

# Rochdale Parish Churches of St Chad and St Mary in the Baum





(Please take one and pass it on)

Advent to Christmas 2023



December 2023

# THIS IS OUR NEWSLETTER FOR ADVENT TO CHRISTMAS.

Any new items will be shared via separate hand-out sheets or with the notices during our services.

The next newsletter will be available on Sunday, 31 December.



Thank you for joining us for worship today. You are welcome to stay for refreshments after the service.





Please continue to pray for UKRAINE and THE HOLY LAND and also for all affected by conflict and/or disaster



PLEASE ENSURE YOUR PHONE IS

\*OFF\*

**DURING THE SERVICE** 

Thank You



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.

# ADVENT and CHRISTMAS SERVICES

SUNDAY 3 DECEMBER - First Sunday of Advent
9.30 am at St Mary in the Baum 11.15 am at St Chad's
Revd Anne Gilbert

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SUNDAY 10 DECEMBER - Second Sunday of Advent 9.30 am at St Mary in the Baum 11.15 am at St Chad's Hannah Currin

MAYOR'S CAROL SERVICE at ST CHAD'S 3 pm

Service led by The Revd Gill Barnett with singing by St Chad's Choir

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SUNDAY 17 DECEMBER - Third Sunday of Advent 9.30 am at St Mary in the Baum 11.15 am at St Chad's Revd Anne Gilbert

CANDLELIT CAROL SERVICE at ST CHAD'S 4 pm

Service led by The Revd Pamela Parr with singing by St Chad's Choir

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SUNDAY 24 DECEMBER - Fourth Sunday of Advent 9.15 am at St Mary in the Baum 11.15 am at St Chad's Revd Anne Gilbert

**CHRISTMAS EVE - MIDNIGHT MASS** 

11.30 pm at St Chad's - Revd Canon Karen Smeeton

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MONDAY 25 DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS DAY 10.00 am at St Mary in the Baum - Eucharist Revd Anne Gilbert

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9.30 am at St Mary in the Baum 11 am at St Chad's
Revd Anne Gilbert



# **ADVENT BIBLE STUDY**

Advent is the season before Christmas when we prepare for the coming of Christ.

It has two main foci - a period of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus and also a time when we consider Christ's Second Coming, that time when Christ will come again to rule over heaven and earth.

This makes Advent an important season for Christians and, because Advent is so important, you are encouraged to join our **Advent Bible study group** which will meet on **Mondays at 10.30am** in **St. Luke's church**.

As a group, we will look at relevant bible passages, discuss them together and discover how to apply what we have learnt to our own lives.

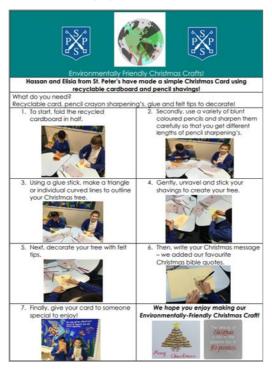
The theme for our Advent studies is *Hope* and we will meet on the following dates:

- Monday 27 November The nature of hope
- Monday 4 December Listen to the witnesses
- Monday 11 December Hope in the gospel promises
- Monday 18 December Hope for the future

Booklets will be provided, as will tea, coffee and biscuits, and there may even be mince pies on 18 December!

If you want to find out more, please ask Anne, Natty or Pam.

From Revd Anne... Whilst I was in the Headteacher's office at St Peter's I saw a Christmas card displayed and said, that's early, it's not even Advent yet. He explained that it was actually one that had been designed by the Watch Our World group members as an environmentally friendly idea for Christmas It was a Christmas Tree made from pencil sharpenings, and beautiful. We have been sent the instructions as a deanery synod.



I always find it hard that Christmas has been taken over by commercialism and what for Christians is the reminder of the greatest gift from God, of his only son. What is even harder, is that our way of celebrating today is also destructive to our planet.

So, this year I am appealing to you to follow the children's example and to consider making some simple steps to reduce your personal impact on God's creation at the time of year that we celebrate his greatest gift to us.

There are lots of articles on the internet on how to do this and companies are now responding to consumer demand for more Eco products, but to start you off I want to share with you this article from Blue Peter... /contd on p6

# How to Look After the Planet this Christmas

Brush up on our eco-friendly Christmas tips and find out how to look after the planet this festive season!

#### The Christmas Tree - Real -vs- Artificial

**Real** If Christmas Trees are recycled properly they can be turned into chippings, which are then used in parks or woodland areas. You can ask a parent/guardian to check online for your nearest Christmas Tree recycling location.

**Artificial** Artificial trees are made from a combination of materials, which makes them difficult to be recycled. However, if you re-use your tree every year they can be a great option.

# **Christmas Dinner**

Everyone makes lots of food at Christmas, but what if there is too much? A lot of food can be thrown away at Christmas, which ends up in landfill sites where it rots and releases methane, a harmful greenhouse gas.



Top Tip: Use your leftover food to make Christmas sandwiches or good old bubble and squeak!



# **Wrapping Paper**

The amount of wrapping paper thrown away in the UK at Christmas would stretch to the moon!

A lot of wrapping paper cannot be recycled. Why? Because it is made from more than just paper, some of it is made from plastic.

Top Tip: Wrapping paper can only be recycled if it passes the Scrunch Test... if the wrapping paper scrunches up into a ball and stays like that, it can be recycled! Btw, brown paper is recyclable, and you can jazz it up yourself!



# **Christmas Sparkle**

Christmas is the perfect time for glitter!

But glitter is made out of plastic and scientists are becoming increasingly concerned about the levels of plastic in the ocean.

So, why not try thinking of creative ways of

decorating your cards and wrapping paper? You can draw stars and snowflakes for a festive touch.

## **Christmas Cards**

Billions of Christmas Cards are sent in UK each year, and loads of them end up in the bin!

Luckily, lots of Christmas Cards are made from card and paper, which means they can be recycled.



