

Rochdale Parish Church of St Chad



NEWS

(Please take one and pass it on)

August
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.*



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



A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers

SUNDAY SERVICES AT ST CHAD'S

11.15 AM

2 August - Trinity 9

Choral Eucharist, led by The Revd Anne Gilbert
Area Dean of Rochdale

9 August - Trinity 10

Matins, led by The Revd James Read

16 August - Trinity 11

Choral Eucharist, led by The Revd Pamela Parr

23 August - Trinity 12

Choral Eucharist, led by The Revd Pamela Parr

30 August - Trinity 13

● JOINT SERVICE AT ST CHAD'S - 10.00 am ●

Choral Eucharist, led by The Revd Canon Sharon Jones

6 September - Trinity 14

Choral Eucharist, led by The Revd Anne Gilbert
Area Dean of Rochdale

13 September - Trinity 15

Matins, led by The Revd James Read

20 September - Trinity 16

Choral Eucharist, led by The Revd Pamela Parr

Confirmation Service at 3.00 pm

with The Rt Revd Mark Davies, Bishop of Middleton

27 September - Trinity 17

Choral Eucharist, led by The Revd Pamela Parr

4 October - HARVEST FESTIVAL

Choral Eucharist, led by The Revd Anne Gilbert
Area Dean of Rochdale

This month we have the bonus of a **partial solar eclipse** on 12 August occurring at 19:12 BST and ending at 20:06 BST, but you will need to be in the West Country or on the Isles of Scilly to see this (clear skies permitting!).

The 'arc of totality' will be in a giant arc that will move across the skies from Northern Russia and then on to Greenland, Iceland, Spain and Northern Portugal.

The UK will be missing out on seeing a total solar eclipse - there hasn't been one since 11 August 1999 - until 23 September 2090, but this month's eclipse will give us an opportunity to see the moon covering some 90-95% of the sun with astronomers saying this will give us the most impressive solar eclipse visible from Britain since that much-remembered event 27 years ago.

Look to the night sky on Friday 28th August and, clear skies permitting, you will see the full moon at 05:18 am BST, also a **partial lunar eclipse** beginning at 02:23 BST and ending at 06:13 BST.

The August full moon is also known as the **Sturgeon Moon**, taking its name from the large number of sturgeon that were found in the North American Great Lakes at this time of the year.

The Lake sturgeon is the oldest and largest native species of fish in the Great Lakes, the largest surface freshwater system in the world, and is also the largest freshwater fish found in the American continent.

This ancient fish first appeared in the fossil record some 136 millions years ago. It also has a long life span, with males living up to 55 years, females up to 150 years (as long as they evade being caught!), can grow up to 9 ft in length and 275 lbs in weight, although more typically to 4 ft and 50 lbs, and was an essential food source to the Native American tribes that lived in the area.



The Native Indians were known for only taking sufficient for their needs, however others have not been so careful and the lake Sturgeon is now endangered in many North American states due to overfishing, loss of habitat and pollution, but there are conservation programmes in place that are enabling the numbers of this ancient fish to gradually recover.

Linda G.

You are invited to take part in the 2026

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	
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AUGUST		21	
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On this day in August...

1 August - International Beer Day

1 August 1740 - Rule Britannia sung in public for the first time in Thomas Arne's 'Masque Alfred' at Cliveden, Buckinghamshire, the country home of Frederick Prince of Wales. Words by James Thomson, music by Thomas Arne.

3 August 1492 - Christopher Columbus set sail from Palos in Spain on the first of his voyages to the Americas, with a fleet of 3 ships - Niña, Pinta and Santa Maria.

3 August 1926 - Britain's first set of electric traffic lights appear on the streets of London.

4 August 1693 - According to popular legend, Champagne is said to have been invented on this day by French monk Dom Pierre Pérignon.

6 August 1809 - the British poem Alfred Lord Tennyson was born in Somersby, Lincolnshire. Appointed Poet Laureate after Wordsworth's death in 1850.

