



Rochdale Parish Church  
of St Chad



**NEWS**

*(Please take one and pass it on)*

March  
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

## **Chad, Bishop of Lichfield**

### **2nd March**

Chad was born in Northumbria, c.364, the youngest of four sons, all of whom became both priests and monks.

They entered the monastery on the isle of Lindisfarne and were taught by St Aidan.

Chad's brother Cedd had founded the abbey at Lastingham and on his brother's death Chad was elected abbot.

During the confusion in ecclesiastical discipline between the Celtic-oriented, Anglo-Saxon hierarchy and the pressure from Rome for conformity, Chad became Bishop of York for a time.

He graciously stepped back with the arrival in Britain of Theodore, who doubted the validity of indigenous consecrations.

This was eventually rectified and Chad became Bishop of Mercia, a huge diocese the centre of which he moved from Repton to Lichfield.

He travelled extensively and became much loved for his wisdom and gentleness in otherwise difficult situations.

Chad became a victim of the plague that was prevalent at the time, dying on 2 March 672.



**St Chad**  
born c.634  
died 2 March 672



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

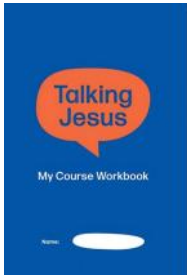
Please see Pat Asten, Lyn Taylor or other Guild member.

Thank you.



➤ Dates for your Diary ◀

**SUNDAY 1 MARCH**  
The Second Sunday of Lent  
11.15 am at St Chad's  
Holy Communion



**WEDNESDAY 4 MARCH**  
10.00 am at St Luke's Deeplish  
Week 2 of the Lent Study - "Talking Jesus"  
11.00 am at St Luke's Deeplish  
Morning Prayer

**THURSDAY 5 MARCH**  
10.30 am at St Chad's  
Church Cleaning  
"Everyone Welcome"



**SATURDAY 7 MARCH**  
10.00 am at St Mary in the Baum  
"Quiet Time for Reflection and Prayer"



The door is open, Lord.  
Come, sit beside me for a little while,  
that I may quietly rest in your presence  
before we step out together into the world.

*from: [faithandwisdom.com](http://faithandwisdom.com)*

## 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.



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



➤ Dates for your Diary ◀



**SUNDAY 8 MARCH**  
The Third Sunday of Lent  
11.15 am at St Chad's  
Matins

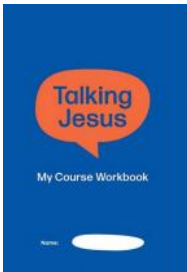


**WEDNESDAY 11 MARCH**  
10.00 am - 12 noon at St Chad's

**Friends Together  
Bereavement  
Support Group**



Light Refreshments Available  
Everyone Welcome



**WEDNESDAY 11 MARCH**  
10.00 am at St Luke's Deeplich  
Week 3 of the Lent Study - "Talking Jesus"  
11.00 am at St Luke's Deeplich  
Morning Prayer

**THURSDAY 12 MARCH**  
11.30 am at St Chad's  
Church Cleaning  
"Everyone Welcome"





Once again another year has flown by and our journey around the sun has brought us to the **VERNAL EQUINOX**, marking the first day of Spring in the astronomical calendar.

The word *equinox* comes from the Latin *equi* (equal) and *nox* (night) and in the Northern Hemisphere the Spring/Vernal Equinox is around 20 March and the Autumn Equinox around 22 September.

As the Earth orbits around the sun it tilts on its axis and the equinox occurs when the tilt is perpendicular to the rays of the sun resulting in the sun shining directly on to the equator, and so the day and night are of equal length.

The transition between the seasons is marked by the equinox and solstice, key milestones as the earth makes its orbit around the sun each year.

This year's Spring/Vernal Equinox is at 14:48\* GMT on **Friday 20 March** and we can continue to enjoy those two minutes of extra daylight each day, or an hour each month.

To balance the equation the nights gradually shorten by two minutes each day, continuing until we arrive at the Summer Solstice which is at 09:28\* GMT+1 on Sunday 21 June this year. Then the days begin to shorten and the nights lengthen again each day until we arrive at the Autumn Equinox at 01:19\* GMT+1 on Wednesday 23 September, and then on we go again to the Winter Solstice which will be at 20:53\* GMT on Monday 21 December.