Top Tip: You can save some Christmas cards from this year, and use them next year to make gift tags.



## **Christmas Presents**

This year, think about giving gifts that are kind to the environment!

You could always give homemade gifts from recycled materials, that will feel really special because you've spent time making them – and luckily Blue Peter has some great ideas!

When you've finished with your old toys or books, you can always give them to your friends or donate them to charity if they can be re-used, rather than throwing them away.

Have a blessed Christmas

Revd Anne

◆ SUNDAY 3 DECEMBER - ADVENT 1 ◆						
9.15 am StM - BCP HC	11.15 am StC - HC					
Presiding/Preaching	Presiding/Preaching: Revd Anne Gilbert					
Isaiah 64.1-9 Psalm 80.1-8 <b>1</b> C	orinthians 1.3-9 Mark 13.24-end					
+ THURSDAY	7 DECEMBER +					
10 am StC – Morning Pr	ayer - Revd Anne Gilbert					
Isaiah 28.14-end Psalr	m 42 Matthew 13.1-23					
◆ SUNDAY 10 DECE	MBER - ADVENT 2 +					
9.15 am StM - SoW	11.15 am StC - M					
Presiding/Preachi	ng: Hannah Currin					
Isaiah 30.19-21, 23-26 Psalm 85.8	8-end 2 Peter 3.8-15a <b>Mark 1.18</b>					
+ THURSDAY 1	4 DECEMBER ◆					
10 am StC - Euchari	st - Revd Natty Gray					
Isaiah 41.13-20 Psalm 145	.1, 8-13 Matthew 11.11-15					
◆ SUNDAY 17 DECE	MBER - ADVENT 3 +					
9.15 am StM - CW HC	11.15 am StC - HC					
Presiding/Preaching	g: Revd Anne Gilbert					
Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-end Magnificat 1 Th	essalonians 5.16-24 <b>John 1.6-8, 19-28</b>					
+ THURSDAY 2	◆ THURSDAY 21 DECEMBER ◆					
10 am StC - Eucharis	t - Revd Anne Gilbert					
Zephaniah 3.14-18 Psalm	33.1-4, 11-12 Luke 1.39-45					
◆ SUNDAY 24 DECEMBER - A	DVENT 4 - CHRISTMAS EVE +					
9.15 am StM - CW HC	11.15 am StC - HC					
Presiding/Preaching	g: Revd Anne Gilbert					
2 Samuel 7.1-11, 16 Magnificat Romans 16.25-end Luke 1.26-38						
ഈ MIDNIGHT MASS at ST CHAD'S - 11.30 pm രു						
Presiding/Preaching: Rev	vd Canon Karen Smeeton					
Isaiah 52.7-10 Psalm 98 Hebrews 1.1-4 (5-12) John 1.1-14						
◆ THURSDAY 28 DECEMBER - HOLY INNOCENTS ◆						
10 am StC - Morning Pra	ayer - Revd Anne Gilbert					
Genesis 37.13-20 Psali	m 36 Matthew 18.1-10					



The amount raised at

# St Chad's Christmas Fayre



ON SATURDAY 2 DECEMBER

 $\mathsf{was}\, £973$ 

(an increase of £150 on last year)

**THANK YOU** TO EVERYONE WHO DONATED ITEMS FOR THE VARIOUS STALLS AND ALSO GAVE THEIR TIME TO HELP MAKE THIS EVENT A SUCCESS.



Also, **Thank you** for your donations towards the purchase of our Christmas Tree at St Chad's



PLEASE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT



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



# TOAD LANE CONCERTS

Rochdale's Weekly Music at Lunchtime on Wednesdays

# at St Mary in the Baum

Doors open at 12 noon Concert 12.30 - 1.30 pm • Entry fee: £6

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# Wednesday 6 December

Telemann Baroque Ensemble:
Alfred Pollard oboe
Kevin O'Sullivan bassoon
Elaine da Costa & Sarah Snape violins
John Goodstadt viola Roger Bisby cello
Peter Collier harpsichord

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# ◆ Wednesday 13 December

Rascallity Harp Duo:Alice Roberts & Kathryn Mason (both RNCM Mcr Uni)

0380

# ◆ Wednesday 20 December

# More than Melody Ladies Choir Christmas Special

MD Jonathan Gibson, Brian Milligan *piano* ജെ

Thank you for your support

Contact
Dr Joe Dawson **01706 648872**for more info



# ◆ Thursday 7 December ◆

# Rochdale Hospice's Light Up A Life Service

at St Chad's 7 pm

Music, carols, readings and poems for you to reflect, remember and celebrate the memories of your loved ones



# ◆ Wednesday 13 December ◆

# Friends Together Bereavement Support Group

at St Chad's 10 am - 12 noon

Everyone Welcome Refreshments provided



◆ Thursday 14 December ◆

# **SKYLIGHT CIRCUS ARTS**

will be performing

THE HISTORIES & MYSTERIES
OF ROCHDALE'S SPARROW HILL
at St Chad's 1.30 pm

◆ Saturday 16 December ◆

# **Christmas with Cantare**

Join Cantare
for a concert of beautiful music
in the glorious setting of
Rochdale Parish Church of St Chad.

Festive crafts and refreshments available.

Let Christmas commence!

> 7.30 pm ≺

Tickets – £12 (children free) available from Cantare choir members, or pay on the door





#### Frank Lever 1926 - 2023

A true gentleman and a dear friend.

Frank was born in Rochdale on April 13<sup>th</sup> 1926 and he used to love telling us all that he was one week older than the queen!

He was baptised in St Mary's in July 1926 beginning a lifelong association with the church at which he played a variety of roles during his life, being church warden, a member of the PCC and, though not a member of the choir, someone who always sang loudly and with great gusto.