7 August 1606 - first known performance of Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, staged in the Great Hall at Hampton Court for James I and his brother-in-law King Christian IV of Denmark.

7 August 1840 - Britain bans the employment of climbing boys as chimney sweeps

7 August - National Cycle to Work Day

8 August 1588 - the English fleet defeated the Spanish Armada in a nine-hour battle off the coast at Gravelines, northern France, the first major naval gun battle under sail, saving England from invasion.

9 August – Book Lovers Day

13 August - National Prosecco Day

16 August 1819 - Peterloo Massacre at St Peter's Fields, Manchester

18 August - Pinot Noir Day

22 August 1485 - Richard III became the last English king to die in battle, defeated by Henry Tudor at the Battle of Bosworth Field in Leicestershire. This battle was the last major battle during the Wars of the Roses and marked the end of the Plantagenet dynasty and the beginning of the Tudor dynasty.

24 August 79 A.D. - Vesuvius, an active volcano in southern Italy, erupted and destroyed the cities of Pompeii, Stabiae and Herculaneum.

24 August 1875 - Matthew Webb began his attempt to swim from Dover in Kent to Calais in France. He completed his swim at 10.40 am the following morning after 22 hours in the water, becoming the first person to swim the English Channel.

27 August 1900 - Britain's first long distance bus service began between London and Leeds, with the journey time being 2 days!

28 August - International Cabernet Sauvignon Day

30 August 1797 - Mary Shelley, author of *Frankenstein*, was born in London.

30 August 1860 - Britain's first tramway opened in Birkenhead, Liverpool.

31 August - National Cinema Day.

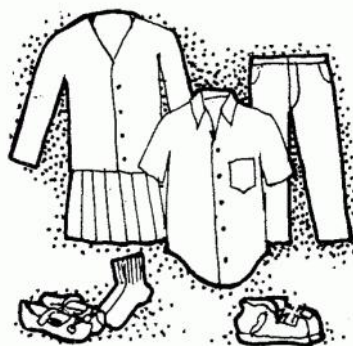
SCHOOL UNIFORMS

'Uniform For All' is a community uniform recycling project, set up with the aim of helping parents who are struggling to afford school uniform.

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

www.facebook.com/Uniform4A

or look on the website:

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

MUSIC ON SATURDAYS AT ST CHAD'S

➤ SATURDAY 1 AUGUST - 12 noon ◀

Richard Haslam - Classical Guitar

➤ SATURDAY 22 AUGUST - 12 noon ◀

Gabriel Rhodes (*baritone*) & Evan Watkinson (*piano*)

Entrance Fee £6 - pay on the door

including light refreshments beforehand

Doors open 11.20 am - refreshments available from 11.30 am

Further info: 01706 639162 eMail: jm_stchadschurch@outlook.com



CHURCH OPEN DAYS 2026

Our historic Grade 2* listed church
will be open 2.00 - 4.00 pm on Wednesdays and Thursdays from

2 JUNE to 10 SEPTEMBER

and then continuing through the

HERITAGE WEEKEND

(organised by The National Trust)

FRIDAY 11 SEPTEMBER : 2 - 4 pm

SATURDAY 12 SEPTEMBER : 11.30 am - 4 pm

SUNDAY 13 SEPTEMBER : 12.30 - 4 pm

Pease note that our Sunday Services of Worship will be at their usual times



60th Anniversary

Congratulations to Pat and Rod Asten
who will be celebrating their 60th Wedding Anniversary
on Thursday 6 August 2026.



Rod and Pat met at St Chad's youth club whilst Rod was in the choir and Pat was leader of a very successful church Guide company.

They married in August 1966 at St Chad's, with Pat being given away by her brother as she was the vicar's daughter and married by her father.

They have four children, all of whom were baptised and confirmed at the church.