To be accurate, the length of day and night on the equinox are only nearly, and not exactly, equal - the Sun appears in the sky as a disc with the top half rising above the horizon ahead of the centre, also the sunlight is being refracted by the Earth's atmosphere resulting in 12 hrs and 10 mins of daylight on the equinox. A few days before the Spring/Vernal Equinox (and a few days after the Autumn Equinox) we have the *equilux* when the day and night *are* equal.

So, with the arrival of Spring we can enjoy those two extra minutes of daylight each day as the rhythm of the seasons continues and our journey around the Sun takes us on towards the Summer Solstice.

\* all London Times

Linda G.

➤ Dates for your Diary ◀



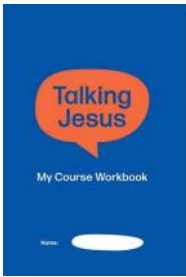
**SUNDAY 15 MARCH**

The Fourth Sunday of Lent

▪ Mothering Sunday ▪

11.15 am at St Chad's

Holy Communion



**WEDNESDAY 18 MARCH**

10.00 am at St Luke's Deeplish

Week 4 of the Lent Study - "Talking Jesus"

11.00 am at St Luke's Deeplish

Morning Prayer

**THURSDAY 19 MARCH**

10.30 am at St Chad's

Church Cleaning

"Everyone Welcome"



**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.**

## Collection of Foodstuffs and Personal Toiletries - SUNDAY 22 MARCH

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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**



➤ Dates for your Diary ◀

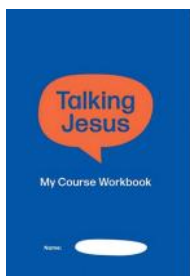


**SUNDAY 22 MARCH**

The Fifth Sunday of Lent

11.15 am at St Chad's

Holy Communion



**WEDNESDAY 25 MARCH**

10.00 am at St Luke's Deeplish

Week 5 of the Lent Study - "Talking Jesus"

11.00 am at St Luke's Deeplish

Morning Prayer

**THURSDAY 26 MARCH**

10.30 am at St Chad's

Church Cleaning

"Everyone Welcome"



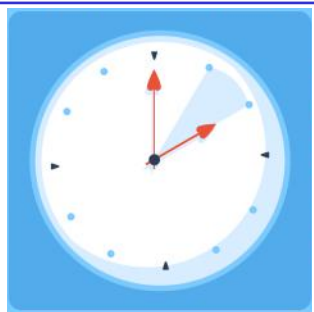
● DON'T FORGET ●

THE CLOCKS GO

**FORWARD**

BY AN HOUR

SUNDAY 29 MARCH AT 1.00 AM



➤ Dates for your Diary ◀

SUNDAY 29 MARCH



10.15 am at St Chad's  
JOINT SERVICE TODAY  
followed by a Bring and Share Lunch  
▪ Everyone Welcome ▪

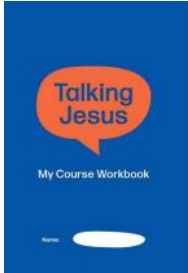
MONDAY 30 MARCH

10.00 am at Manchester Cathedral  
CHRISM MASS



**TUESDAY 31 MARCH**

**10.00 am at St Mary in the Baum  
Morning Prayer with Stations of the Cross**



**WEDNESDAY 1 APRIL**

**10.00 am at St Luke's Deeplish  
Week 6 of the Lent Study - "Talking Jesus"**

**11.00 am at St Luke's Deeplish  
Morning Prayer**

**THURSDAY 2 APRIL**

**MAUNDY THURSDAY**

**10.00 am at St Luke's Deeplish  
Holy Communion**

**7.00 pm at St Chad's  
Holy Communion with Foot Washing**



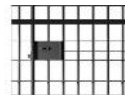
**THURSDAY 2 APRIL  
10.30 am at St Chad's  
Church Cleaning  
"Everyone Welcome"**

**FRIDAY 3 APRIL - GOOD FRIDAY**

**10.00 am at St Luke's Deeplish  
Service of the Word**

**12 noon at St Mary in the Baum  
The Seven Last Words of Jesus on the Cross**





## A VIEW BEHIND BARS - COLLISION COURSE

The think about Lent is that our intentions – rather like New Year's Resolutions – often collide with the difficulty of the real path we happen to be walking on and the default settings of our attitudes and habits grown over many years.