He left school at 14/15 to become an apprentice at Robert Riley's spring manufacturers, where he

worked for almost 50 years. Frank 'courted' Marjorie at the Carlton and they married at St Mary's in 1951. As Catherine, his daughter recalls, her dad offered Marjorie a choice; an engagement ring or a washing machine once they were married because their money was being saved up to buy their house. Marjorie finally got her engagement ring on their anniversary of their silver wedding!

Frank enjoyed hobbies such as wood working and playing piano. He also followed Rochdale Hornets and had a stint at being an amateur football referee, though never getting used to the insults he received - mainly about his eye sight.



He told a tale about his skill with the piano and how he had told his teacher, prior to one of his exams, that he had risen very early to practice his piece to perfection; afterwards when his teacher queried the time he had risen to ensure this perfection, Frank replied proudly," 'at 7 am'. His teacher's response? 'Well you didn't get up early enough!!!'

After retiring Frank volunteered for the Citizen Advice Bureau, Victim Support and others and through these volunteering roles was awarded Rochdale Man of the year in 2010, which was a great honour and came as a total surprise to him – though not to those who knew him well. Until well into his



nineties he would also volunteer at the Wednesday TOLPAC concerts at St Mary's.

He took great delight in chatting to St Mary's more recent worshippers, mainly asylum seekers from Iran; he connected with them for their Christian belief and the plight of leaving their country, he would help those in need - always putting his fingers over his mouth and saying, 'shhhh' with a wink. This was typical of Frank and, like all of us, they loved him without exception.

Frank's daughter Catherine looked after her dad diligently during his later years and though they both luckily escaped Covid, Frank really missed the outings and visits - a Friday fixture of fish and chips in Wetherspoon's and meeting with friends from Rochdale Circle with whom he had gone to over 300 events.

Sadly the last 6 months saw a decline in Frank's health which, true to form, he bore with great equanimity.

I'm sure all of us feel privileged to have known him and we will miss him dearly.

Valerie Leach



# Sunday 3 December



Advent marks the start of the Christian calendar year,
beginning on the Sunday nearest to 30 November
and extending until Christmas Day on 25 December.
The Church of England's website tells us that
"Advent is a season of expectation and preparation,
as the Church prepares to celebrate the coming (Latin: adventus)
of Christ in his incarnation,
and also looks ahead to his final advent
as judge at the end of time."

It's unsure as to when the season of Advent was first celebrated although the first clear reference to its celebration occurs in 567AD when the Council of Tours proclaimed a sacred, festive season for the twelve days from Christmas to Epiphany and that fasting during Advent was to be a necessary preparation for this feast.



Prior to this time there were celebrations and fasts

resembling our current Advent season. St Hilary of Poitiers (d 367AD) and the Spanish Council of Saragossa (380AD) spoke of a three week fast before Epiphany. Pope St Leo the Great preached many times about "the fast of the tenth month (December)" prior to Christmas. Also, monks were instructed to fast during this month. The Gelasian Sacramentary (750AD), a book of Christian liturgy, provided liturgical material for the five Sundays before Christmas and also Wednesdays and Fridays. Eventually the Western Church settled on 4 Sundays of Advent, with the season beginning at the end of November or very beginning of December, and starting immediately after Ordinary Time.

The Church of England's website tells us that:

"Advent is a season of expectation and preparation, as the Church prepares to celebrate the coming (Latin: adventus) of Christ in his incarnation, and also looks ahead to his final advent as judge at the end of time."

It is also a season of prayer and repentance, almsgiving, with fasting if you choose to, together with anticipation, hope and joy.

In the Middle Ages the season of Advent was a required time of fasting, in preparation for the Nativity of Jesus. Christians began a forty-day Advent Fast on St Martin's Feast Day, 11 November, and this fasting was to be as intense as the fast during Lent. (Sundays are regarded as a feast day, so no fasting required on Sundays.) The Greek and Orthodox Churches still observe this as their Nativity fast which begins on 15 November.

Nowadays Christians may still choose to observe a period of fasting during Advent, and whilst some churches no longer require this to be an obligation there isn't a rule saying you should *not* do this. /contd...

Advent helps us, as Christians, to prepare for Christmas and remember its real meaning, and on each Sunday of Advent we focus our thoughts on one of the four virtues Jesus Christ brings us: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

Purple is the liturgical colour of Advent (although blue may be used as an alternative) and this symbolises that Christ comes from the royal line of David. Christ also comes as the King of Kings and the Prince of Peace.

The Advent wreath is probably the most well-known symbol of Advent. There is a candle for each week of the Advent season and these candles represent hope, peace, joy and love, and the wreath is in the shape of a perfect circle to symbolize God's continuous power, His eternity and endless mercy.

The lighting of candles on the Advent wreath was introduced here in the 19th century from northern Europe, and their purpose is not to illuminate the interior of the church but to represent the light of God coming into the world through the birth of his son Jesus Christ.

The evergreen branches of the wreath represent the trust Christians have in God, and in the hope of newness, renewal and eternal life.

The wreath usually has three purple or blue candles to reflect the liturgical colour of Advent with a pink candle for the third Sunday, arranged around a white or gold candle. (Some other churches choose to use red candles in place of the purple ones - confusing!)



One candle is lit on the first Sunday of Advent, two candles on the second Sunday, and so on.

The third Sunday of Advent is known as Gaudete Sunday and this candle, representing joy, may be a rose or pink colour.

A fifth candle may be included in the centre of the Advent wreath, usually white or gold, known as the Christ candle, to be lit on Christmas Day to represent the light of God coming into the world through the birth of his son Jesus Christ. As each candle is lit, its flame reminds us that something is happening and also that there is something more still to come.

Before the Advent Calendar became popular, 1800s German protestant Christians would make 24 chalk lines on their doors at the start of Advent and then rub off one line each day as part of their preparation for Christmas. Alternatively some would make a chalk line on the first day of Advent and add another line each day, while others would light an Advent Candle and burn down a portion of this each day.

