rt Revd Mark Davies,
Bishop of Middleton*

Sunday 21 December - Advent 4

Holy Communion

9.15 am

led by The Revd Morley Morgan

Thursday 25 December

✙ **CHRISTMAS DAY Eucharist**

9.15 am

led by The Revd James Read



St Luke's Deeplish

Sunday 30 November - Advent 1

Holy Communion

10.00 am

led by The Revd Renate Grey

Sunday 7 December - Advent 2

Service of The Word

10.00 am

led by Sue Horobin

Sunday 14 December - Advent 3

NATIVITY

10.00 am

*led by The Revd Pam Parr
and Sue Horobin*

Sunday 21 December - Advent 4

CAROL SERVICE

10.00 am

led by The Revd Pam Parr

Wednesday 24 December

✙ **MIDNIGHT MASS**

11.30 pm

led by The Revd Renate Grey

Thursday 25 December

✙ **CHRISTMAS DAY Eucharist**

10.00 am

led by The Revd Pam Parr



Christmas Services 2025

Rochdale Parish Church of St Chad

Sunday 30 November - Advent 1

Choral Eucharist - 11.15 am

led by The Revd Canon Roger Hill

Sunday 7 December - Advent 2

Choral Eucharist - 11.15 am

led by The Revd Pam Parr

Sunday 14 December - Advent 3

Matins - 11.15 am

led by The Revd Pam Parr

Sunday 21 December - Advent 4

Choral Eucharist - 11.15 am

led by The Revd James Read

ST CHAD'S CANDLELIT CAROL SERVICE

3.00 pm

*led by The Rt Revd Mark Davies,
Bishop of Middleton*

This service is one of the highlights of the year
and will be a magnificent start to Christmas 2025.



Wednesday 24 December

✙ MIDNIGHT MASS

11.30 pm

*led by The Ven Karen Smeeton,
Archdeacon of Rochdale*



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

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

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



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

As mentioned on the previous page, The Church of England's website tells us: :

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

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

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

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

/contd...

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



ST CHAD'S ADVENT CANDLES

Before the Advent Calendar became popular, 1800s German protestant Christians would make 24 chalk lines on their doors at the start of Advent and then rub off one line each day as part of their preparation for Christmas. Alternatively some would make a chalk line on the first day of Advent and add another line each day, while others would light an Advent Candle and burn down a portion of this each day.

Another custom in Germany was for people to make their own paper Advent calendars at home. In the early 1900s, the German publisher Gerhard Lang was inspired by childhood memories when his mother would place 24 biscuits onto a cardboard square and allow him to eat one of the biscuits each day during Advent and he collaborated with Ernst Kepler, illustrator, and Reichhold, printers, to create the first commercial Advent calendar in 1908.

The first calendar had 24 small pictures, one to be glued onto the base card each day. Calendars with doors appeared in the 1920s.

Other German publishers then began to produce Advent calendars and by the 1930s these had become very popular.

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

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



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

Linda G.

Sunday 30 November 2025 – The First Sunday of Advent



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

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

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

We now have twenty-four days until Christmas Eve then at Midnight Mass we will welcome in Christmas Day, celebrating Jesus' birth in its humble setting of a stable.

Each of these days provides us with a fresh opportunity for reflection, to take notice of the scenery on our journey through Advent this year.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



/contd on p14

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

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

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

It's not unlike a jigsaw puzzle - you need to look in Luke to read about the shepherds, in Matthew to read about the Magi visiting King Herod, killing of the first-born and the flight into Egypt, etc - or navigating via a road atlas where your journey inevitably takes you over several pages that aren't in the precise order, and it's reasonable to say that each of our own journeys through Advent will be different (and perhaps not always going quite to plan!). For now the family can rest in Bethlehem for a while, and try to make sense of these visitors who have come to see this new-born child before their own journey takes them on to Egypt, not back to Nazareth, to escape from Herod's soldiers.

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



Linda G.

Week 1 - Hope

Dear Jesus, you are the hope in our messy world.

This Advent, help us slow down, listen to your voice, and focus on what's really important.

