



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

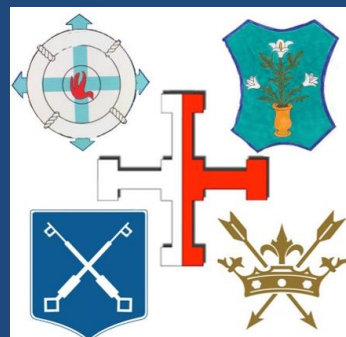
Diocese of Manchester

CHURCH
FOR A
DIFFERENT
WORLD

ST MARY IN THE BAUM CHURCH ROCHDALE



*Parish Profile
April 2026*

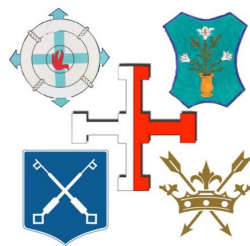


Parish Profile 2026 – St Mary in the Baum Church, Rochdale



Our welcome!

Welcome, and thank you for your interest in becoming our new vicar at St Mary in the Baum, Rochdale. We are looking for an enthusiastic and innovative priest who shares our vision, ready to embrace the many opportunities and challenges that our parish presents, with a calling to grow God's kingdom among our diverse community. Ideally, we seek to employ a priest who is personable and dynamic, who can immerse themselves in our congregation. Someone who can nurture faith amongst the families, youth and children of our parish whilst also having a love of people of all ages, ready to actively encourage and support them pastorally. This role requires someone who is approachable, with energy, compassion, vision, and commitment, who values the beauty of traditional worship as well as a more modern approach. In turn, we hope you can find a place to call home within our wonderful community!



Key information

Archdeacon: The Ven Karen Smeeton karen.smeeton@manchester.anglican.org

The Rochdale Archdeaconry of The Diocese of Manchester

Area Dean: The Revd. Anne Gilbert anne.gilbert@manchester.anglican.org

Lay Chair: Susan Howarth

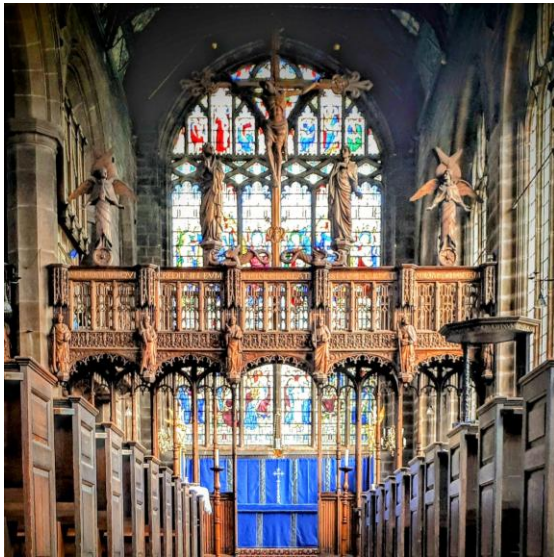
Deanery Transformation officer: Sue Brown

Mission Community 3 Rochdale Central

Patron: The right reverend Mark Davies the Bishop of Middleton

1. Introduction

St Mary in the Baum is a warm and welcoming Anglican church in the Anglo-Catholic tradition, situated in the heart of Rochdale town centre within the historic Toad Lane Conservation Area — the birthplace of the Co-operative Movement. We are a small but



faithful worshipping community, centred on the Eucharist, prayer, and the beauty of holiness. We meet in an extraordinary Grade I listed church designed by Sir Ninian Comper and consecrated in 1911. Our building, our location, and our ministry place us in a unique and hopeful position at the civic and cultural heart of Rochdale.

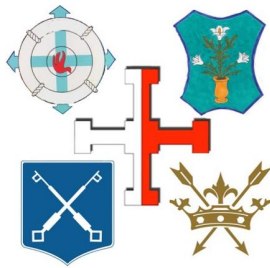
A church has stood on this site since 1742 and had originally been built as a chapel of ease. The church retains many original features of the previous church building, such as roundel-stained glass windows, columns, the font, and the pulpit.

Electoral Roll: 26

Average Sunday communicants: 15

Seating capacity: 200

ST. CHAD'S, ST. LUKE'S AND ST. MARY IN THE BAUM ARE A PLURALITY OF THREE CHURCHES WHO, ALTHOUGH HAVING THEIR OWN DISTINCTIVE WORSHIP STYLES, WORK TOGETHER TO GROW AND DEVELOP OUR MISSION, SHARING OUR JOURNEY WITHIN THE ROCHDALE DEANERY AND THE DIOCESE FOR PARISH RENEWAL AND GROWTH, ATTRACTING YOUNGER PEOPLE TO CHURCH, REVITALISATION, AND DEVELOPING MISSION LEADERS WHO CAN ENCOURAGE AND DEVELOP OUR JOINT WAY FORWARD. WE ALSO HOLD JOINT SERVICES AND SOCIAL EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.



