

THE UNITED BENEFICE OF
ST CHAD, ST MARY IN THE BAUM AND ST EDMUND
ROCHDALE

N E W S

(Please take one and pass it on)



Sunday 8 December 2019



on Sunday 8 December 2019



Some Election advice from the Bishop of Liverpool

Let me say again what I say in every election: if you're a Christian, then (after praying, reading and learning) cast your vote in the way that you believe will help the poorest most.

Electing: six suggestions

- 1. Pray, read and think before you choose.*
- 2. Seek the truth. It can still be found, even if it is harder to find nowadays. Dig.*
- 3. Vote. It's not true that they're all a shower, not true that your vote will make no difference. Vote.*
- 4. Vote in such a way as to help the poorest most.*
- 5. Vote for a government – it's not a referendum, not a presidential election.*
- 6. Resist those everywhere who stir up fear of others, Antisemitism, Islamophobia.*

I commend these simple ideas to you – in the hope that they might help you at the moment when, whatever side you choose to take, you take sides; that is, for the moment when you vote.

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***** PLEASE INVITE OTHERS TO COME ALONG TO THESE SERVICES *****

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 22 December at St Chad's

Candlelit Carol Service 3 pm

followed by festive refreshments

Asian Fellowship Christmas Service at 6 pm

Tuesday 24 December at St Chad's

Christingle Service for all the family at 4 pm

Choral Midnight Mass at 11.30 pm

Wednesday 25 December at St Mary's

Holy Communion at 9.30 am

Wednesday 25 December at St Chad's

Christmas Day Choral Eucharist at 11 am



CHRISTINGLE

Tuesday 24 December 4 pm at St Chad's

Helpers needed earlier in the day

to prepare oranges etc.

See Rev Mark.



This month's reflection has been written by *Canon Nick Smeeton* and is shared with you in this week's newsletter.

My father was in the Merchant Navy, and when I was growing up he was away at sea for long periods of time – often six or seven months. As a young child I used to make a 'Coming Home' chart for the last few weeks until he was due ashore. It would be a grid of thirty-or-so boxes and I would colour in and decorate a box each day until he was back.

I always wanted the last boxes I coloured in to be the best; but I never knew when he would actually arrive. The vagaries of weather, shipping ports, air travel and communication (this was the 1970s so no email or mobile phones) meant that sometimes Dad would get home a good few days earlier than expected. And so I had to do my best colouring for each box.

I think this is part of what our Advent waiting is about. Jesus tells us: 'Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.' This season is a time to remind ourselves to keep our discipleship fresh, energetic, the best that it can be. It is a season

when we can reflect honestly on our lives, our world and our relationship with God – but all in the context of his glorious return.

Of course sometimes Dad would be delayed and I would get to the end of my chart and he would still be at sea. When that happened I just had to turn over and start again on the other side. Here we see another aspect of Advent waiting - the call as disciples to keep on going and to keep on trusting. The call to 'run with perseverance the race that is set before us'.

Needless to say when Dad did arrive home there was much joy and celebration. There will be joy and celebration at the end of our Advent waiting, too; we are rightly excited as we wait to celebrate the birth of the baby Jesus. The angel proclaimed 'good news of great joy for all people'. When our advent waiting is over let us make sure that we too have the courage to share that good news and great joy with the world around us.

Canon Nick Smeeton

**Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day
your Lord is coming. *Matthew 24:42***

**Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also
lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run
with perseverance the race that is set before us. *Hebrews 12:1***

**But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you
good news of great joy for all the people" *Luke 2:10***



The great symbol of Advent is the increase of light, and as we begin the second week in Advent two candles will be lit on the Advent wreath, to represent hope and peace, with the increase in light each week symbolizing the coming of the light of the world, Jesus.

Peace is something we all need, not just for the world but in our hearts and lives also. In John 14:27 (NLT), Jesus said, "I am leaving you with a gift - *peace of mind and heart*. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid." It is a powerful statement; indeed, to have peace in both mind and heart is a wonderful gift. This is a time that invites us to prepare our hearts for the arrival of Jesus, the precious child of God who embodies his hope, peace, joy and love for this world, as we prayerfully come to a fuller and deeper understanding of who he is.

The weeks leading up to Christmas can be hectic as we prepare to celebrate with family and friends. You've probably sent your cards, and done most of your gift shopping by now, but have you made an effort to set aside time each day for the reflection and prayer that is an important part of our preparations?

Advent provides us with an opportunity to work towards becoming the best version of ourselves, finding a deep and abiding inner peace and then sharing that with others, especially with those who might need it most. It also invites us to joyfully look forward to Christmas Day itself when we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the son of God - a day to remind us of an event in the past, but also a reminder of things to come.

The prayer of St. Francis of Assisi:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; Where there is injury, pardon; Where there is doubt, faith; Where there is despair, hope; Where there is darkness, light; and Where there is sadness, joy... Divine Master; Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love; For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.





DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

ST CHAD'S

Every Thursday - Place of Welcome 10.30 am - 12 noon

Fri 13 Dec Beech House School Carols and Nativity 10 am

Sun 22 Dec Candlelit Carol Service 3 pm,
followed by festive refreshments

Sun 22 Dec Asian Fellowship Christmas Service at 6 pm

Tue 24 Dec Christingle Service for all the family at 4 pm
Choral Midnight Mass at 11.30 pm

Wed 25 Dec Christmas Day Choral Eucharist at 11 am

2020

Mon 20 Jan, Mon 17 Feb St Chad's PCC 7.30 pm at the Vicarage

Sun 15 Mar St Chad's PCC APCM after the morning service

ST MARY IN THE BAUM

Red Cross Hub: 10 am - 3 pm each Monday

Caring and Sharing Drop-in: Tues 10.30 am - 12.30 pm (approx)

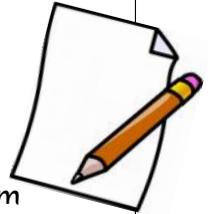
Thur 12 Dec Christmas@College Bank - info on page 6
Decorate the Tree Event 12 - 4pm

Wed 25 Dec Holy Communion at 9.30 am

2020

Mon 20 Jan, Mon 17 Feb St Mary's PCC 2 pm

Sun 29 Mar St Mary's PCC APCM after the morning service



MUSIC AT ST MARY IN THE BAUM

Every Wednesday 12.30 to 1.30 pm **Admission £5**

Refreshments available from 11.30 am

St Mary's Gate/Toad Lane, Rochdale OL16 1DZ

December

11 Louise Taylor soprano with John Gough piano (RNCM staff)

18 Voci Voices Christmas Concert Party:

Elizabeth Ambrose soprano Isobel Jenkins mezzo

David Cane and Simon Horsfield baritones Jonathan Ellis piano

25 Christmas Day - no concert today

2020 New Year's Day (1 January) - no concert today

St Chad's Asian Fellowship extend an invitation to everyone today

Sunday 8 December 1 - 4 pm



White Gift Sunday began in 1904, with an idea from the minister's wife at a small Methodist church in Ohio. The story goes that she wanted to solve the problem of the unequal value of gifts donated, and so by wrapping gifts in white paper the donors would be able to remain anonymous. Everyone would be able to share in the joy of giving to others and no-one would be judged by the value of their gifts.

During the event held at St Chad's you will be invited to place a gift of money inside the white envelopes available and the amount collected will be used to help others.

It is just one way in which we can show God's love along with our caring commitment to people in our community.

Christian Climate Action Rochdale



THE EARTH IS THE LORD'S, AND EVERYTHING IN IT,
THE WORLD, AND ALL WHO LIVE IN IT;
PSALM 24

CHRISTIAN CLIMATE ACTION IS A COMMUNITY OF CHRISTIANS
SUPPORTING EACH OTHER TO TAKE MEANINGFUL ACTION IN THE FACE OF
IMMINENT AND CATASTROPHIC ANTHROPOGENIC CLIMATE CHANGE.
INSPIRED BY JESUS CHRIST AND SOCIAL JUSTICE MOVEMENTS OF THE PAST,
WE CARRY OUT ACTS OF NON-VIOLENT DIRECT ACTION TO URGE THOSE
IN POWER TO MAKE THE CHANGE NEEDED

We are setting up a hub in Rochdale and we invite you to be part of it.
Please come to our first exploratory meeting on **Mon 9th December 2019** 7.30pm
St Edmund's New Vicarage 89 Clement Royds Street ROCHDALE OL12 6PL
All are welcome!

Contact: 0779 520 2955 christianclimateactionroch@gmail.com



St Chad's welcomes visitors from an interfaith study group on Thursday 12 December at 10 am.

Please come along if you would like to help share your faith perspectives and welcome our guests.

10.00 am - Arrival at the church

10.15 to 11.15 am - Church tour and questions

11.15 am - Leave for the mosque

ST MARY IN THE BAUM ♦ THURSDAY 12 DECEMBER ♦ 12 - 4 pm

Decorate the fantastic donated tree
Christmas @ College Bank

St. Marys in the Baum Church, St. Marys Gate, Rochdale

Thursday 12th December 2019 12-4pm

Brew with a Bobby	Tea/Coffee/Soft drinks	Mince Pie & Cakes	
Visit of Santa	Hair cuts	Food	Sing around the tree
New & old toy donations	Christmas Fancy Dress	Have your nails painted	
Gifts	A visit of the Mayor of Rochdale	Clothes Bank	

Christmas music supplied by
rochvalleyradio

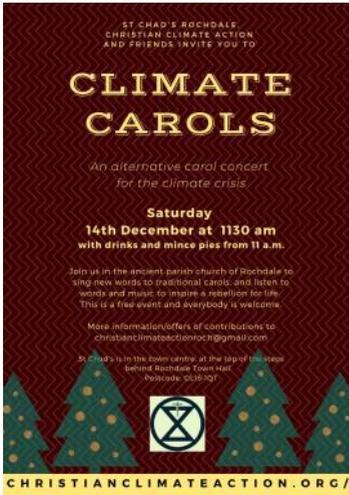
This event is being organised by the amazing PCSO Jodie, and she is delighted to be able to use St Mary's for this event with some of the most marginalised in the town centre.