We place our hope in you as we prepare our hearts to celebrate your birth on Christmas. *Amen.*

The Collect for the First Sunday in Advent

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

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



Hope

Peace

Joy

Love



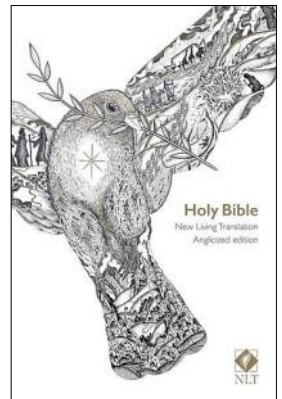


The great symbol of Advent is the increase of light, and as we begin the second week in Advent two candles will be lit on the Advent wreath representing hope and peace, with the increase in light each week symbolizing the coming of the light of the world, Jesus.

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

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

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



/contd...

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

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

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

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

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

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

Linda G.

Week 2 - Peace

The prayer of St. Francis of Assisi:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

and Where there is sadness, joy...

Divine Master; Grant that I may not so much

seek to be consoled as to console;

to be understood as to understand;

to be loved as to love;

For it is in giving that we receive; it is in

pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in

dying that we are born to eternal life. *Amen.*



The Collect for the Second Sunday in Advent

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

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

CHRISTMAS WAS COMING

Gradually there gathered the feeling of expectation. Christmas was coming. In the shed, at nights, a secret candle was burning, a sound of veiled voices was heard. The boys were learning the old mystery play of St George and Beelzebub. Twice a week, by lamplight, there was choir practice in the church, for the learning of old carols Brangwen wanted to hear. The girls went to those practices. Everywhere was a sense of mystery and rousedness. Everybody was preparing for something.

The time came near, the girls were decorating the church, with cold fingers binding holly and fir and yew about the pillars, till a new spirit was in the church, the stone broke out into dark rich leaf, the arches put forth their æuds, and cold flowers rose to blossom in the dim mystic atmosphere. Ursula must weave mistletoe over the door, and over the screen, and hang a silver dove from a sprig of yew, till dusk came down, and the church was like a grove.

In the cow-shed the boys were blacking their faces for a dress-rehearsal; the turkey hung dead, with opened speckled wings, in the dairy. The time was come to make pies, in readiness.

The expectation grew more tense. The star was risen into the sky, the songs, the carols were ready to hail it. The star was the sign in the sky. Earth too should give a sign. As evening drew on, hearts beat fast with anticipation, hands were full of ready gifts. There were the tremulously expectant words of the church service, the night was past and the morning was come, the gifts were given and received, joy and peace made a flapping of wings in each heart, there was a great burst of carols, the Peace of the World had dawned, strife had passed away, every hand was linked in hand, every heart was singing.

From: The Rainbow by D. H. Lawrence (1915)

Thanks to Linda Mainwaring for sharing this seasonal prose.



A Prayer for Peace this Advent

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

Amen.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Linda G.

CHRISTMAS CAROL

LONG time ago, in Palestine,
Upon a wintry morn.
All in a lowly cattle shed,
The Prince of Peace was born.

The clouds fled from the gloomy sky;
The winds in silence lay;
And the stars shone bright, with strange delight,
To welcome in that day.

His parents they were simple folk,
And simple lives they led;
And in the ways of righteousness
This little Child was bred.

In gentle thought, and gentle deed,
His early days went by;
And the light His youthful steps did lead
Came down from heaven on high.

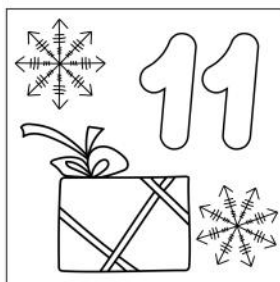
He was the friend of all the poor
That wander here below;
It was His only joy on earth
To ease them of their woe.

