



Rochdale Parish Church
of St Chad



NEWS

(Please take one and pass it on)

Ash Wednesday
and into Lent
2026

Welcome to
Rochdale Parish Church of St Chad



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



PLEASE SWITCH YOUR PHONE TO

*** SILENT ***

DURING THE SERVICE

Thank You



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



Prayer 
Request

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

 **0800 804 8044**
DailyHOPE

A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers



A S H
W E D N E S D A Y

18 FEBRUARY 2026

JOINT SERVICE
ST MARY IN THE BAUM AT 7.00 PM

HOLY COMMUNION
WITH IMPOSITION OF ASHES

LED BY THE REVD DUKE O'BAKA-TORTO



Many thanks to the coffee team, who follow a rota and provide refreshments for our weekly services and also special services as well as personally providing milk and biscuits. Due to the generous donations of our congregation into the coffee plate we have been able to donate £200 to the running of the Church and £200 to be used to purchase some additional roses to fill the rose beds in the churchyard.

We would always welcome anyone to join the coffee team - at the present time it works out as one Sunday in five.

Pat Asten



*St Chad's Altar Guild
would welcome donations
towards the cost
of the Easter Lilies.*

*Please see
Pat Asten, Lyn Taylor
or other Guild member.*

Thank you.





Dates for your Diary

Sunday 15 February - Holy Communion 11.15 am

The Sunday Next before Lent

Wednesday 18 February

Ash Wednesday

Holy Communion

with Imposition of Ashes

Joint Service at St Mary in the Baum 7.00 pm

Sunday 22 February - Holy Communion 11.15 am

The First Sunday of Lent

Sunday 1 March - Holy Communion 11.15 am

The Second Sunday of Lent

Sunday 8 March - Matins 11.15 am

The Third Sunday of Lent

Sunday 15 March - Holy Communion 11.15 am

The Fourth Sunday of Lent - Mothering Sunday

Sunday 22 March - Holy Communion 11.15 am

The Fifth Sunday of Lent

Sunday 29 March - Holy Communion 10.15 am

Palm Sunday - Joint Service

followed by a Bring and Share Lunch (provisional)

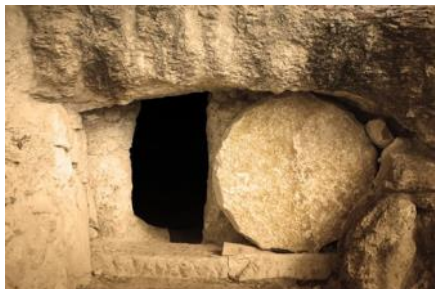
Church Cleaning
Thursdays at 10.30 am
"Everyone Welcome"



SHROVE TUESDAY, ASH WEDNESDAY AND LENT

Ask people what they consider to be the most important time in the Christian calendar and there's a good chance they will say that it's Christmas.

However, many would be surprised to learn that Easter is the most important time in the Christmas calendar. So, why *is* it so important?



At Easter we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus from the tomb, three days after he was crucified. Easter Sunday is a very significant date, *the* central event, and the foundation of our Christian faith.

A Biblical account of the resurrection can be found in Matthew 28, Mark 16 and Luke 24. Take time to read and reflect on each of these accounts in your Bible.

However, before we celebrate Easter... there is the season of Lent... and before Lent begins on Ash Wednesday we have **Shrove Tuesday**. Shrove is from the old middle English word 'Shriven', which means going to confession to say sorry for your sins. It's also known here as Pancake Day, or as Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday) in some countries.

The custom was (and still is for some) to use up all the fattening ingredients people had in their houses, typically eggs, milk and butter before abstaining from eating these foods during their Lenten fast and a simple, and tasty, way of using up these ingredients is to mix them up with some flour and make pancakes.

Some towns and villages have Pancake Races where people race over a prescribed distance while carrying a frying pan and tossing pancakes a required number of times. The village of Olney, Bucks, is considered to have the oldest Pancake Race, the story being that a woman was still making pancakes when she heard the shriving bell ringing out so ran to church taking the frying pan and pancake with her to avoid being late.

Historic-UK.com mention the ingredients for pancakes being seen to symbolise four points of significance at this time of year:

Eggs - Creation Flour - The staff of life Salt - Wholesomeness Milk - Purity



Lent officially begins on **Ash Wednesday**, 46 days before Easter Sunday, and ends on the Thursday before Easter, known as Maundy Thursday.

Ash Wednesday is a reminder of our own mortality, and churches have special services where the people are “ashed” with the mark of the cross being put on their foreheads by the priest.

As the mark of the cross is being made on each forehead, the priest says:



“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.
Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.”

These words are taken from the Burial Service in the 1662 Book of Common Prayer, adapted from *Genesis 3:19* in the Bible.

The ashes used are traditionally prepared by burning some of the palm crosses that were blessed and then given to those attending the previous year’s Palm Sunday service. These palm crosses are a reminder of Jesus’s triumphal entry into Jerusalem where the crowd laid palm branches on the ground in his path, as told in the Gospels.

