

Rochdale Parish Church of St Chad



NEWS

(Please take one and pass it on)

July
2025

Welcome to
Rochdale Parish Church of St Chad



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.

A polite reminder...

PLEASE ENSURE YOUR PHONE IS

OFF

DURING THE SERVICE

Thank You





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



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

Sunday 20 July
Chester Paul Dodson



***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.

**Contactless Payments for donations
are now available**



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY IN JULY



Sunday 6

3rd SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

- St Mary in the Baum 9.15 am - BCP Holy Communion
- St Luke's Deeplish 10.00 am - Holy Communion
- St Chad's 11.15 am - Choral Eucharist

Wednesday 9

Friends Together

Bereavement Support Group

at St Chad's 10 am - 12 noon

Everyone Welcome - Refreshments provided



Thursday 10

- St Chad's 10.00 am - Said Eucharist

Sunday 13

4th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

- St Mary in the Baum 9.15 am - Holy Communion
- St Luke's Deeplish 10.00 am - Service of the Word
- St Chad's 11.15 am - Choral Eucharist

Thursday 17

St Chad's PCC Meeting at 5 pm in church

Sunday 20

5th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

- St Chad's 10.00 am - Holy Communion

**** See opposite page ****

Sunday 27

6th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

- St Mary in the Baum 9.15 am - Holy Communion
- St Luke's Deeplish 10.00 am - Holy Communion
- St Chad's 11.15 am - Choral Eucharist



THE REVD ANNE GILBERT
WILL BE TAKING HER FINAL SERVICE
AS OUR VICAR ON

**SUNDAY 20 JULY 2025
AT 10.00 AM**

AS SHE LEAVES TO TAKE UP HER ROLE AS
AREA DEAN OF ROCHDALE

THIS WILL BE A JOINT SERVICE
FOR EVERYONE FROM
ST CHAD'S, ST MARY IN THE BAUM
AND ST LUKE'S DEEPLISH

HER LICENSING SERVICE WILL BE ON
SUNDAY 31 AUGUST 2025
ST AIDAN'S, SUDDEN
AT 3.00 PM

Cancer and Leo
are the month's Zodiac signs

Cancer



21 June - 22 July

Leo



23 July - 22 Aug

July's birthstone is **Ruby**



representing love, passion, courage,
protection, contentment.



Sarah Coleridge - The Months
Hot July brings cooling showers,
Apricots and gillyflowers.



Larkspur



Water Lily



July, the seventh month in our calendar year, has 31 days.

Originally named Quintilis, the fifth month of the early calendar of the ancient Romans, it was later renamed by the Roman Senate in 44 BC to honour Julius Caesar.

This month's full moon rises on 10 July, around 22:00 BST.

Known as The Buck Moon, it is named after the buck deer who begin to grow their new antlers at this time of the year.

Historically, the star **Sirius** was rising in the night sky just as the hot summer days arrived and as this star is part of the *Canis Major* constellation these hot and humid days became known as the "dog days".



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 ◀

We rely on your support
to enable this event
to take place each year.

If you are able to give
2 hours of your time
on any of the days
mentioned then please see

Graham Knox.

Thank you.

“Thank You”

to everyone who gives their time to help with cleaning the church,
tidying the garden areas, arranging the floral displays,
providing refreshments after our services of worship, and the many other jobs
not mentioned here that enable St Chad's to keep running smoothly.

GARDENING

Wednesdays at 1.00 pm



CHURCH CLEANING

Thursdays at 10.30 am



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

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

St Swithun

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

/cont'd on p8

You are invited 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	

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

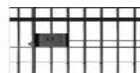
Linda G.

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

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



A VIEW BEHIND BARS - GETTING THROUGH



It's not much of a job but it's something. Derek weighs out the cereal and pours each portion into a bag, seals it and then adds tea bags, sugar and whitener to another bag. Each man gets his cereal packet and a brew bag every day and it's Derek's job to make sure they're ready.

Derek is in his seventies, has recently had a bad leg ulcer but would rather be working than not, and continues to smile about life. He seems to have worked out how to get through.

Nigel, by contrast, is struggling. I was touched when he came to a Bible study and partway through said that he was really enjoying it, because normally he didn't like to talk in a group but he felt comfortable in this one.

When I spoke to him a week later, out spilled the layers of difficulty including his colour, his inferiority complex, his poor relationship with his mother and subsequent grief when his aunty (the go-to person who replaced his mum) died, his drinking habit and - having wanted more to do - his sense of being overwhelmed at now having a job, counselling, bereavement support, a 12-step recovery programme and a wellbeing project all starting at once. *'I can't concentrate on my prayers, Miss'* he said. I told him I thought that would be alright and that it really would begin to settle down. Perhaps he could ask God for wisdom to know if he should postpone one or two projects for a while.