The only blip in family life occurred when youngest son Chris had a terrible accident leaving him totally paralysed and spending 7 months in the Southport spinal unit, and during this time the support of church members was overwhelming.

Although Pat and Rod enjoy many activities outside the church, they have both attended and been very involved with St Chad's for over 70 years.

Rod was a member of the choir for over 40 years, leaving the choir to be churchwarden for 9 years, and has also been responsible for many tasks within the church including the maintenance of the building.

Both have been members of the PCC, Pat for a short time in the early days and Rod for a much longer time until recently.





As leader of the large Guide company, Pat was very much involved in church activities. The highlight of the year was the annual Guide camp, helped and supported by church parishioners. Camps took place in all parts of Britain and also a skiing holiday in Switzerland where they sited at the Swiss International Guide Centre. Rod also went to the camps with the Guides, often driving a minibus and helping with all the heavy work.

Pat is presently a member of the Altar Guild and responsible for organising refreshments after the weekly services and also special occasions within the church.

To celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary they will be spending 6 days in Holland with all their family - 16 of them altogether - staying in 3 adjacent houses situated in the Safari Park of the largest wild life zoo in the Netherlands.

Can you find the missing link words?

GRASS ____ EYES
 ICE ____ MOON
 WORLD ____ ROOM
 SPARE ____ TIME
 PILLOW ____ OFF
 NEW ____ POT
 FILTER ____ WEIGHT
 RAIN ____ HANGER
 UMBRELLA ____ DOWN
 RAIN ____ SCONE
 SUN ____ SQUARE
 WIND ____ VISION
 GLUE ____ LUCK
 TEA ____ BASKET
 MILK ____ PASTE
 COFFEE ____ PAPER
 ALE ____ BOAT
 BEER ____ PARTY
 REFRESHMENT ____ DIVIDER
 DRINKS ____ MINISTER
 WINE ____ CUTTER
 NEEDLE ____ BLANK

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7				1			
	9		8	1			
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				6	5	3	
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8					9	3	
9	4		5			7	

Bible Knowledge...

- Who was Jesus talking to when he taught the Lord's Prayer?
- Complete the Beatitude:
"Blessed are the pure in heart..."
- Which disciple was a tax collector?
- Which city was the letter to Philemon written from?
- Which book comes after the book of Job?
- How many horsemen are there in Revelation chapter 6?
- What was the name of Solomon's son who succeeded him as king?
- How did the people listening to the Sermon on the Mount view Jesus' teachings?
- What does faith require to make it a living faith?
- Where did Jesus first see Nathanael?



Talking with Jordan is something akin to taking a mouthful of popping candy: only ever normal for a few seconds before an explosion of regular, rapid fire surprises hits the senses and then dissolves into a wary wondering if it's safe to open your mouth again. Then there's always a little bead of 'Ha, Ha! Caught you!' still left, lingering just when you thought it had all come to an end.

After bamboozling me with comments hard to keep up with about Jesus, Bible reading, gospels, and the Park Run, interspersed with the occasional joke which I didn't have time to process and work out in my tiny brain, we fell into conversation about running. Being from a fell-running family, it was easy to chat about the strength he could gain by running hills as well as tracks when he gets out and wants to join a club again. I promised to get a bit of info off the internet for him.

When I took it to him a couple of days later he proclaimed loudly to the officer nearby – still a dozen metres away from where I was approaching – *"I knew you'd come*

back!" Many people don't. The constraints of the regime frequently mean that men can't follow up on their requests or on what others have said they would do for them.

Unknowing is frustrating for all of us. I try to return when someone asks if I can help, to let them know what I've managed to do.

Unexpected conversations come in varied guises. It was slightly weird that a rugged thirty-something year old, relatively new Christian prisoner should dare to talk about his innermost sexual struggles with a spinster chaplain opposite.

It was differently but equally remarkable that a similarly rugged, and often belligerent, prisoner should get up from his Sunday dinner to apologise for speaking badly to me a week before. Indeed he *had* spoken badly to me and lumped me in with all the other people who he felt were causing problems for him.