Pope Gregory I, pope from 590-604 AD, established having 40 days in Lent, to follow the 40 days associated with the time Israel, Moses, Elijah and Jesus spent in the wilderness.

If Lent begins 46 days before Easter Sunday then why “40 days”? The Sundays during Lent are important days to Christians and, in contrast to the fasting on Monday to Saturday, each Sunday is a symbolic celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. So, 46 days – 6 Sundays = 40 days of Lent.

In the UK we celebrate the 4th Sunday of Lent as Mothering Sunday and the 6th Sunday is Palm Sunday.

The dates for Lent and Easter change every year. Why? Because Easter is a “moveable feast” and can be between 22 March and 25 April. It falls on the first Sunday after the full moon that’s on or after March 21, and if this full moon is a Sunday then Easter is celebrated on the following Sunday. Its date is calculated in relation to the March Equinox, although the church uses 21 March in its ecclesiastical calendar rather than the actual date which can vary between 19 to 21 March.





LENT

The Bible tells us that the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ took place around the time of the Jewish Passover, the Passover being celebrated on the first full moon after the vernal equinox in March.

The liturgical colour for Lent is purple, the colour of repentance, with the altar cloth and priest's vestments being in this colour until Good Friday.

The season of Lent offers believers the opportunity to set aside time for self-denial (fasting), penitence and reflection, study, providing us with the opportunity to reflect and focus on the life of Christ... his ministry, sacrifice and resurrection. In addition, almsgiving has become part of this season.

Many people choose to fast during Lent, giving up something that will require personal discipline, such as chocolate, meat, alcohol, etc. Alternatively, some choose to do something extra each day by way of an additional task or challenge that requires the discipline or determination to achieve. However, Jesus warns us to guard against pride when fasting or almsgiving- read *Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-18*.

What will *you* give up during Lent, or what will *you* do that is an 'extra'?

Crucifixion was a barbaric method of execution, and our meditations and reflections will also serve to remind us of Jesus' suffering for our salvation and consider what he really did for us by dying on the Cross.

What will *you* reflect on during Lent?

During Lent, take time to pray for those who have yet to come to faith and know Jesus Christ. Also, you might like to include those who are suffering for their faith in your prayers.

What will *you* include in *your* prayers during Lent?

As mentioned, this 40-day season (not counting the Sundays) is marked by repentance, fasting, reflection and ultimately celebration, and during this time we are especially reminded of the 40 days and nights Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness and where he was tempted by Satan.

Matthew 4:1-11 tells us about Jesus' time in the wilderness:

The Temptation of Jesus

NRSV

4 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' ⁴ But he answered, 'It is written,

“One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

“He will command his angels concerning you”,
and “On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.”

⁷ Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, “Do not put the Lord your God to the test.”'

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; ⁹ and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

“Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.”

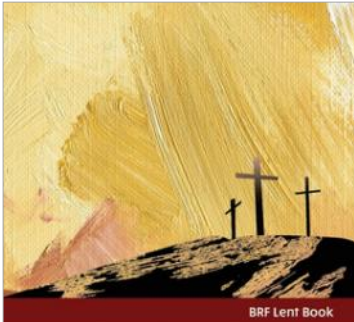
¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Our journey through Lent as we move forward towards Easter offers us much to consider and reflect on, and there are a wealth of resources available to help guide and encourage us. Perhaps you will be reading the Lent 2026 booklet *Draw Near: Life-giving habits for Lent* booklet and/or following one of the online resources?

The Sixth Sunday of Lent is Palm Sunday (the day when Jesus entered Jerusalem and was celebrated) and the start of Holy Week which runs from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday. As we travel through that week we'll arrive at Maundy Thursday (the day of the “Last Supper” where Jesus met with his disciples to observe the Passover), Good Friday (when Jesus was crucified on the cross), Holy Saturday (when some churches have an Easter Vigil), and then Easter Day dawns.

Time permitting, there will be more about Palm Sunday and Holy Week to follow!

Linda G.



BRF Lent Book

Giving It Up

Maggi Dawn

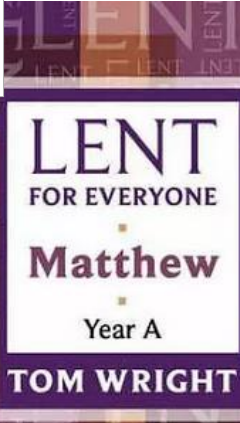
Daily Bible readings from
Ash Wednesday to Easter Day