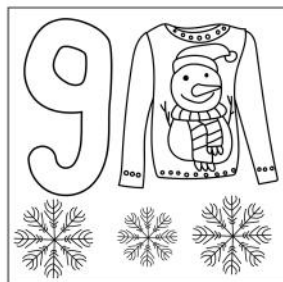
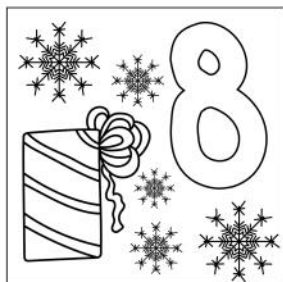
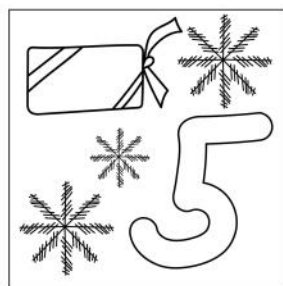
In vain He trod His holy path,
By sorrow sorely tried;
It was for all mankind He lived,
And for mankind He died.

Like Him, let us be just and pure,
Like Him, be true alway;
That we may find the peace of mind
That never fades away.

Edwin Waugh 1817-1890

Sharpen those
colouring pencils
and be creative!





Sunday 14 December 2025



Collect for the Third Sunday of Advent

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Linda G.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Revd Canon Nick Smeeton

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

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

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

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

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

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

(BCP 1979)

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

©John Birch, faithandworship.com

Sunday 21 December 2025



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

The waiting is almost over!

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

Again, the light increases.

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

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

Collect for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Enjoy your Christmas.

Linda G.



MIDWINTER SOLSTICE

According to the Greenwich Mean Time website, this year's Midwinter Solstice is on Sunday 21 December.

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

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

Although the time of this year's Midwinter Solstice is around 15:03 GMT people generally refer to the whole day as being the solstice.

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

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

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

So, we can look forward to about a quarter of an hour's extra daylight each week until we arrive at next year's Midsummer Solstice which will be on Sunday 21 June 2025 at 09:25 BST - the longest day (or shortest night) - Midsummer - from which date (no surprises here) the daylight then reduces again until we're back at the next Midwinter Solstice and the shortest day once more.

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

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

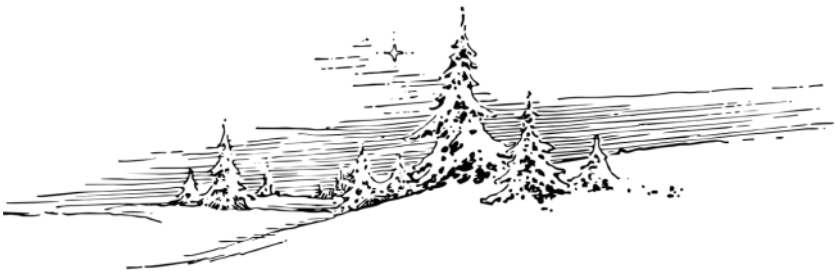
The astronomical seasons may be a more traditional, and perhaps familiar, way of defining the seasons and the Midwinter Solstice also marks the first day of the astronomical winter season.

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

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

Linda G.

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



Sarah Coleridge - The Months
Chill December brings the sleet,
Blazing fire, and Christmas treat.



December has 31 days and is the 12th month the Gregorian calendar, previously the 10th month (Latin *decem* “ten”) of the Roman calendar.

It kept its name after January and February were added to the calendar many years later.

The Anglo-Saxons referred to December–January as *Ġēolamonap* (modern English: “Yule month”).

The French Republican Calendar contained December within the months of *Frimaire* and *Nivôse*.

December’s full moon will rise at approx 11:14 GMT on Thursday 4 December in the UK, the third of the three consecutive supermoons this year.



Known as the Cold Moon, self-explanatory as the winter season begins, bringing colder weather and darker days.

Other cultural and seasonal traditions refer to it as Long Nights Moon, Moon Before Yule, Frost Moon, and more.



FLOWERS OF THE MONTH NARCISSUS AND HOLLY



In the Victorian language of flowers, a narcissus symbolized the one and only true love, and as the birth month flower for December stands for purity, sweetness and simplicity, also for respect, faithfulness and unconditional love.

In folklore, holly was believed to have protective properties and was often planted near homes to ward off evil spirits and bring good luck.