Yet he had reasons for being angry and upset, since he needs an operation for a serious cancer and knows that if it fails he may have less than six months to live. He

complains that the Prison service has not got him the treatment he needs quickly enough.

As one contemplates his mortality, another ended the life of one of God's creatures. "Thou shalt not kill" was followed by a loud 'splat' as the horsefly that had sunk its little biters into Martin's neck, buzzed across Kyle's view.

Merely stunned, it was then finished off by the neighbour, all happily interrupting the sermon in our chapel service.

We got back on track but Martin's itchy lump got bigger and there followed a kind of modelling display of lumps and bumps caused by annoying insects in the previous few days.

Not all conversation is so direct, obvious and unregulated.

Asked to give a bit of time to the Gypsy, Romany and Travellers group during their Equalities month (don't get me started on the difficulties that trying to be 'equal' to all groups can cause, despite good motivation), I had offered a little time of Bible study and prayers, which was requested by one of the group last year and was appreciated.

continued on page 12...

GARDENING ON WEDNESDAYS AT ST CHAD'S

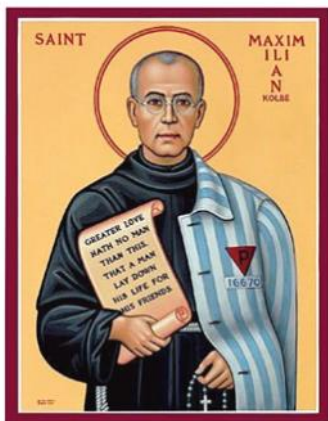
1 - 3 PM

"WEATHER PERMITTING"



Church Cleaning at St Chad's Thursdays 10.30 am - 12 noon





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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Linda G.

I was used and manipulated!

A group arrived and claimed they knew nothing about the idea of prayers and didn't want that; they wanted to have their group, some decent celebration food and chance to talk about their concerns and issues together, along with the Equalities staff head.

Somewhat confused, and noticing that the key instigator of this request wasn't present, I suggested a compromise of ten minutes only with me, followed by their meeting.

Some agreed, others went out.

Those who stayed seemed to be calm and grateful.

The others claimed that *'They only stayed out of respect for you, Miss'*.

Angry with the man who had discussed the programme with me, I went to find him later in the day. His claim was that everyone *did* know and he chose to stay away because he knew they were going to try to make trouble in badgering the Equalities person and kick up a fuss by their feigned ignorance of what had actually been planned.

This group seems to hold as a badge of belonging, the large chip on their shoulders and the opportunity to

complain about how overlooked they are.

My own calm was recovered by the touching encounter with Dale who announced that I had to come and look at his churches! Whatever the reason, Dale had decided to make churches his art project.

With cardboard, bits of rubber, matchsticks, cloth and various other junk items, he has constructed and painted three different church buildings, copied from pictures in books. They're far from perfect and they are certainly fragile, but he was proud and when, at the third attempt, I finally found him and his constructions in the art room together, he was thrilled that I'd taken the time to go and see him. He wants them to go to the chapel. I'm not sure we can accommodate them anywhere but I do hope that the sense of satisfaction will live on.

Unexpected. We can too often get stuck in the ordinary when we should be often expecting the unexpected and discovering the explosion of surprise that may delight us.

Hilary Edgerton
Chaplain, HMP Buckley Hall
July 2026



Sow a seed of love
into the hearts of those
who are lonely.
Sow a seed of peace
into the hearts of those
who are anxious.
Sow a seed of joy
into the hearts of those
who are mournful.
Sow a seed of hope
into the hearts of those
who are hope-less
that, fed and watered
in your Spirit's flow
might germinate
and in due time, blossom.

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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

Churchwardens:

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P Bollington 07566 983798

Treasurer:

M Butterworth

PCC Sec & Newsletter:

L Goddard

Focal Leader:

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