STEPHEN COTTRELL



The Things He Carried

A JOURNEY TO THE CROSS:
MEDITATIONS FOR LENT AND HOLY WEEK

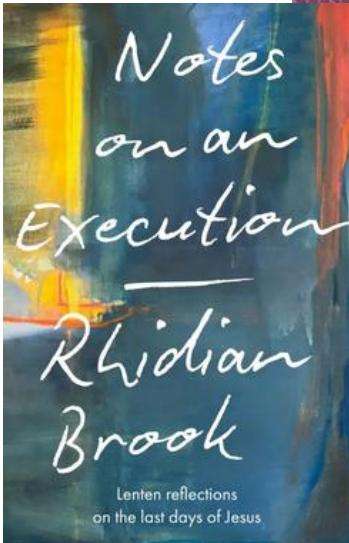


LENT FOR EVERYONE

Matthew

Year A

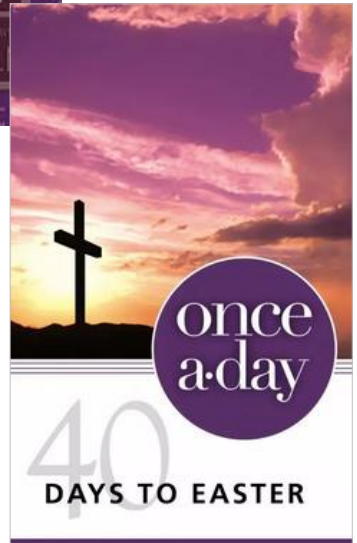
TOM WRIGHT



Notes on an Execution

Rhidian Brook

Lenten reflections
on the last days of Jesus



once
a day

40

DAYS TO EASTER

The Church of England's theme
for Lent 2026 is

Draw Near: Life-giving habits for Lent

This year's resources have at their heart
the theme of a 'rhythm of life' – habits and
patterns which help us grow
as disciples of Christ day by day,
especially as we prepare to celebrate
the great mystery of God's saving love
at Easter.

Each week a different contributor explores
a different aspect of Christian discipleship:

worshipping together,
praying, exploring the Bible,
sharing **communion,**
offering **service**

and **sharing the good news** with others.



Reflections via email:

Sign up and get free daily Lent reflection emails (except Sundays)
delivered straight to your inbox from Ash Wednesday to Easter Day.

The daily emails will offer Bible readings, short reflections
and a practical challenge, as well as prayers linked to weekly themes.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-life/what-we-believe/lent-holy-week-and-easter/draw-near-life-giving-habits-lent>

ASH WEDNESDAY WORD SEARCH



ABSTAIN • ALMSGIVING • ASH WEDNESDAY • ASHES • BLESS
CHRISTIAN • CHURCH • CROSS • DESERT • DUST • EASTER • FASTING
FOREHEAD • FORTY DAYS • JESUS • LENT • MASS • MORTALITY
PALM SUNDAY • PENITENCE • PRAYER • PURPLE • REPENTANCE
SACRIFICE • SHROVE TUESDAY • TEMPTATION

THE CHURCH'S ELECTORAL ROLL

is the list of names and addresses of a church's membership.

It is revised each year,
with a new electoral roll prepared every 6 years.

THIS YEAR, 2026, IS A REVISION YEAR

Every person listed on the roll is eligible to attend
the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM).

Who can be on the electoral roll?

To be on the electoral roll a person needs to have been baptised,
be at least 16 years old and either:

- ◆ Living in the parish and a member of the Church of England
or a Church in communion with the Church of England.
- ◆ Not resident in the parish but is a member of the Church of England
(or a Church with which the Church of England is in communion)
and has regularly attended worship in the parish
during the six months prior to enrolment.
- ◆ A member in good standing of a Church which subscribes
to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity and they are prepared
to declare themselves a member of the Church of England,
having regularly attended worship during the six months prior to enrolment.

Please ask **Jill Midgley**, our electoral roll officer,
if you would like to be added to the electoral roll.

This year's February is a perfect
grid with four exact weeks
starting on a Sunday
and ending on a Saturday.
It hasn't happened since 2015
and won't again until 2037!

February							2026
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	

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**



**As part of our Lenten giving
we will be having a collection of foodstuffs
and personal toiletries
in support of Rochdale Foodbank on
Sunday 22 March 2026.**

**Envelopes will be available on the front desk
for monetary donations.**

Your continued generosity is appreciated. Thank you.



Be With Us Today



Father in heaven,
you have given us a mind to know you,
a will to serve you,
and a heart to love you.
Be with us today in all that we do,
so that your light may shine out in our lives.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen

St Thomas More (1478-1535)

ST CHAD'S

Sundays

11.15 am

Choral Eucharist

(Matins on 2nd Sunday of month)

2.00 - 3.30 pm

Asian Christian Fellowship



CONTACT INFO

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

Assistant Curate:

The Revd Pamela Parr
07580 782201

Interim Curate:

The Revd Duke O'Baka-Torto
07918 401 606

Churchwardens:

P Goddard 07564 635900
P Bollington 07566 983798

Treasurer:

M Butterworth

PCC Sec & Newsletter:

L Goddard

Focal Lead:

L Goddard

Asian Christian Fellowship:

Janice Julius 07983 388169

<https://rochdaleparishchurches.co.uk>

www.facebook.com/rochdaleparishchurches

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

ST MARY IN THE BAUM

Sundays 9.15 am

Holy Communion*

* BCP service week 1

Churchwarden:

A Pollock 07974 191 246

ST LUKE'S DEEPLISH

Sundays 10.00 am

Holy Communion, Family Worship
or Service of the Word

Wednesday 11.00 am Morning Prayer

Churchwarden:

D Smithers 07794 2559865