Rochdale Parish Church
of St Chad



NEWS

(Please take one and pass it on)

20th
September
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.



HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE

at St Chad's
Sunday 4 October 2024
11.15 am

At our Harvest Festival Service
we will be collecting
monetary donations,
food and personal toiletry items
in support of Rochdale Foodbank.

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



Sunday Services at St Chad's

20 September - Trinity 16
11.15 am - Said Eucharist
led by The Revd Pamela Parr

3.00 pm - Confirmation Service with Eucharist
led by The Rt Revd Mark Davies, Bishop of Middleton
Confirmation Candidates should arrive by 2.00 pm to allow time for reflection and prayer.

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27 September - Trinity 17
11.15 am - Choral Eucharist
led by The Revd Pamela Parr

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4 October - Harvest Festival
11.15 am - Choral Eucharist
led by The Revd Anne Gilbert, Area Dean of Rochdale

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11 October - Trinity 19
11.15 am - Matins
led by The Revd Sue Morgan

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18 October - Trinity 20
11.15 am - Choral Eucharist
led by The Revd Pamela Parr

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25 October - Bible Sunday
11.15 am - Choral Eucharist
led by The Revd Pamela Parr
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The 2026

St Swithun's Challenge

ended on 23 August

Rainfall was recorded on **16** out of 40 days.

So far, we've raised

£563*

If you've already handed in your donation,
"Thank you"

Otherwise, please do this as soon as possible
to enable us to finalise the total raised this year.

*****including Gift Aid



CHURCH OPEN DAYS & HERITAGE WEEKEND 2026

Graham Knox would like to thank the volunteers who have given their time to enable the success of this event for another year.

The Early Doors Club is coming to Rochdale,
opening at St Chad's Church
with a very special first show.

Liam Fender

Friday 25 September 2026

A songwriter of real depth and honesty,
Liam crafts songs that are raw, reflective and quietly powerful,
rooted in classic songwriting with subtle Americana influences.
He's also **Sam Fender's big brother,**
though one listen tells you he's built something entirely his own.
It's the perfect way to open a new chapter for The Early Doors Club,
in a building that's been part of Rochdale for over 850 years.



St Chad's Church, Rochdale **Friday 25 September 2026**
Doors 5 pm, finish by 8 pm **Pay What You Can**
Book your place: https://events.humanitix.com/liam-fender
#EarlyDoorsClub #Rochdale

More Early Doors Club events for your diary:
Fridays - 23 October - 13 November - 18 December - 2026

HARVEST CELEBRATION

at St Luke's Church
Salkeld Street • Rochdale • OL11 1PS

Saturday 3rd October 2026

5.30 - 8.00 pm

Dancing - Bingo - Games

Potato Pie or Cheese and Onion Pie
followed by Cake

Tea/Coffee will be provided but you can bring your own drinks

If you don't require food the event is free

✶ £5 ✶

(children may share a meal)

Please buy meal tickets in advance
so we know how much food to order





Come along and join in the fun - bring your friends.
The more people there are then the merrier it will be.

Contact Doreen Smithers for tickets - 07794 2559865

Music on Saturdays at St Chad's

➢ **Saturday 10 October - 12 noon** ≺

VOCI VOICES

Mixed Voice Ensemble with Jonathan Ellis on piano.
A very welcome return of this well-known group by request.

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➢ **Saturday 14 November - 12 noon** ≺



Stephen Laidlaw ***(violoncello)***
with
Chris Pulleyn ***(piano)***



Bridge - Sonata : Beethoven Variations
and
Schumann - Short Pieces

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➢ **Admission £6 - pay on door** ≺

Doors open 11.30 am with light refreshments available before the concert

PLEASE DO COME ALONG AND ENJOY THESE CONCERTS
IN THE WONDERFUL SETTING OF ST CHAD'S CHURCH



The Franciscan 800 years Pilgrimage of Peace

It is 800 years since St Francis died and as part of marking this anniversary year Anglican Franciscans, mostly of the UK, decided to make a pilgrimage of peace, reconciliation and hope, walking from Alnmouth in Northumberland to Plaistow in east London.