Another custom in Germany was for people to make their own paper Advent calendars at home, and then in the early 1900s printer Gerhard Lang made his commercially printed versions available. In the 1920s he added opening doors to the calendars and is regarded as the creator of the modern Advent calendar.

Calendars containing chocolate appeared in the early 1950s, and the first chocolate Advent Calendar appeared here in the UK in 1958, with Cadbury launching their first one in 1971.

Btw, according to Guinness World Records the world's largest Advent calendar was built at London's St Pancras station in 2007, and measured 232ft 11ins in height and 75ft 5ins in width.

In closing, remember that your bible offers an alternative way through Advent in the book of Luke... there are 24 chapters, so you can read one chapter on each day through December until we arrive at the 24th and Christmas Eve. (And it's also a no-calorie option, so no excuses!)

Linda G.

# Week 1 - Hope

Dear Jesus, you are the hope in our messy world. This Advent, help us slow down, listen to your voice, and focus on what's really important. We place our hope in you as we prepare our hearts to celebrate your birth on Christmas. *Amen*.



# The Collect for the First Sunday in Advent

ALMIGHTY God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious Majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. *Amen.* 

(The Advent Collects should be repeated every day until Christmas-Eve.)

CHURCH FOR A DIFFERENT WORLD



# A Prayer for Peace this Advent

Lord Jesus Christ,
you are the light of the world,
the hope of the nations,
and the peace of those who turn to you.
As we prepare to celebrate your birth at
Christmas,
shine your light into our lives,
bring healing to your world,
and let peace break out in every heart and home.
May our hearts be filled with your love
and our mouths filled with the song of heaven:
Glory be to you, our King,
and peace to all people on the earth!

Amen.

# Sunday 10 December



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 representing hope and peace, with the increase in light each week symbolizing the coming of the light of the world, Jesus.

The focus this week is on peace, 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 "

There are many translations of the bible and so the exact words of this verse in one translation may differ from the words for the same verse in another. They mention not to be troubled or afraid, but the New Living Translation is very clear in its words about the gift Jesus leaves us - peace of mind and heart. It is a powerful statement, as to have peace in both mind and heart is indeed a wonderful gift.

/contd...

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 hopefully managed to do 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.

For as long as any of us can probably recall we've prayed for "peace on earth" but do you include a prayer for people to find peace within themselves and with each other? Anything that might help to bring this world closer to a wider peace has to be worth a mention.

Through Jesus we can find the peace that will strengthen us as we make our journey through life, and also help towards making a kinder and more compassionate world.

Linda G.

#### Week 2 - Peace

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.





# The Collect for the Second Sunday in Advent

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever. *Amen*.

(The Advent Collects should be repeated every day until Christmas-Eve.)

# Sunday 17 December



# **Collect for the Third Sunday of Advent**

O LORD Jesu Christ, who at thy first coming didst send thy messenger to prepare thy way before thee: Grant that the ministers and stewards of thy mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready thy way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at thy second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in thy sight, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

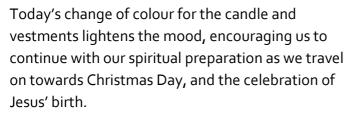
We've now reached the third Sunday on our journey through Advent.

On each of the first two Sundays of Advent we lit a purple candle and today we will light a rose (pink) coloured candle, rose being the liturgical colour used to signify joy. Also, rose coloured (pink) vestments may be worn instead of the purple ones associated with the season.



The third Sunday of Advent is also known as Gaudete Sunday, or Rose Sunday.

Gaudete is taken from the Latin word for joy - and today is a day for rejoicing as we arrive at the halfway point of our journey through Advent.





At one time flowers and organ music were forbidden during Advent, but were allowed on Gaudete Sunday as a respite from the penitential nature of the season.

Our journey through Advent may have us running around, ever busier, as we embark on preparations for Christmas and all that it entails, but we should always remember to pause for a while and make time to prepare our hearts to receive the greatest gift of all.

Today, three candles have been lit... and so the light increases.

Linda G.



# Sunday 24 December



We've now reached the fourth Sunday of our journey through Advent.

The waiting is almost over!

Today, the fourth Advent candle is lit, reminding us of the love that is at the heart of Christmas.

Again, the light increases.

A new candle has been lit each week and we have been reminded that something is happening, and that there is more to come.

Christmas is a special time, with God's gift of love to the world at its heart.

# **Collect for the Fourth Sunday of Advent**

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. As we are told in John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." (NRSV)

There is one more candle on our Advent wreath, the Christ candle, that will be lit during the Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve.

This candle is at the centre of the wreath to remind us that Jesus is at the centre of Christmas.

So, as you watch this candle burn remember that He is 'the reason for the season', and is the one who brings hope, peace, joy and love for us all.

This final candle on the Advent wreath also reminds us of the light Jesus brought into the world, a light to guide us, and a sign of His presence amongst us.

Take a moment to reflect on John 8:12 (NRSV) where Jesus says, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

Christmas is now just a few hours away - we will soon be celebrating the true meaning of the season, and giving thanks for the greatest gift of all given to us some 2,000 years ago.

Enjoy your Christmas.

Linda G.









# **MIDWINTER SOLSTICE**

According to the Greenwich Mean Time website, this year's Midwinter Solstice is on Friday 22 December at 03:27 GMT.

"Solstice' comes from the Latin word solstitium, which means 'Sun stands still' [sol (sun) and sistere (to stand still)].

The date and time of the actual solstice does vary slightly from year to year, the precise timing being determined by factors such as the axis of the earth's rotation, speed of the earth's orbit and the length of the solar days.

Although the time of this year's Midwinter Solstice is around 03:27, people generally refer to the whole day as being the solstice.

The Midwinter Solstice can occur between 20 - 23 December, with 21 or 22 December being the most frequent dates.

20 December solstices are rare - the next one will be in 2080.

The last 23 December solstice was in 1903, and you'll need to be around in 2303 for the next one.