A joint statement made by all three churches in the Plurality
April 2026

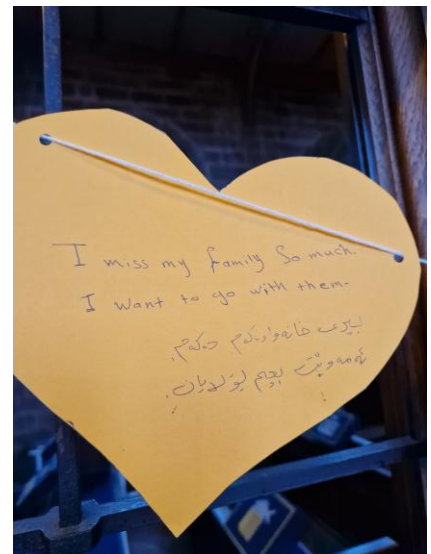
Additionally, Parochial expenses are covered between the three churches in full.

2. Vision and Mission

Our vision is to be a prayerful, sacramental, and welcoming church at the heart of Rochdale, growing into a congregation that reflects the diversity, age range, and cultural richness of the town around us.

Our mission is expressed through:

- Reverent and traditional worship
- Hospitality, warmth and a genuine welcome
- Support for refugees and asylum seekers through our partnership with the British Red Cross
- Music, culture, and community engagement through weekly concerts and a variety of events
- Developing and encouraging discipleship of all people



“We believe St Mary’s has significant potential for growth under the right leadership, and we are ready to embrace the next stage of our spiritual life together.”

3. Worship and Services

Sunday Eucharist: 9.15am (sung, Common Worship)

First Sunday of the month: Book of Common Prayer (sung)

Our worship is traditional, reverent, and sung. Seasonal services include Stations of the Cross, Maundy Thursday, Christingle, Carol Services as well as an hour before the cross on Good Friday.



Figures (April 2024–March 2025):

Baptisms: 7

Confirmations: 2

Marriages: 2

Funerals: 2

Christmas Day communicants: 34

Easter Day communicants: 45



Although our congregation is mainly elderly, we have been encouraged by the arrival of younger worshippers from different countries and backgrounds in recent years. Our service booklets are bilingual and translated into Farsi. We also have a stock of Farsi bibles.



4. Community and Outreach

A central expression of our mission is our long-standing partnership with the British Red Cross. Every Monday the church hosts a Red Cross Hub for refugees and asylum seekers, offering clothing distribution, ESOL support, advice services, food, haircuts, and companionship. Our congregation has been generous both with their time and their donations.

This ministry has operated for over a decade and places St Mary's at the heart of the lives of some of the most vulnerable people in Rochdale.





We are also home to Toad Lane Concerts (TLC), hosting weekly Wednesday lunchtime concerts which bring a wide range of visitors to the church and connect us with the wider community. The Queens Award winning concerts for voluntary service have been held at St Mary's since 2001 when they

were taken over from Rochdale Council and are fast approaching 1200 concerts!

We greatly value relationships with other organisations in the conservation area here in Rochdale, such as The Baum Pub and The Pioneers museum as the birthplace of the Co-operative movement.

In addition, we continue to host the Greater Manchester Male Voice Choir, as well as the venue for Rochdale Music Service and their concert series working with children from across the borough as well as an annual service with Rochdale Council and their White ribbon event.



In more recent times we have hosted clothes swap services for the women of Rochdale and beyond.

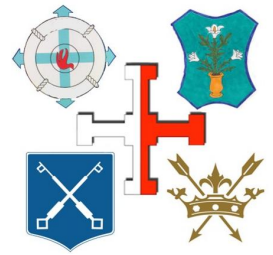


5. Leadership and Governance

St Mary in the Baum is part of the wider benefice and plurality and works collaboratively through a Joint Standing Committee and shared events with St Chad's and St Luke's.

We have a committed PCC, a churchwarden, a treasurer, two Eucharistic Assistants, and active lay involvement. We fully recognise the need to further develop understanding of the lay ministry of the whole congregation in the next phase of our life.

Our PCC has passed the clergy wellbeing covenant.



6. Buildings and Facilities

St Mary in the Baum is a Grade I listed church designed by Sir Ninian Comper, widely regarded as a masterpiece of Anglo-Catholic church architecture. It includes restored stained glass from the former church building, a fine rood screen, and a memorial garden for the burial of ashes.