They are traveling via the various Friaries, which makes for a rather indirect root. It started on 25th July and hopes to finish on St Francis Day, 4th October. The plan is to overnight in churches and church halls.

On 6th August it was St Chad's, for which 'thank you' for opening your doors and giving hospitality to us!

I joined the pilgrimage for a few days from Hebden Bridge to New Mills via Rochdale. For me it was a joyful, at times deeply moving experience.



From the moment I joined I felt a deep sense of belonging to this little, mobile, diverse, united, Spirit filled community.

Each day we had a varied mix of people, some Franciscans, others not, and not all committed Christians.

Some joined us for a half day or full day, others for several days... some, particularly friars and sisters, for 2-3 weeks and one young woman hoped to do all the walk.

We met all sorts of people briefly along the way, short interactions, interest aroused, kind, encouraging words offered, and laughter. I hope that all felt the peace and presence of God amongst us as I did.

The walking, and the rests, brought forth good conversations, new friendships, relationships strengthened, and a greater understanding of one another; the time just slipped away.

We met a variety of paths and roads, different types of countryside and urban areas - all around the beauty and wonder of nature. We enjoyed fresh air, mixed weathers, creatures of water, land and air, and I thought how much I take for granted.

At the end of each day, sometimes half day, people gave us welcome and generous hospitality, opening their beautiful churches in which to rest, eat, drink, pray, enjoy one another's company and sleep.

And now having received so much in our message of reconciliation, peace, community, unity and our hope in Christ, I must try to live it, and share it, in my day to day life.

James Read TSSF

Autumn Equinox 2026

Wednesday 23 September at 01:06 BST

Once again we've journeyed on from the Summer Solstice in June and will soon be arriving at the Autumn Equinox.

Meteorological Autumn begins on 1 September, but the Autumn Equinox is the first day of Astronomical Autumn and this transitional point is a key stage between the seasons of Autumn and Winter.

As our Earth travels around the Sun its elliptical orbit brings us to the point in the year where both northern and southern hemispheres are illuminated equally by the sun, giving us equal hours of daytime and night-time, hence 'equinox'.

We'll continue to lose 2 minutes of daylight each day as we travel on towards this year's Winter Solstice on Monday 21 December, and the shortest day of the year.

The full moon nearest to the autumnal equinox is the Harvest Moon, this year on 26 September. It was said that the light from this moon provided farmers and farm workers with extra light to enable them to work late into the night around this time and harvest the crops, and no doubt they still take advantage of this.

The Autumnal Equinox also provides us with an increased chance of being able see the spectacular Aurora Borealis displays, or Northern Lights, that can occur In the higher latitudes of the northern hemisphere due to increased geomagnetic activities around this time.



Keats called autumn the 'Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness', and it's this season that we remember for the harvest and harvest festivals along with the temperature cooling and the nights beginning to "draw in".



The deciduous trees prepare for winter as the chemical chlorophyll in their leaves, which has made them green, declines to allow the other chemicals to become more prominent and so display a kaleidoscope of reds, yellows and ambers before the leaves fall. (Did you know that some of the chemicals responsible for this change in colour are the same ones that give carrots (beta-carotenes) and egg yolks (luteins) their colours?)

The word "fall" was actually a common term in England until around the 17th century, deriving from the shortening of the phrase "fall of the leaf" and may explain why Americans use this word to describe the Autumn season as their English ancestors took it with them when emigrating to those shores.

The word "Autumn" came into use here around the 18th century, deriving from the French term Automne, and one reason for its use may have been when the upper-classes of English society wanted to adopt a more refined vocabulary to separate them from the lower and working class population.

According to Greek mythology, autumn began after Hades abducted Persephone to be the Queen of the Underworld. Her mother was Demeter, goddess of the harvest, and in her distress caused all the crops on Earth to die until her daughter was allowed to return, marking spring.

In conclusion, it's September and Autumn is here… enjoy the season!

Linda G.

Michaelmas is celebrated on 29 September, traditionally the last day of the year's harvest season, and in medieval times the day used by farmers to mark the changing of the seasons.