So, we can look forward to about a quarter of an hour's extra daylight each week until we arrive at the Midsummer Solstice on Thursday 20 June 2023 at 21:51 BST (20:51 GMT) and the longest day (or shortest night), Midsummer, from which date (no surprises here) the daylight then reduces again until we're back at the Midwinter Solstice and the shortest day once more.

It's interesting to note that whilst the Solstice is also known for being the shortest day (or the longest night) of the year, the mornings don't actually start becoming lighter for a few days after the solstice as the path of the Sun's travel appears to stand still before it changes direction and takes us on once more towards the Midsummer Solstice in June.

The astronomical seasons may be a more traditional, and perhaps familiar, way of defining the seasons and the Midwinter Solstice also marks the first day of the astronomical winter season.

In contrast to this, the meteorological seasons take the first day of winter as 1 December and ends on 28 February (or 29 February during a Leap Year).

However the seasons may be referred to, this year's Midwinter Solstice will be on Friday 22 December - soon, extra daylight each day, and we'll be on our way towards summer again!

Linda G.

\* The meteorological seasons begin on the first days of March (spring), June (summer), September (autumn) and December (winter), to make it easier to observe and forecast the weather and compare monthly and seasonal statistics.

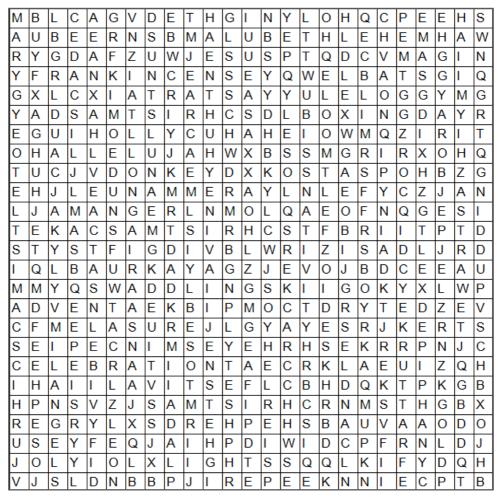


# HERE ARE THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS QUIZ PAGES... ENJOY!

- 1. Name Santa's reindeers.
- 2. In the Twelve Days of Christmas song, what was sent on the 7th day?
- 3. What type of tree is mentioned in the same song?
- 4. According to the Guinness Book of Records, the best-selling number 1 single Christmas song of all time has sold 50 million copies. Name the writer and also the singer.
- 5. Which King of England was crowned on Christmas Day, and where?
- 6. Which Christmas carol was originally written in Latin as 'Adeste Fideles'?
- 7. In the 1955 Christmas number 1 Christmas Alphabet, what does the letter C mean?
- 8. Which creatures helped the Tailor of Gloucester finish the Mayor's waistcoat in time for Christmas in the Beatrix Potter book?
- 9. Who served a flaming Christmas Pudding in "A Christmas Carol"?
- 10. One of Christina Rossetti's poems became the basis of a famous Christmas Carol? Name the poem and also the carol.
- 11. The plant Poinsettia is native to which country?
- 12. What fruit would you store alongside a Christmas cake in order to keep it moist: Apple, Orange, Banana or Tomato?
- 13. The song 'Driving Home for Christmas' was written about a journey to ???
- 14. Name the famous scientist, who developed the three laws of motion, born on Christmas day 1642?
- 15. Mince pies were originally oval-shaped, what was this supposed to represent?
- 16. How many wise men / Magi / kings does the bible say visited the baby Jesus?
- 17. What is the most popular meal for Christmas in Japan?
- 18. Which country exported the most Brussel Sprouts in 2022: Belgium, Poland, China or Mexico?
- 19. What cartoon character is essential TV viewing on Christmas Eve in Sweden?
- 20. Which wordless children's picture book by Raymond Briggs was first published in 1978?
- 21. Which British monarch delivered the first ever Christmas message, and in what year?
- 22. How many times is the word Christmas mentioned in Shakespeare's plays?
- 23. Which German city holds an annual Stollen festival?
- 24. Which character declares "Merry Christmas, one and all!" in Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol'?
- 25. Name the children's classic in which it is "always winter but never Christmas", and the author?

- 26. The first performance of which of Shakespeare's tragedies took place on Boxing Day 1606?
- 27. From which country does panettone originate?
- 28. Astronauts broadcast which Christmas song from space in 1965?
- 29. In what year was Clement C Moore's poem "The Night Before Christmas" first published?
- 30. In the 17th century Christmas Cake was made to be eaten on what day?
- 31. Which two books of the New Testament tell us about the birth of Jesus?
- 32. In which language is Christmas referred to as NADOLIG?
- 33. What do the Germans often cook their sprouts in?
- 34. Considered by some to be the "Father of the Computer", which inventor was born on Boxing Day in 1791?
- 35. Name the chemical compound normally used to create the bang in Christmas crackers.
- 36. Which pudding is demanded in the song "We wish you a Merry Christmas"?
- 37. Which German city is often referred as the "Gingerbread capital of the world": Munich, Nurnburg, Berlin or Dusseldorf?
- 38. In which direction should you stir mincemeat for good luck clockwise or anti-clockwise?
- 39. What is the name of the skin that hangs from a turkey's neck?
- 40. In which German cathedral is there a shrine to the Three Wise Men?
- 41. Which of the Gospels in the New Testament describes the visit of the Magi: Matthew, Mark, Luke or John?
- 42. Which popular crime writer wrote the collection of short stories called "The Adventure of the Christmas Pudding"?
- 43. What is the edible fruit of the tree "Castanea saliva"?
- 44. Who is credited with introducing the popular Christmas tradition of sending Christmas cards in 1843?
- 45. In which country was Dylan Thomas' "A Child's Christmas" set?
- 46. 'Once in Royal David's City' was composed in the 13th, 15th, 19th or 20th century?
- 47. The carol "Joy to the World" is based on which Psalm?
- 48. Which scientist initiated the first Royal Institution Christmas lecture in 1825?
- 49. Which cheese often eaten at Christmas is known as the King of English cheeses?
- 50. Which organisation launched the first charity Christmas card in 1949?





