CHRONOLOGY OF ST. CHAD'S PARISH CHURCH OF ROCHDALE

Before 672	St Chad	reputed to have preached to the people of Rochdale from the site of the present Church where a Celtic cross once stood and where latterly a Roman Lachrymatory (a tear bottle) was found. St Chad had been educated under St Aidan at Lindisfarne. He was consecrated Bishop of Mercia in 669 and made his 'See' at Lichfield where the famous Cathedral now stands and bears his name. He is known to have made missionary journeys which could well have included Rochdale. He died in 672.
Before 1066		Saxon churchyard wall and part of Tower remain
Circa 1066	William I	Jemel (or Gamel) the Thane is reputed to have built a church to placate William the Conqueror, against whom he had led a Saxon uprising.
1086		Rochdale (Recedham) mentioned in Domesday Book. Legend of stones moved from north of river to the present site. Before 1194 Adam de Spotland gave land for Love of God to St Chad & Church in Rochdale.
1194	Richard I	Roger de Lacy gave the living to the first incumbent, Geoffrey de Blackburn, Dean of Whalley. Record of vicars taken from this date.
c1200	John	Roger de Lacy gave land to the Cistercian abbot of Stanlow.
1296	Edward I	After floods and fire, the Cistercians abandoned Stanlow and moved to Whalley.
14thC	Edward I, II, III and Richard II	South side pillars in the Nave. The 14th century font was rediscovered in 1893.
1487	Henry VII	Major rebuilding of Nave, addition of St Katherine and Trinity chapels.
1532	Henry VIII	An organ appears in an inventory. Only 2 other Churches in Lancashire are known to have had organs at this date.
1536	Henry VIII	John Paslow, Abbot of Whalley hanged for participating in Pilgrimage of Grace.
1552	Edward VI	The Church is noted as having 'fyve grete bells'.
1557	Mary	The Parish given to Henry Parker with reversion after 21 years to See of Canterbury.
1557	Mary	Clerestory added to Nave.
1643	Charles I	King enobles the first Lord Byron, whose family had been Lords of the Manor of Rochdale since the 1400s and gives a sideboard, now retained in the Church. The Byron coat-of-arms appear on a pew in the Chancel. The poet (Lord Byron) sold the Manor in 1822.
1649/60		Commonwealth Font buried as Puritans did not approve of child baptism and figures on pillars defaced. Rochdale was a Roundhead stronghold.
1726	George II	Dr Dunster built the former Vicarage. The Parish extends to 58,000 acres including Todmorden and Saddleworth.

1738	George II	Church restored; Byron pews installed in Chancel.
1752		The bells are replaced by six new bells.
1787	George III	Two more bells are added (still being rung today).
1789		Octagonal clock faces installed in the Tower, and a musical clock playing Ps 103 and 104 "Praise to the Lord", "Britain strike home", and a sea shanty.
1790		Thomas Drake, vicar to 1819, after whom the main road into town was named.
1799	George III	Arguments about Yeomen's benches.
1814	George III	Demolition urged, but big restoration carried out instead, including correcting 14" lean of one of the 14th century pillars.
1819		William Hay (also a Barrister) appointed Vicar. This was controversial as he had read the Riot Act in St Peter's Fields, Manchester - known as the Peterloo Massacre. Term ended 1839.
1823	George IV	James Dearden bought the Trinity Chapel and refurnished it with his supposed ancestors but retained the 17th century rails and communion table.
1829		Prior to this date, there was a gallery on the south side of the Nave.
1835	William IV	Trinity Chapel and North Aisle rebuilt.
1839	Victoria	John Edward Nassau Molesworth, Vicar, found a Church in a 'state of great collapse and stagnation'. In 1840, he called a meeting of ratepayers to set a half-penny rate to pay for repairs. This led to stiff opposition and, although he won a vote to accept it, he did not proceed. (John Bright opposition and Chartist movement). Parliament abolished the Parish Rate in 1858. Building development as town expanded on Glebe Lands in the town centre made it a rich living. The 1866 Rochdale Vicarage Act passed the majority of the income to Church Commissioners who were able to build more Churches in the town. Molesworth died in 1877.
1856		Nave re-roofed. Only 2 other churches in Rochdale at this date (St Mary in the Baum being one). In time, 33 Parishes were created out of the original. Rochdale becomes a Borough.
1872		New west window, made in the William Morris workshops to a design by Edward Burne Jones (Faith, Hope & Charity)
1873		South Porch and Aisle rebuilt. Tower raised, with a belfry but not the musical clock which was scrapped to avoid conflict with the new Town Hall Clock. Clock faces on tower removed and placed in the base of the Tower and the Vicar's Vestry.
1877		Dr Edward Maclure appointed Vicar. He was responsible for major Church extensions with an eye to it becoming a Cathedral. A wealthy parishioner presented a Bishop's Crozier, still used by visiting Bishops!

1885		Chancel rebuilt and extended, together with the North and South Aisles. Nave floor lowered 13" to its original level and 10" added to the pillars.
1893		Old font found buried in the Churchyard; dug up and reinstalled on the north side.
1907	Edward VII	New pulpit installed, with an oak carving depicting the Sermon on the Mount, flanked by the figures of St Peter and St Paul.
1952	Elizabeth II	Major repairs, mainly to cure dry rot.
1970		Church cleaned with silver sand, revealing the different stone use for the 1883 extensions. A horizontal beam obscuring the Chancel arch was removed, and the pews replaced by Windsor chairs to allow free use of the nave for special occasions.
1994		Visit by her Majesty to celebrate the 800th anniversary of the Church.
2012		Extensive restoration of the Hill organ (with its original voicing) at a cost of £115,000.