In Celtic mythology it was believed the holly plant would help ward off evil spirits and so represented protection and luck. The Romans associated the holly plant with the god Saturn, and it was believed to symbolize endurance and strength during the harsh winter season. In Norse mythology, the holly plant was linked to Thor, the god of thunder and was believed to provide protection against lightning and evil spirits.

Sagittarius

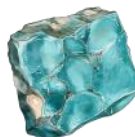


December's zodiac signs are:
Sagittarius until 21 December
and
Capricorn from 22 December onward

Capricorn



BLUE TOPAZ, TANZANITE AND TURQUOISE ARE THE TRADITIONAL BIRTHSTONES FOR DECEMBER



Blue Topaz symbolizes focus, mental clarity, and protection. It encourages emotional balance and stress relief and attracts good luck. **Tanzanite** symbolizes transformation, making it a powerful stone for those seeking change with its dynamic colours symbolizing personal growth and renewal. **Turquoise** symbolises protection, luck, and abundance.

“The Holy Star”

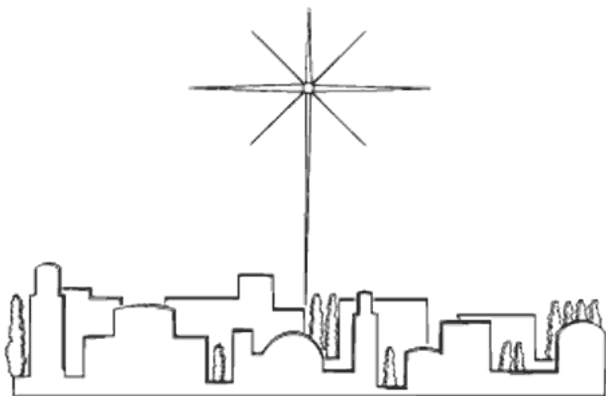
As shadows cast by cloud and sun
Flit o’er the summer grass,
So, in Thy sight, Almighty One,
Earth’s generations pass.

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

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

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

William Cullen Bryant



Christina Georgina Rossetti

5 Dec 1830 - 29 Dec 1894

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

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

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

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

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

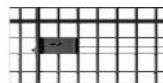


Christina Rossetti wrote this poem in 1872 after receiving a request for a Christmas poem from Scribner's Monthly Illustrated Magazine.

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

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

A VIEW BEHIND BARS – THE DIFFICULT DAYS



The level of noise was rising and I narrowly avoided the flying toilet seat as I walked the length of the Wing, only for it to be followed up by half a wardrobe and a Team of officers who were summoned by the First response assistance warbler on the radio.

There would be different views. A bystanding prisoner said that the man had been upset by being spoken to firmly after he had just returned from the Segregation and that they should have been calmer in their approach. Others would say that he should never have been returned and was always causing trouble.

I don't quite know how the senior officer avoided having his foot broken as he jammed it in the door whilst the prisoner inside tried to barricade himself in, but once the weight of several others was engaged, it opened easily enough. It was at that point that the wardrobe was further shattered and more belongings came flying out, whilst the other men were locked behind their doors to avoid them seeing more of the excitement.

It was a depressing event. But not the last. In an attempt to be friendly to Jay, I smiled and asked how he was doing. I've had mixed results in conversation with Jay previously but it's been

improving. Today we took a step back. *'Why do you want to talk to me? I don't want to talk to you.'* That was the end of that.

Thank goodness for Stuart who asked what I'd be doing on my holiday. I explained that I was actually leading a programme at a Christian retreat and holiday centre. He began to tell me about the retreat for Travellers that he used to attend *'Down at Butlin's at Skegs Nest'* He was so enthusiastic about it that I didn't care to correct his naming of the East of England holiday destination.

So I plodded onwards. Matt is still angry about the fact that he arrived late for his mother's funeral (I was angry about it, too) but even more so that he had asked for permission to take a rose that he had made from salt dough, to put on the coffin and been refused. Not content with this knockback, the powers that be, in over-attentiveness to their job, had decided to snap the rose in two to check it for drugs. They didn't find any.