Coventry Cathedral's "St Michael's Victory over the Devil " by Epstein

It's also the time of year that darker nights and colder days begin - winter is coming - and people believed negative forces were stronger in the darkness and that they would need stronger defences to protect them during the later months of the year, so the Michaelmas celebrations are associated with encouraging protection during the dark of the months ahead.

Michaelmas is also one of the four 'quarter days' of the year, the others being Lady Day on 25 March, Midsummer on 24 June, and Christmas on 25 December.

Being close to the solstices or equinoxes, these days are three months apart and were the four days of the year when servants would be hired, rents becoming due or new leases started.

It is also the festival of Michael and All Angels. Michael is one of the principal angelic warriors, the protector against the dark of the night, and the Archangel who fought against Satan and his evil angels, hurling Lucifer (the devil / Satan) down from Heaven for his treachery.

> Rev 12:7-9 *7 Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. 8 But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. 9 The great dragon was hurled down - that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.* (NRSV)

The Bible mentions many angels, but only four are called by name:
Gabriel, Uriel, Raphael and Michael.

Archangel Michael leads and supervises the other archangels. He is a warrior and the powerful agent of God who wards off evil from God's people and delivers peace to them at the end of their life on earth.

According to English folklore we shouldn't eat blackberries after Michaelmas Day because the devil landed in a prickly bramble bush after being thrown out of Heaven, and in his annoyance scorched the fruit with his fiery breath as well as stamping and spitting on the fruit and cursing it.



The story continues by telling us that this curse is renewed each year and it's considered to be very unlucky to pick blackberries after Michaelmas.

Linda G.

URGENT

PLEASE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT Rochdale foodbank

The 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)

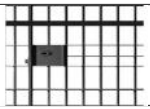
Their sign will be on the door

There are also in-store donation points at
Asda Dane Street, Tesco Silk Street
and other supermarkets



HUNGER KNOWS NO SEASON

This link gives up-to-date info on items required:
https://rochdale.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/
(currently everything on the Foodbank's shopping list)



Tracy had already been at work for a good while when I opened the door to Comms building to get my radio. Tracy cleans (at high speed) some of the admin buildings and visitor lodge.

She was standing, head lowered as she said to me *'My friend's gone'.* I prepared my sympathetic face, knowing that she owned horses and one had died a year or so back. Perhaps there had been another sad demise.

I followed her gaze…into the corner of the room. *He's been there for days. I've avoided cleaning there but he's dead now.'* The most humungous spider was withered and bent in the cobweb of its own making and now it was headed for the hoover.

The news from Ground Patrol that day was staggering. I had asked if it had been busy. Not so bad today, they said but yesterday there had been no fewer than fourteen calls for 'Code Blue' which means someone was unresponsive, possibly not breathing. Healthcare and the First Response team had been back and forth like yo-yos checking on people under the influence of drugs of one kind or another.

The ambulance crews had been called to some of those incidents, occasionally stood down but sometimes attending. I wonder how they react when they receive the call to Buckley Hall once again. Do eyes roll at least some of the time with these non-judgmental paramedics?

There has been a huge increase in drone occurrences lately. Fair weather between midnight and 3 am is the key time. Flight can be remarkably precisely controlled and several parcels have been retrieved. The criminals are always one step ahead.

Code Blue, especially is it's just before a lockdown or just after an unlock, disrupts everything.

The movement of prisoners to work and education won't take place until the prisoner in difficulty is deemed safe, often needing others to be locked back behind doors to allow for careful supervision.

Late unlock means late and reduced work, late roll counts, late medication visits, late gym sessions, late everything.

Some fall into the trap unwittingly – taking a substance with more power

than they realise; others create disturbance deliberately.

Kelvin seemed polite and restrained when I first met him. He had come from another prison and had just heard that his much-loved uncle had died. He knew he wouldn't be allowed to attend the funeral.

Now, a few days later, he was involved in a fight with his cell mate. He marched up to me asking me to help him get a single cell because he couldn't possibly grieve with another person there or make personal phone calls or cope because of his 'bad mental health'.

It's a cry I've heard numerous times. Sadly, it doesn't work that easily.

He tells me he's a Christian but there's no point praying for a single cell – it hasn't worked. I suggested he might pray for patience and good relationships with his cell mate.