ADESTE FIDELES ADVENT ANGELS BETHLEHEM **BOXING DAY** CANDLES CAROLS CELEBRATION CHOIR CHRISTMAS CHRISTMAS CAKE CHRISTMAS DAY CRACKERS DONKEY EMMANUEL FESTIVAL **FRANKINCENSE** EPIPHANY **FAMILY** GALILEE GIFTS GOLD HALLELUJAH HEROD HOLLY **HOLY NIGHT** INNKFFPFR IVY JERUSALEM JESUS JOSEPH LAMBS LIGHTS MAGI MANGER MARY MINCE PIES MISTLETOE MYRRH NATIVITY NOEL **PUDDING** SHEEP SHEPHERDS STAR **STABLE** 

- 51. Which creature with the Latin name Rangifer Tarandus is often featured on Christmas cards?
- 52. Which country was founded on Christmas Day 1000 by King Stephen Portugal, Poland, Sweden or Hungary?
- 53. "If you searched every old folks' home in the country, you couldn't find anyone who looked more like Santa Claus" is the opening line of which novella based on a 1947 movie?
- 54. 'Silent Night' was first sung in an Austrian church for what reason was the tune played on a guitar instead of the church organ?
- 55. How many gifts in total were given in "The Twelve Days of Christmas" song?
- 56. Featured in the Charles Dickens' story "A Christmas Carol", what is a "Smoking Bishop"?
- 57. "Walking in the Air" is a song taken from which Christmas film, shown on TV for the first time on Boxing Day in which year?
- 58. In the book "A Christmas Carol", Bob Cratchit has what type of bird before Scrooge brings a turkey?
- 59. Gold was one of the gifts bought by the Magi. What is the chemical symbol for gold?
- 60. The first radio play was broadcast on BBC on 24 December 1922; what two seasonal words complete the title, "The Truth About...."?
- 61. NORAD track Santa's movements on Christmas Eve. What does NORAD stand for?
- 62. In 1978 the German-based group Boney M had a number one hit with which Christmas song?
- 63. The song from question 35 was written and released in 1956. Who sang this well-known version?
- 64. Christmas pudding was originally a soup made with wine and raisins.

  True or false?
- 65. The UK Christmas stamps in 1993 were designed to commemorate the 150th anniversary of which classic Christmas book?
- 66. On Christmas Eve 1777 Captain Cook discovered an atoll in the Pacific he named Christmas Island; by what name do we now know it?
- 67. In which country would you be served twelve meatless dishes on Dec 24th?
- 68. What type of animal carried Mary to Bethlehem?
- 69. Which of Dicken's novels features the character Alfred Jingle?
- 70. Which member of the Royal Family introduced the Christmas tree to England?

- 71. Who composed the music to the popular carol "Hark the Herald Angel Sing"?
- 72. The character Dandini appears in which traditional pantomime?
- 73. Name the fruit traditionally used to make a Christingle?
- 74. In which village does Postman Pat deliver the Christmas mail?
- 75. On Stir-up Sunday which way should you stir the Christmas pudding to bring good luck?
- 76. Why are candy canes shaped like shepherds' crooks?
- 78. Christmas Island was discovered on Christmas Day in 1643 true or false?
- 79. What accompanied the Queen's Christmas message in 1982 for the first time?
- 80. In the novel 'A Christmas Carol', which is the first ghost to visit Scrooge?
- 81. Which festive dessert stems from a pagan fireplace tradition?
- 82. Name the states in America that have towns called Santa Claus.
- 83. "They came in search of paradise." Name the chocolate bar.
- 84. According to Swedish folklore, which animals pull Santa's sleigh?
- 85. What postcode was introduced by the British Post Office in 1999 for Santa's workshop?
- 86. Translated literally from the Anglo Saxon, Mistletoe is on a stick?
- 87. On what day of the festivities in France would you eat a Galette des Rois
- 88. What was Jesus wrapped in after when he was born?
- 89. Put these famous brands in order of when they were first launched in the UK: Cadburys Heroes, Cadburys Roses, Celebrations, Quality Street
- 90. Snowflakes are typically portrayed as being 6 sided, but studies suggest less than 0.1%, 1% or 10% of snowflakes exhibit the ideal six-fold symmetric shape?
- 91. Who wrote the fairy tale "The Snow Queen"?
- 92. In which year did the UK first issue a special Christmas stamp?
- 93. On what day was it traditional for pantomimes to start their performances?
- 94. The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols from Kings College, Cambridge, was introduced in 1918. In which year was it first broadcast?
- 95. On a standard UK Monopoly board, how much does the Angel Islington cost?
- 90. In which year did Cliff Richard top the Christmas charts with "Saviours Day"?
- 91. Who composed the opera "The Snow Maiden"?
- 92. What is the most sold flavour of Walker's crisps?
- 93. Who wrote the 12 pieces of music for solo piano entitled "Christmas Tree Suite" (Weihnachtsbaum)?
- 94. In cricket... a long-hop is a fielding position, slow run, toilet/comfort break or a short-pitched easy ball?
- 95. The carol "While Shepherds Watched" was written in which century?

- 96. When first class post was first introduced in 1968, how much did it cost to send a Christmas card by second class post?
- 97. In which airport did John McClane spend Christmas Eve during "Die Hard 2": LAX, Chicago O'Hare, JFK or Washington Dulles?
- 98. What is the value of the highest points letters Q and Z in Scrabble?
- 99. Who scored the first Premier League hat-trick?
- 100. What was the name of the chess playing computer that defeated World Champion Gary Kasparov in 1997?
- 101. There are three visible rivers that run through Manchester city centre.