Hope was raised for our usual Bible study but this was to be uncomfortable also. Whilst trying, bizarrely, to accommodate the two Pagan prisoners in our small meeting room, with their newly acquired 'worship' items, I also

ended up fielding the six men who had arrived for my group.

Jonathan had been upset a couple of weeks earlier by being sent back from chapel. Volunteer chaplains had found him demanding and a little aggressive and had asked for him not to come to their course again.

I've not experienced that problem with him, though he's far from easy to deal with. However, on this occasion, Jonathan marched into the managing chaplain's office saying that he'd put in a complaint about his treatment. The Manager and he continued with raised voices. I tried to intervene. I was not close enough to hear beyond the f***ing responses he made but our Manager was convinced that a racial slur had been flung his way.

I deliberated over what to do and spent the afternoon thinking I'd done the wrong thing in keeping Jonathan in the group (where he was entirely submissive).

A long and awkward conversation followed two days later. Things to learn for me, apologies to be made, some points I wanted to raise needing to be put on one side.

The manipulation of someone who wears his mental health diagnosis of ADHD like a badge to excuse rather than merely explain why some

situations trigger stress for him, continues to be something I wrestle with. It was on view again later in the week as he demanded (and was refused) a certain privilege.

When do we 'wipe the dust' off our feet? When do we persevere? When do we back down and say nothing? When is bad behaviour treated with strictness and when is it looked at with sympathy and counselling? I believe no one is beyond redemption but there are times when you wonder if it will ever come about.

To close - a wry smile and an eyebrow raising moment when Kyle, taking in the sun outside his workshop - how will they ever learn what a full day's work is all about? - asked me, in all seriousness *'Miss, If I come to chapel will you get me my Cat D?' Err, no, you will not be transferred to open conditions because you try to persuade the chaplain that you're a nice person, whilst attending chapel for all the wrong reasons. Ah well. 'The people walking in darkness have seen a great light'. It's an Advent Bible verse to bring hope to those who actually open their eyes to see it.*

Hilary Edgerton, Chaplain
HMP Buckley Hall, Rochdale
November 2025

The 50/50 Christmas Quiz - 50 with a Christmas theme, and 50 that aren't!

1. Name Santa's reindeers.
2. In the Twelve Days of Christmas song, what was sent on the 7th day?
3. What type of tree is mentioned in the same song?
4. Which King of England was crowned on Christmas Day?
5. According to the Guinness Book of Records, the best-selling number 1 single Christmas song of all time has sold 50 million copies. Name the writer and also the singer.
6. Which Christmas carol was originally written in Latin as 'Adeste Fideles'?
7. In the 1955 Christmas number 1 Christmas Alphabet, what does the letter C mean?
8. One of Christina Rossetti's poems became the basis of a famous Christmas Carol? Name the poem and also the carol.
9. The song 'Driving Home for Christmas' was written about a journey to where?
10. Name the famous scientist, who developed the three laws of motion, born on Christmas day 1642?
11. How many wise men / Magi / kings does the bible say visited the baby Jesus?
12. What cartoon character is essential tv viewing on Christmas Eve in Sweden?
13. Which wordless children's picture book by Raymond Briggs was first published in 1978?
14. What type of animal carried Mary to Bethlehem?
15. Which British monarch delivered the first ever Christmas message, and in what year?
16. Which character declares "Merry Christmas, one and all!" in Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol'?
17. Name the children's classic in which it is "always winter but never Christmas", and the author?
18. Name the chemical compound normally used to create the bang in Christmas crackers.
19. In what year was Clement C Moore's poem "The Night Before Christmas" first published?
20. Astronauts broadcast which Christmas song from space in 1965?
21. In which direction should you stir mincemeat for good luck - clockwise or anti-clockwise?
22. The plant Poinsettia is native to which country?
23. What is the most popular meal for Christmas in Japan?
24. In the novel 'A Christmas Carol', which is the first ghost to visit Scrooge?
25. Christmas Island was discovered on Christmas Day in 1643 – true or false?