He bypassed all suggestions and told me *'It's going to get physical now'.*

Kelvin is savvy enough to know that if he pushes things far enough, he will be marked out as 'high risk' and therefore not suitable to share a cell. He's aiming that way.

And so long as it doesn't go far enough as to get him recategorized to a more secure prison, it may well work.

More welcome disruptions were occurring in the Hive where muscular men were hunched over tiny bits of plastic Lego blocks, building racing cars and bikes. An organisation focusing on Lego and its benefits for mental health (Yes, there is such a group) has come into prison a few times now to help men create, follow instructions and stay patient instead of thinking destructively and distractedly.

It was a different kind of disruption that came with the news that not only prisoners but staff, too, can feel at the end of their tether.

Sadly that was all too true as we absorbed the fact of the death by suicide of a younger member of staff who most of us had known, only a short time after she'd left the prison service.

The regular full staff meeting was abandoned in favour of the chapel being a place to talk, share, cry, eat muffins, drink coffee, reflect. Some people lit candles.

Many just talked. I had more conversations with staff in one

➢➢➢ *p17*

Find the missing LINK words ...

WINTER **** DROP	STEAM **** AGE	POTATO ****** IRON
BLUE ****** KNIFE	HORSE **** BOX	HALF **** WORM
SPRING ***** RINGS	PYGMY ***** CHEESE	MAGNETIC ***** SEA
STEAM ****** ROOM	GOOD **** PAPER	TENNIS **** ROOM
WARM ***** LINE	BUS **** WATCH	PINK ******** GRASS

NAME THE BAKES AND CAKES...

1. Not tall, loaf
2. Chatters a lot
3. Alcohol breaks
4. Dad and relatives
5. In a tizzy, he's in the corner
6. Hand warmers with fish dorsals
7. Crunchy sponge
8. Whisky bread
9. Above the eyes, below the thighs
10. Off white, hooters
11. Oven cook, water hole, pastries
12. Grannies in tiny pieces
13. Alpine bap
14. Former Queen's bath accessory
15. Danube waltz
16. Cold one for tennis
17. Tinkerbell's tea
18. Cockney Christmas eyes
19. Seaside treat
20. Bugs' favourite





morning about things that really matter than I've had in a year before.

This is the time when people ask the 'Why?' and the 'What is life about?' questions.

I was drained when I went home after a morning of that and an afternoon of the usual stuff.

I've taken the funerals of a number of people who've given up on life and the sadness of not having enough purpose or hope to go on is incredibly hard.

For all of us who do have those priceless commodities, there is an obligation to help others to try to find them before the guilt of wondering *'Could I have done more?'* and the sadness of loss sink in.

They have created a small and beautifully decorated room in her memory that will be a place for staff conversations with the Care Team.

Relationships matter so much but yet the lack of gratitude when I told Sam that the Salvation Army Family Tracing service had located his sister left me dumbfounded!

For whatever reasons, they did not supply her contact information but said he could write a letter via their office to be forwarded.

'Why are they making it so hard?' he asked.

After a short few sentences he grudgingly saw me off with *'Alright. Nice one.'*

I wait to see if he will bother with the letter.

And still, after the desert summer we have enjoyed or endured in England this year, there was a bucket to bypass on the corridor behind Bravo Wing, collecting the drips from the leaky roof after the first heavy rainfall in weeks.

Along with the broken cell observation panels, the broken washing machine, the seriously unwell man who believes there are cameras through the floor, people out to get him, who wants me to summon either the Home Office or the King and the childish tantrum going on in CSU cell six, a leaky roof is just one of our many challenges this week.

Just the normal, then!

Hilary Edgerton
Chaplain, HMP Buckley Hall
August 2026

ST CHAD'S

Sundays

11.15 am

Choral Eucharist

(*Matins on 2nd Sunday of month)*

2.00 - 3.30 pm

Asian Christian Fellowship

(*Last Sunday of the month)*



CONTACT INFO

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

Assistant Curate:
The Revd Pamela Parr
07580 782201

Churchwardens:
P Goddard 07564 635900
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