  Two of them are the Medlock and the Irwell, name the third that disappears beneath Victoria Station?
- 102. Name the five ingredients demanded by one of Basil Fawlty's guests to make the infamous Waldorf Salad.
- 103. Which maritime explorer gave the Pacific Ocean its name?
- 104. The area of a right-angle isosceles triangle whose short sides are 3 metres each is how many square metres:

- 105. For which county did England fast bowler John Snow play his first class career?
- 106. Which country's flag, the oldest existing flag in the world, apparently fell out of the heavens during a battle on 15th June, 1219
- 107. Which restaurant was the first in the UK to win a Michelin star?
- 108. What is the Mohs scale?
- 109. In Roman mythology, who was the king of the gods?
- 110. Who was the winner of the first ever UK series of "I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out Of Here!"?
- 111. What is the chemical formula for snow?
- 112. Added together, what is the total of the numbers on a standard dartboard?
- 113. 1/2 divided by 1/6 = 1/3 1/9 1/12 or 3?
- 114. What colour is 'cobalt'?
- 115. In which year was The Woodstock Rock Festival held?
- 116. Which of these elements has a single letter symbol not found in its name: Carbon, Potassium, Hydrogen or Oxygen?
- 117. Xerxes I (Xerxes the Great) was King of the Empire.
- 118. How many number one albums did Cilla Black have in the 60s?
- 119. Multiply XXI by II and what result will you get in Roman number system? XXIII XLII XXXII or LXII
- 120. The Beatles had four Christmas number ones; which was their first in 1963?

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- 121. When, where and between whom was the first official Cricket Test Match played?
- 122. The distance between the thread ridges of a screw or bolt is called the stitch, pitch, ditch or itch?
- 123. John Wayne had an airport named after him in his home country. Where is it?
- 124. What common typographical symbol's name is taken from Greek 'little star'?
- 125. Which British actor plays Lord Grantham in television's Downton Abbey?
- 126. In what year did the Spanish Armada set sail?
- 127. Which ancient Greek poem tells of an argument between King Agamemnon and the warrior Achilles?
- 128. Switzerland has how many official languages?
- 129. Which metal is the main constituent of Pewter?
- 130. St Anthony of Padua is the patron saint of what?
- 131. The atomic number of Nitrogen is 7, 15 or 33?
- 132. The largest cathedral in the UK can be found in which city?
- 133. Which British monarch was the final ruler in The House of Tudor?
- 134. In which country did the sport of Badminton originate? France, England or Germany?
- 135. What is more commonly referred to as Dry Ice?
- 136. True or false? The makeup artist behind the 'Max Factor' brand was called Maximilian Faktorovich.
- 137. Which 'C' is the outermost part of the Sun's atmosphere and is only visible with the naked eye during a solar eclipse?
- 138. Prospero, Miranda and Antonio are well known characters in which of Shakespeare's plays?
- 139. What was astronaut Buzz Aldrin's birth name? Edwin, Eric or Ernest?
- 140. American architect Frank Lloyd Wright is perhaps best known for his spiral design of which 1959 New York landmark?
- 141. On TV, what were the names of The Flowerpot Men?
- 142. How would the number 1966 be expressed in Roman numerals?
- 143. What 'ology' is the scientific study of the atmosphere?
- 144. In the British Honours System, which award is higher in ranking The Victoria Cross or the George Cross?
- 145. Constructed in 1903, Queen's Drive acts as a ring road for which UK city Edinburgh, Liverpool or Sheffield?

146. The English social reformer Octavia Hill formed which environmental and conservation organisation in 1895 -

The National Trust, Prince's Rainforests Project or Green Alliance?

- 147. Which fantasy novel series features a poem which opens with the lines:
  "All that is gold does not glitter, Not all those who wander are lost;"
- 148. Electromagnetic induction was discovered in 1831 by which British scientist?

  Thomas Edison, Michael Faraday or Georg Ohm?
- 149. The dollar sign appears above which number on a computer keyboard?
- 150. In Blackadder, the manservant, played by Tony Robinson, always had an answer to any predicament. What was his catchphrase?
- 151. Which cricket commentator was known as 'Blowers'?
- 152. Alfred Nobel, the benefactor behind the Nobel Prize awards, was born in which country?
- 153. Who composed the piece 'Eine Kleine Nachtmusik', which in German means 'a little serenade'?
- 154. HMS Bounty famously suffered a mutiny by the crew, but what was the mission the ship was on?
- 155. 24 Sussex Drive is the official residency of the Prime Minister of which country?
- 156. In Roman mythology, who was the goddess of the moon?
- 157. Who published works under the pen name Currer Bell?
- 158. The Halle orchestra was founded in 1858. In which city is it based?
- 159. The final of which inaugural competition was hosted at The Kennington Oval in 1872?
- 160. What is the name of the branch of mathematics which can be used to work out the length of sides and sizes of angles of right-angled triangles?
- 161. Evita, Cats and Jesus Christ Superstar are musicals written by which English composer?
- 162. Name the longest serving presenter of the BBC children's show Blue Peter, and the catchphrase he used when trying to control the excitable border collie?
- 163. Geoff Hurst scored a hat-trick in England's 4-2 win over West Germany in the 1966 World Cup final but who scored the other goal for England?
- 164. From the nursery rhyme 'One, Two, Buckle My Shoe' complete the following line: 'Five, Six, ......?'
- 165. Born Eric Arthur Blair in Motihari, Bengal, India, this famous author is better known by what pseudonym?