26. "Once in Royal David's City" was composed in 13th, 15th, 19th or 20th century?
27. Which country was founded on Christmas Day 1000 by King Stephen:
Portugal, Poland, Sweden or Hungary?
28. Which pudding is demanded in the song "We wish you a Merry Christmas"?
29. What is the name of the skin that hangs from a turkey's neck?
30. True or false? Christmas pudding was originally a soup made with wine and raisins.
31. In which carol are the lyrics "Gloria, Hosanna In Excelsis"?
32. Why are candy canes shaped like shepherds' crooks?
33. Name the fruit traditionally used to make a Christingle?
34. From which country does panettone originate?
35. Which two books of the New Testament tell us about the birth of Jesus?
36. Who is credited with introducing the popular Christmas tradition of sending Christmas cards in 1843?
37. 'Silent Night' was first sung in an Austrian church – for what reason was the tune played on a guitar instead of the church organ?
38. What was Jesus wrapped in after when he was born?
39. How many gifts in total were given in "The Twelve Days of Christmas" song?
40. 'Walking in the Air' is a song taken from which Christmas film, shown on TV for the first time on Boxing Day in which year?
41. In the book "A Christmas Carol", Bob Cratchit has what type of bird before Scrooge brings a turkey?
42. In 1978 the German-based group Boney M had a number one hit with which Christmas song?
43. The song from question 42 was written and released in 1956. Who sang this well-known version?
44. Which member of the Royal Family introduced the Christmas tree to England?
45. Which festive dessert stems from a pagan fireplace tradition?
46. Translated literally from the Anglo Saxon, Mistletoe is _____ on a stick?
47. Name the states in America that have towns called Santa Claus.
48. Snowflakes are typically portrayed as being 6 sided, but studies suggest that less than 0.1%, 1% or 10% of snowflakes exhibit the ideal six-fold symmetric shape?
49. On what day of the festivities in France would you eat a Galette des Rois?
50. The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols from Kings College, Cambridge, was introduced in 1918. In which year was it first broadcast on the radio, and in which year on the television?



/contd on p42



51. There are three visible rivers that run through Manchester city centre. Two of them are the Medlock and the Irwell, name the third that disappears beneath Victoria Station?
52. In cricket... a long-hop is a fielding position, slow run, toilet/comfort break or a short-pitched easy ball?
53. Name the two dances that feature in NATO's phonetic alphabet?
54. A good invention is often said to be the best thing since what?
55. Which UK city is further west, Bristol or Edinburgh?
56. The largest cathedral in the UK can be found in which city?
57. Which London hotel was the first in the world to offer a private bathroom for each guest?
58. The Halle orchestra was founded in 1858. In which city is it based?
59. Born Eric Arthur Blair in Motihari, Bengal, India, this famous author is better known by what pseudonym?
60. Are there more days in the first or last six months of the year?
61. The White Tower, now known as the Tower of London, was built by which ruler?
62. The world's shortest international border is just 150m long and connects Zambia with Botswana, Uganda or Kenya?
63. Where is the Sea of Tranquillity?
64. Is the sun a star or a planet?
65. The colour of Noddy's hat is red, green, blue or yellow?
66. Name the insect that is the symbol of Manchester?
67. Clove Hitch, Sheepshank, Figure Eight and Bowline are Wrestling holds, Daisies, Knots or Australian country dances?
68. The Earl of _____ tossed a coin with Sir Charles Bunbury to decide which of their names would be used for a horse race they'd started.
69. How many keys are there on a piano?
70. Dame Agatha Christie, best known for her detective novels centred around Hercule Poirot, also wrote six romance novels under the pen name of Mary Westmacott, Julia Austen or Geraldine Woodbridge?
71. Bram Stoker's Dracula is partially set in which UK seaside town?
72. Percy Spencer invented which time-saving kitchen appliance?
73. In which of these ballets does The Sugar Plum Fairy feature? Romeo and Juliet, The Nutcracker, Swan Lake or A Midsummer Night's Dream?
74. Which of these numbers cannot be divided exactly by 8: 480, 514, 560, 592?
75. Which meat is used in Glamorgan sausages?