I walked up to the gate, using words of a daily prayer that includes: *'Help me to give myself away to others, being kind to everyone I meet'* and knew, when I walked out of the gate at the end of the day, that I'd blown it at numerous points of the day!

Jacob, determined in his new Christian life, came to a Bible study where we talked about thinking of things that were good and excellent as the apostle Paul had done whilst in prison. He came up with all the right and encouraging answers. Then he gave vent to the utter annoyance and anger he'd felt about the stupid (not his word) individuals who were making his life difficult and the equally stupid (not his word) individuals who couldn't see the right way to live and needed to hear it from him.

Learned habits and responses come crashing in, when a new way of handling conflicts or different values is needed. The art of persuasion has often not been learned; a sensitivity to how someone else is feeling or why they might behave as they do, is not

inbuilt, though it's wanted for themselves!

Jacob struggles now with wanting to change but not being able to do it fast enough because his old self is still clinging on. He has come to see that his desire to be pumped up like an Amazon was about impressing people with strength but, in his words, meant he was really full of nothing inside. So, he says, he didn't even attract the best people because he used to find himself with people who were also full of nothing on the inside.

He wants it to be different but is impatient for the 'different' to come.

Tom is someone who has come to realise his lifelong habit of drinking is behind the cause of his offence. After a binge to try to help cope with his wife's death, which had come all too soon after his son's death, he argued with a friend and shoved him down the stairs, resulting in his death. The most massive mistake of a life full, to that point, of love, everyday work and gentle progress up the social ladder, mixed with some tragedy. In his retirement age state, he's afraid that when he's released, despite best intentions, he may revert to panic in being alone and using alcohol as his best and worst friend. I am about to point him towards our chapel volunteer who helps especially with

people who've had this kind of problem but, of course, no amount of thinking about things inside can properly prepare him for the real world outside.

I passed the group of men who wanted to know if I was about to visit 'FingerBob'. They seemed to think it was hilarious. I discovered that FingerBob was someone who had trapped his finger in the cell door and taken the top off. Truly hilarious. I don't suppose they'd be laughing if it was them but the desire for camaraderie and blokeiness can overcome the most basic strands of compassion.

Meanwhile, amidst the mackerel curry on Sunday evening, there was Rob, complaining (out of principle) that he was cold and had to walk around dressed *'like this all the time'*. 'This' being his dressing gown, boxers and socks. He could have asked for some clothes from the stash left in the Reception when men have gone from the prison but his pride won't let him do that, so he waits until the issue over why his clothes haven't followed him from his last establishment, is sorted.

So it goes. The resolve to stick with the 'narrow path' of Christian living, versus the perceived need to keep training physically, which means you just don't have the time for chapel. Sam has made excuse after excuse. I've known

they were excuses and have made nothing of it until now. I asked him why he'd passed on a message which was false via someone else to account for his non-attendance after his conversation full of apparent enthusiasm earlier in the same day.

I don't go to pester these guys into bucking up our count. I go because they have seen something they think they can aim for and then taken their eyes off the prize. He admitted *'They were just excuses'* before telling me that he didn't know what was wrong but there was a lot of pressure somehow and he's worried about his parole and new conditions and his family and....and....and....

Where the rubber hits the road, we say. The hard reality of a decision, a direction, a choice, a commitment. The clash of aspirations, old habits dying hard, responsibilities, torn loyalties. Jesus asked his disciples once *'Do you want to leave as well?'* One of them recognised that, whether he went gladly or reluctantly, he couldn't turn back: *'To whom would we go? You have the words of eternal life'*.

Whether it's a life of faith in God or just a life that's different from the one they've lived up to now, the decision of whether to go forward or turn back is anything but easy.

Hilary Edgerton – Chaplain  
HMP Buckley Hall, Rochdale  
February 2026

## ST CHAD'S

### Sundays

11.15 am

Choral Eucharist

*(Matins on 2nd Sunday of month)*

2.00 - 3.30 pm

Asian Christian Fellowship



## CONTACT INFO

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

### **Assistant Curate:**

The Revd Pamela Parr  
07580 782201

### **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](http://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.*

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## 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