166. A cow's stomach is divided into compartments. 167. Which chemical element has the Atomic Number of 1? 168. What is the term for cutting vegetables into long thin matchstick like shapes? 169. A standard bottle of wine contains 75 cl. What is the name of the size of bottle which holds 4.5 ltr (or equivalent of 6 standard bottles)? 170. What formula is used to calculate the circumference of a circle? 171. In the film 'The Wizard of Oz' what is Dorothy's dog called? 172. Longacre Square in Midtown Manhattan changed its name in 1904 to ? 173. Name the decisive engagement of the First English Civil War that was fought in 1645 Northamptonshire? 174. Snooker is played with balls of Yellow, Green, Blue, White, Black, Pink, and which two other colours? 175. Who wrote the novel 'The Spy Who Came in From the Cold'? 176. In which English county is Leeds Castle? 177. In athletics, the men's hammer weighs pounds? 178. Into which body of water does Canada's longest river, the Mackenzie, flow? 179. The Ancient Greeks burnt the herb Thyme as incense believing it was a source of courage, wisdom or good health? 180. The outermost layer of the atmosphere is called the ? 181. Hole 8, named Yellow Jasmine, is the longest hole on which major golf course? 182. Triginta septem is the Latin for which number? 183. Which of the following elements has the lowest atomic number: lithium, potassium or sodium? 184. In which country is the worlds highest waterfall, and its name? 185. The 1455 to 1487 'Wars of the Roses' took place between which two rival branches of the Royal House of Plantagenet? 186. Which English football referee officiated both the 2016 Champions League Final and the UEFA Euro 2016 Final? 187. Rafiki, Timon and Zazu are all characters from which Disney musical? 188. The modern Olympics was resurrected in 1896 by 189. Quicksilver is the old common name for which element? 190. The Brooklyn Bridge links Manhattan and Brooklyn over which body of water? 191. What unit of pressure equates to 14.7 psi (pounds per square inch)? 192. Which is the most Easterly town in England? 193. Alexander Graham Bell patented the telephone in 1836, 1856 or 1876? 194. Which stretch of water separates Alaska from Russia?

195. The Mercalli intensity scale is used for measuring the intensity of what?

# RE-ARRANGE THE SCRAMBLED NAMES OF THESE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

# MATCH THE COLLECTIVE NAMES

DOOKS OF	THE BIBLE	knot of	flamingos
SVRBPROE		brood of	partridges
ERVLEAONIT		nursery of	raccoons
SMTLETANAONI		bevy of	hens
OMRNAS		army of	cobras
GNSESIE		clutter of	wombats
BWSERHE		yoke of	larks
EUODXS		swarm of	giraffes
HSAEO		gang of	jays
SNATALAGI		covey of	cats
OJNHA		caravan of	spiders
ETUDEMROOYN		wisdom of	toads
RCHAHAEZI		clowder of	oxen
NBUESMR		pod of	hornets
NPSPIALIHIP		parade of	eels
SEIEPSHAN		flamboyance of	elk
OIEPHLMN		nest of	caterpillars
EIHEAMJR		party of	camels
EUSGJD		tower of	dolphins
HOABAID		auiver of	elephants
HRETSE			

- 196. The atomic number of an element represents the number of electrons, neutrons or protons in the nucleus?
- 197. The Sydney Riot of 1879 was triggered by a government decision to raise taxes on local shop owners, the arrest of a prominent campaigner for social justice or a controversial umpiring decision in an England vs Australia test match?
- 198. The ceremonial dagger worn as part of the traditional Scottish dress is known as a Kirk, Greimire or Skean-dhu?
- 199. On a standard UK Monopoly board, what is the first non-property square after Go?
- 200. What do you call "a substance that increases the rate of a chemical reaction without itself undergoing any permanent chemical change"?
- 201. Yuri Gagarin was the first man to orbit the earth. What was the name of his spacecraft?
- 202. Which London hotel was the first in the world to offer a private bathroom for each guest?
- 203. Which British actor who starred as Jimmy in the film Quadrophenia later appeared in Blur's video for the single Parklife?
- 204. Who was the first woman to fly the Atlantic single-handed?
- 205. How many US States start with the word New?
- 206. The name of which capital city is used in the NATO alphabet?
- 207. What was Dorothy's surname in "The Wizard of Oz"?
- 208. What was the ancient Roman name for Ireland?
- 209. What is the name of the protein responsible for carrying oxygen through the bloodstream?
- 210. Tony Adams spent his entire playing career at which football club?
- 211. What is the French word for green?
- 212. On a QWERTY keyboard, the % sign is shared by which number key?
- 213. What is the official language of the Azores?
- 214. Which former England cricketer was nicknamed The Cat?
- 215. What is the chemical symbol for manganese?
- 216. In which land-locked English county would you find the Isle of Ely?
- 217. Dolomite is a major ore of which metal?
- 218. What is couscous made from?
- 219. What is the freezing point of water on the Kelvin temperature scale?
- 220. If all the properties on the standard UK Monopoly board were listed alphabetically which would come last?

#### SERVICES OF WORSHIP

#### **◆ Sundays**

#### ST MARY IN THE BAUM

#### 9.15 am

Week 1 - BCP Communion Week 2 - Holy Communion Weeks 3, 4 and 5\* Common Worship Communion \* where there is a 5th Sunday in a month

#### ST CHAD'S

#### 11.15 am

Holy Communion

Matins on 2nd Sunday of month

**2.00 - 4.00 pm** Asian Fellowship

## ◆ Thursdays

#### ST CHAD'S

#### from 3 November at 10.00 am

Weeks 1, 4 and 5\* Morning Prayer Week 2 and 3 Holy Communion\*\*

- \* months with a 5th Thursday
- \*\* for those who wish to receive the sacrament in the week



#### **CONTACT INFO**

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St Mary in the Baum

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### St Chad's:

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PCC Sec: L Goddard

Verger: C Lucas

Newsletter: L Goddard

St Chad's Asian Fellowship: Janice Julius 07983 388169

# https://rochdaleparishchurches.org.uk

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> To book a Wedding or Baptism/Christening at St Chad's or St Mary in the Baum, please come along to church on Sunday morning or phone the vicar to make arrangements.



If you have an item or notice for the newsletter, please send it via email to:

#### stchadsrochdale@outlook.com

or see me after the service at St Chad's.

Línda G.