/contd on p44

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

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



76. A good invention is often said to be the best thing since what?
77. What piece of fruit is found at the top of the men's Wimbledon tennis trophy?
78. Which book did Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, a lecturer in Mathematics at Christ Church College in Oxford, write that made him famous?
79. A standard bottle of wine contains 75 cl. What is the name of the size of bottle which holds 4.5 ltr (or equivalent of 6 standard bottles)?
80. Name the only city in the United Kingdom to begin with the letter R?
81. What was the name of the baker in whose bakery the Great Fire of London of 1666 apparently started, and where were the premises located?
82. Which of these did the Austrian physicist Ernst Mach (1838-1916) devise: Meccano, the Big Mac, Tarmac or the Supersonic velocity measurement unit?
83. In snooker, after all the reds are potted, what ball must be potted after the Brown ball – Green, Pink, Blue or Black?
84. The can-opener was not invented until 45 years after the tin can. True / false?
85. Added together, what is the total of the visible numbers on a standard dartboard?
86. Multiply XXI by II and what result will you get in Roman number system? XXIII XLII XXXII or LXII
87. What word makes five new words when prefixing: go, ding, ocular, man, liner?
88. Roger Bannister ran the first 4-minute mile in which English city?
89. Geoff Hurst scored a hat-trick in England's 4-2 win over West Germany in the 1966 World Cup final but who scored the other goal for England?
90. Who wrote the novel 'The Spy Who Came in From the Cold'?
91. What is the name of the Paranoid Android in Douglas Adams' "Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy"?
92. What is longer, a nautical mile or a statute mile?



93. Which word goes before beans, vest and quartet?
94. Who is the author of 'Our Man in Havana'?
95. Calvados is made from _____.
96. Who published works under the pen name Ellis Bell?
97. Which is heavier: 15 kilograms or 30 pounds?
98. What word makes five new words when prefixing wind, or, coat, end and gate?
99. Who scored the first Premier League hat-trick?
100. What is the largest landlocked county in the UK?

Cradled in a Manger meanly

Cradled in a manger, meanly,
Laid the Son of Man His head;
Sleeping His first earthly slumber
Where the oxen had been fed.
Happy were those shepherds listening
To the holy angel's word;
Happy they within that stable
Worshipping their infant Lord.



Happy all who hear the message
Of His coming from above;
Happier still who hail His coming,
And with praises greet His love.
Blessèd Saviour, Christ most holy,
In a manger Thou didst rest;
Canst Thou stoop again, yet lower,
And abide within my breast?

Evil things are there before Thee;
In the heart, where they have fed,
Wilt Thou pitifully enter,
Son of Man, and lay Thy head?
Enter, then, O Christ most holy;
Make a Christmas in my heart;
Make a heaven of my manger:
It is heaven where Thou art.

And to those who never listened
To the message of Thy birth,
Who have winter, but no Christmas
Bringing them Thy peace on earth,
Send to these the joyful tidings;
By all people, in each home,
Be there heard the Christmas anthem;
Praise to God, the Christ has come!

George S Rowe, 1879



A picture to colour in.

The Holy Night

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

Elizabeth Barrett Browning (1806-1861)



PLEASE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT ROCHDALE FOODBANK



is currently supporting over 100 families / single people each week and stocks are **LOW** due to the increasing demand. People who once contributed to the foodbank now find themselves its clients, including those who are working full time, pensioners, Universal Credit claimants (up to 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 pkt)

Instant Mash Potatoes • Rice (500g) • Pasta (500g)

Jam / Honey (Jar) • Breakfast Cereal • Snacks • Crisps • Biscuits (packets)

Personal Toiletries, including: Shower Gel • Soap • Shampoo • Deodorant
Toothbrushes • Toothpaste • Feminine Hygiene Products • Disposable Nappies

Rochdale Foodbank Warehouse is open to accept your donations

Monday to Friday, 10 am - 12 noon

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

Our sign will be on the door.

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





Christmas Bucket List

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

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

3. Send ~~Gifts~~ Love

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

5. Make ~~Cookies~~ Memories

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



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 2.00 - 3.30 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.*