Meanwhile our pink-coated orderly in the CSU delights to greet me with *'Yorright Ducks?'* to which there's really no sensible answer that I can think of! It makes me chuckle, anyway. He jokes his way through jail to avoid being miserable and he plays a mean game of pool, as I observed last weekend, when his opponent spent most time looking on at the break which wiped the table clean.

The side of life that's less pleasant is often seen in relationships with family and friends, though. Many men talk of how their so-called friends deserted them once they came to prison. Less often do they talk about how they may have deserted their friends, wives, partners.

So it was that chaplains came to be involved with a prisoner who strikes me as a smooth operator- outwardly polite, courteous, saying the right things. Yet there's something that grates with me. I wasn't surprised to discover that he had cheated on his girlfriend. What really upset me was to find out after a long sequence of protracted and heartfelt conversations with him, his girlfriend and a hospital, following the news of his baby having died in her womb.

/cont'd on p12

MUSIC ON SATURDAYS AT ST CHAD'S

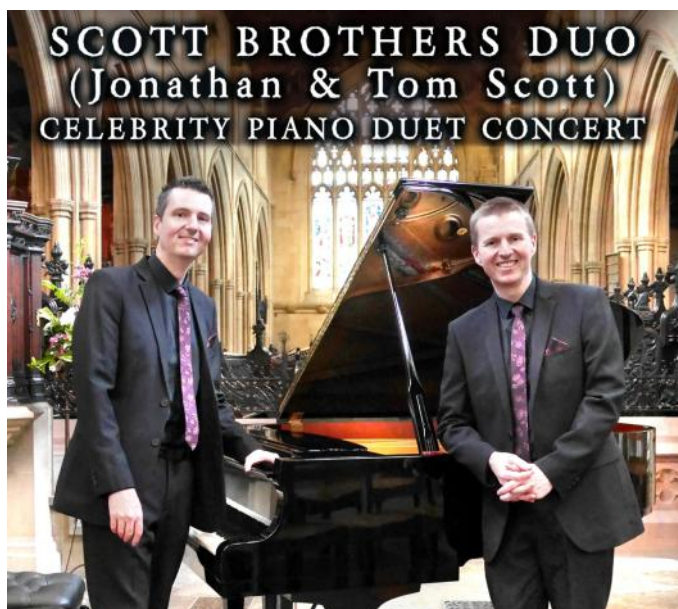
Saturday 19 July at 3.00pm

Greater Manchester Police Wind Band

in concert



Admission **£8.00** per person
pay on the door



Saturday 23 August 2025 at 3.00 pm

Tickets £12

pay on the door

(includes light refreshments)

The baby's birth was induced and a funeral was to be planned. Having been told by the hospital that no one of the name we gave was on their system, we did find out that the girl in question had been in the Labour suite at the very time we phoned. Additional distress was caused but we tried to get him out for the funeral - only for him to be transferred to another prison.

When enquiring a little later with his girlfriend how things had gone, she told me that she had discovered he'd been seeing someone else and she wanted nothing more to do with him. No, he had not been invited to the baby's funeral.

How, I wonder, is she getting through? Faithfulness to those left behind doesn't seem to matter in the eyes of some of the men and there are children scattered around the country in some cases, born with a man's desire, lust and then weariness for the humdrum of lasting relationships which has made them take off and find someone else until they, too, become the next one who asks for more than they want to give. Then they struggle with news that the child's mother may have requested a no-contact order to be made.

Entitlement is the middle name for Clark. He has at last had an operation that he's been asking for over the last year. It must be painful but my goodness he knows how to play the drama queen. Demanding items that would normally be easy to get in the community, to ease his recovery, the officer explained why this was more difficult in prison. Clark moved things up another level with his complaints.

Whilst he had an audience he moved on to issues about food, supervision, the officer who apparently *'has got it in for me'*, the job he thinks he should have and so on and so on and so on. I kept hoping Steve would end the meeting but no, he gave another minute opening for Clark to slot yet more complaints into. Gratitude is not his thing, it would seem. There will always be something more that he feels is his right. Perhaps that's how he gets through - by complaining.

We can choose to see the best in our lives or the worst; choose to be grateful or demanding. *'Do everything without complaining or arguing'* says the apostle Paul in one of his letters. The reason? So that those people will become *blameless, pure and shine like stars in a crooked generation*.

'I'm content' said one man last week. He has realised that what he thought he needed to be happy doesn't matter so much any more. Of course he wants to be with his family but other than that he has what he needs. That revelation could help us all.

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

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 ***



<https://crimestoppers-uk.org>

Always 100% Anonymous

SERVICES OF WORSHIP

♦ Sundays

ST MARY IN THE BAUM 9.15 am

Week 1 - BCP Communion Week 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 or 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

♦ Thursdays

ST CHAD'S 10.00 am

2nd Thursday in the month Said Eucharist



CONTACT INFO

Vicar: The Revd Anne Gilbert

Vicarage: 01706 346 774 Mobile: 07865 293 827 revannegilbert@gmail.com

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

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 the vicar to make arrangements.*