It would be great to have some church volunteers to be around and support her.

Can any of you please spare an hour just to be around, chat to visitors, make tea etc.

If you can help for an hour (or more!) between 10 and 4, please let Rev Mark know.





ST CHAD'S ROCHDALE
CHRISTIAN CLIMATE ACTION
AND FRIENDS INVITE YOU TO

Climate Carols

14 December - 11.30 am at St Chad's Rochdale
with drinks and mince pies from 11 am

A Carol Service with a difference!

At this special event we will be singing some carols with new words to traditional tunes, some of which can be found on the Christian Climate Action website. Climate Carols will be both fun and profound, facing the truth about the climate emergency and inspiring meaningful action.

See Rev Mark for more information.

YOU ARE INVITED TO A

Christmas Party

A fund-raising event for Rochdale Action with
Destitute Asylum Seekers and Refugees

TUESDAY DECEMBER 17TH
FROM 6.00 PM TO 11.00 PM
DELICIOUS FOOD ♦ RAFFLE ♦ PRIZE QUIZ
CAROL SINGING ♦ DANCING

St Edmund's Vicarage, 89 Clement Royds St,
Rochdale OL12 6PL

Food from Iran and Rochdale

Entry £5. Free to Asylum Seekers and Refugees





There will be a collection of food in support of Rochdale Foodbank at St Chad's on

SUNDAY 15 DECEMBER

As well as food items, we are also collecting toiletries: soap, shower gel, shampoo, deodorant, etc, sanitary items, toothpaste and toothbrushes.

Your continued support is appreciated.

*** ITEMS URGENTLY NEEDED ***

Tinned Meat and Fish, UHT Semi-Skimmed Milk 1 litre

ITEMS IN SHORT SUPPLY

Tinned Custard (or Packet), Tinned Potatoes, Tinned Rice Pudding, Sugar (500gm)

ITEMS IN SURPLUS

Tinned Baked Beans and Vegetable, Pasta (500gm)



ROCHDALE FOODBANK'S COMPLETE SHOPPING LIST

Whole Milk (UHT) (1 Litre)	Tinned Potatoes
Semi-Skimmed Milk (UHT) (1 Litre)	Tinned Rice Pudding
Sugar (500gm)	Tinned Custard (or Packet)
Tea Bags	Tinned Meat
Instant Coffee (Jar)	Tinned Fish
Long Life Fruit Juice	Tinned Fruit
Pasta Sauces	Instant Mash Potatoes
Tomato Ketchup (Small)	Rice (500gm)
Tinned Soups	Pasta (500gm)
Tinned Tomatoes	Jam / Honey (Jar)
Tinned Baked Beans	Breakfast Cereals
Tinned Spaghetti	Biscuits (Packets)
Tinned Vegetables	Snacks / Crisps (etc)

SERVICES OF WORSHIP

St Chad's

Sundays at 11 am

Sung Eucharist (Common Worship)

Matins at 11 am on 2nd Sunday of month

3 pm Asian Christian Fellowship

6.30 pm Evensong (BCP) - dates tbc

St Mary in the Baum

Sundays at 9.30 am Sung Eucharist

(BCP/Common Worship Order Two)

Wednesdays

Holy Communion (BCP) at 10 am

Evening Prayer at 5 pm

CONTACT INFO

Vicar: The Rev'd Mark Coleman

01706 632809 or 0779 520 2955 hellomarkcoleman@gmail.com

Reader: Wendy Cocks 0774 772 4804

Asian Fellowship: Elizabeth Julius 0793 184 6942 (please text)

Priest in Charge at Healey, Hamer and Belfield:

Rev'd Gill Barnett 0161 971 6318

Churchwardens:

St Chad's: Paul Bollington 0756 698 3798, Alan Wild 0790 583 7847

St Mary in the Baum: positions vacant

www.rochdaleparishchurches.org.uk

www.facebook.com/rochdaleparishchurches

@RochdaleStChads @stmaryinthebaum

To book a Wedding or Christening at St Chad's or St Mary in the Baum
please come to church on a Sunday to make a booking
or phone the vicar to make arrangements.

Please send news, notices or items of interest for the newsletter to:
stchadsrochdale@gmail.com