The building is first and foremost a place of worship, but also a venue for concerts and community work, offering a warm and sincere welcome and hospitality. Its beauty and heritage are significant assets for mission and engagement.



7. Finance

St Mary's pays its Parish Share in full. We operate a planned giving scheme with Gift Aid and a card donation station. Parishioners are generous both with their time and financial support. A large portion of our income is from the hiring of the church building.

A copy of the most recent accounts from the APCM of 2025 is attached.

8. Parish Life

Parish life centres on worship, hospitality, music, and community service. Fellowship is shared with the wider plurality through joint events such as harvest suppers, Christmas fairs, and choir and musical collaborations. We are also committed to joint services held across the plurality.

9. The Area and Community

Rochdale is a diverse post-industrial Northern town undergoing significant regeneration. The church stands close to the Town Hall, Metrolink interchange, new civic developments, as well as the Pioneers Museum and The Baum historic pub within the conservation area.

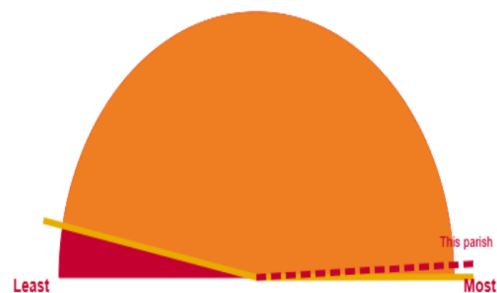
Schools in the plurality include Broadfield Park Primary and St Peter's School. We see strong potential for deeper engagement with local schools and families in the future.

According to The Church Urban Fund, please see up-to-date statistics for our Parish:

Overall Deprivation

The population of this parish is **8720**. It ranks **182** out of **12178**, where 1 is the most deprived parish.

This means that the parish is among the most deprived in the country.



10. Future Mission Plans and Challenges

We are honest that our congregation is small and mainly elderly. Our key hope is to grow into a younger and more diverse church that better reflects the community around us and embodies the vision of the Diocese of Manchester for “growing younger.”

We believe our town-centre location, beautiful building, refugee ministry, and traditional worship offer remarkable opportunities for growth and renewal as well as to further develop and grow our outreach into the community.

11. The Priest We Are Seeking

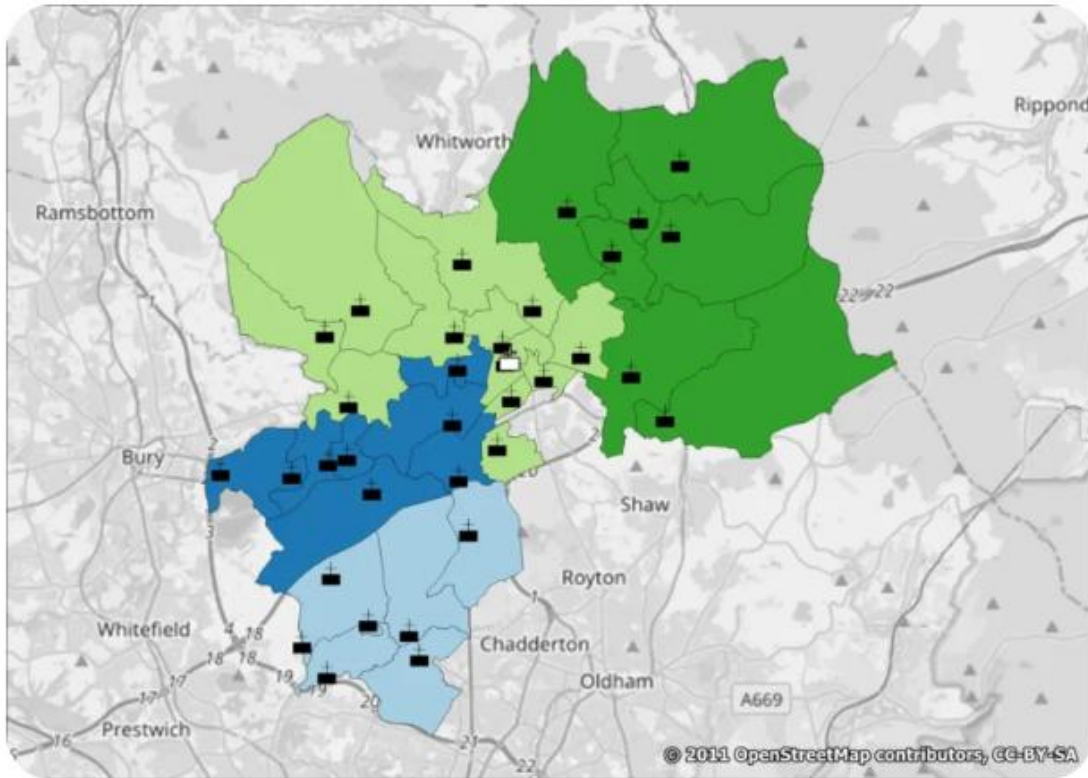
We are praying for a priest who:

- Loves traditional Anglican worship and values the Book of Common Prayer
- Will cherish and develop the sacramental life of the parish
- Is a warm, confident communicator and pastor
- Has a heart for mission and growth, especially among younger and more diverse communities
- Can build on our work with refugees and the wider community
- Works well within the plurality
- Is imaginative, energetic, resilient, and hopeful



12. Appendices

The Rochdale Deanery Map



Accommodation

9 Deeplish Road, Rochdale is a four bedroomed purpose-built Vicarage, built about 19 years ago with a good-sized back garden and parking for 3 or 4 cars to the front as well as an integral garage.



Church Social Media:

Instagram: @stmaryinthebaum

X: @stmaryinthebaum

Facebook: [St Mary in the Baum, Rochdale | Facebook](#)

Email address: stmaryinthebaum@outlook.com

Website: rochdaleparishchurches.co.uk

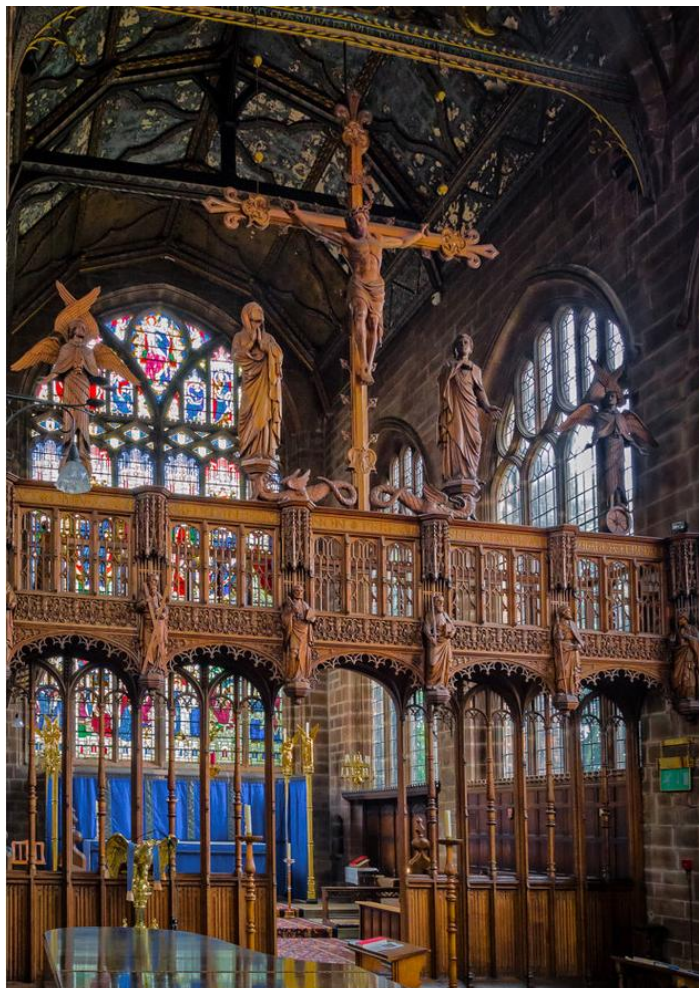
360 degree tour of the church: [Rochdale 360 - Brought to you by Rochdale BID](#)

Churchwarden:

Mrs Andrea Pollock – u_apreston@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Mrs Valerie Leach – valerie.leach@icloud.com

Parish Administrator: Miss Melissa Preston



St. Mary's in the Baum
Annual Accounts @ 31.12.2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
Receipts		
Giving – planned	7944	6956
Cash collections	250	409
Income tax recovered	1546	1268
Donations	905	2825
Fundraising		275
Fees	749	400
Church Hire	14559	8112
Grants		530
Legacies	10890	
Total Receipts	36843	20775

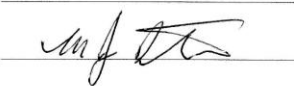
Payments		
Parish Share	3600	3268
Insurance	6379	6257
Repairs & Maintenance	5391	1066
Churchyard maint.	1010	685
Utilities	7788	5346
Fees	488	921
Service upkeep	399	1109
Major repairs	3525	
Vicarage expenses	535	487
Bank charges	100	107
Total Payments	29215	19246

Surplus	7628	1529
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Add: Bank opening balance	10882	9353
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Bank closing balance	18510	10882
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PCC Treasurer		Valerie Leach
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Independent Examiner		Martin Butterworth
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30/04/2024

