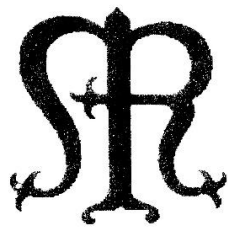


Newsletter #6

Friday 29th April 2022 to Friday 15th May 2022



St Mary's Church Eccleston /

St Mary's Church Pulford

[Eccleston and Pulford Churches](#)

Email:

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Dear Reader,

The parish newsletter is available to download from the church website as well as being emailed once a fortnight.

In this edition Rob Hughes provides prayers and meditations, we hear about Rob's model making hobby and finally some ancient meditations and thoughts written by some very learned theologians.

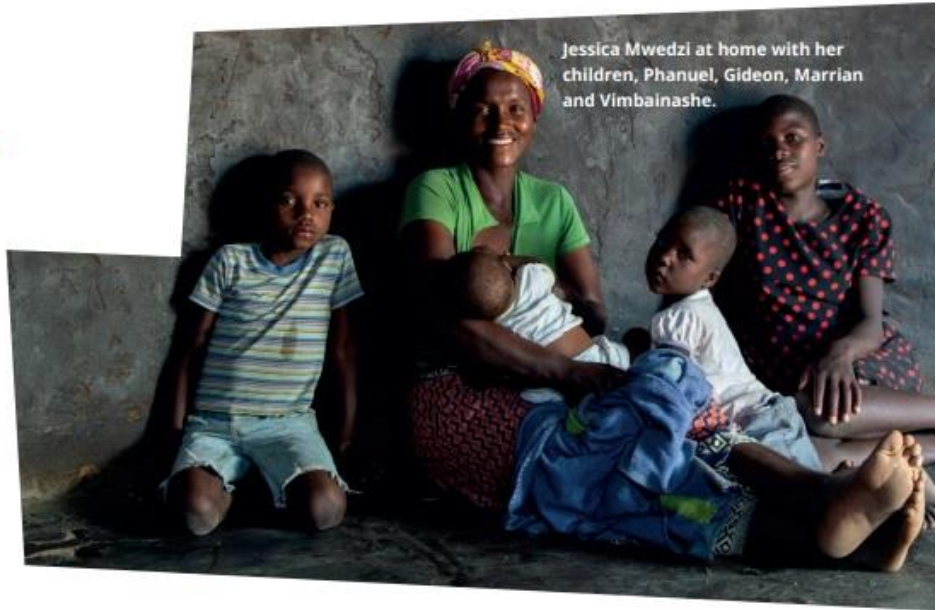
Kind Regards

Stephen Hutchinson



Upcoming Services

- **1/05/2022 Sunday 10:30 at Pulford Church**
Parish Communion
Rev. Stephen Attwater
- **8/05/2022 Sunday 10:30 at Eccleston Church**
Choral Communion.
Rev. Stephen Attwater.
- **15/05/2022 Sunday 10:30 at Pulford Church**
Parish Communion.
Rev. Robin Mosley.
- **22/05/2022 Sunday 10:30 at Eccleston Church**
Choral Communion.
Rev. Elizabeth Inall



Jessica Mwedzi at home with her children, Phaniel, Gideon, Marrian and Vimbalnashe.

Help Jessica turn hunger into hope

In Zimbabwe, drought starves her crops. 'It pains me to send my children to bed hungry.'

With you by their side, women like Jessica can provide food – and hope – for their families.

Join us:

To support the work of Christian Aid, envelopes will be available in Eccleston and Pulford Churches from 8th May. Christian Aid supports many deprived areas in the world but this year's appeal features the widespread hunger in Zimbabwe caused by failure of crops due to lack of rainfall.

I do hope you will feel able to support this annual appeal. Envelopes can be returned and put on the offertory plate any time up to the end of May.

Many thanks, Margaret Walker



Christian Aid Week 15-21 May

Every gift. Every action. Every prayer. Every one of us can change lives.

Christian Aid is a key member of ACT Alliance. Eng and Wales charity no. 1105851 Scot charity no. SC039150 Company no. 5171525. The Christian Aid name and logo are trademarks of Christian Aid. © Christian Aid January 2022 Photo: Christian Aid/David Brazier J260675

Important News and Reminders

Food Bank:

A reminder from Rachel Williams

Urgently Wanted

- Tinned Meats, Tomatoes, Desserts & Potatoes
- UHT Milk & Juice
- Custard
- Small Jars Instant Coffee
- Jams and Spreads
- Instant Mashed
- Cereal Bars
- Instant Pasta & Instant Noodles

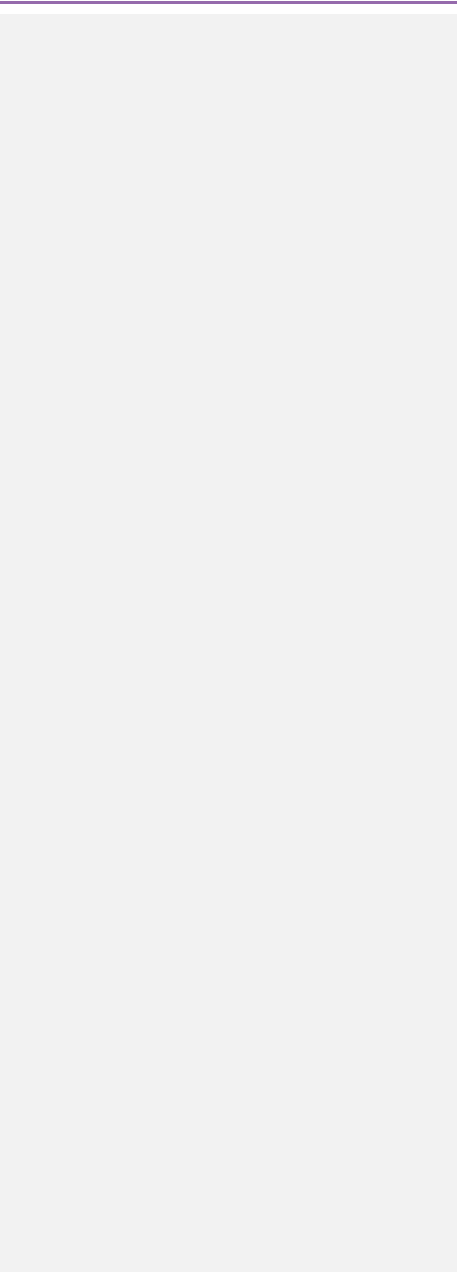
Wanted

- Tinned Meat, Fish, Vegetables, Potatoes, Tomatoes, Custard & Fruit
- Cuppa Soup
- Pot Noodles
- Instant Pasta & Pasta Sauce, Mashed Potato, Coffee & Custard
- Biscuits
- UHT Milk and Fruit Juice
- Breakfast Cereal

Plenty Of

- Pasta
- Baked Beans

The list changes from time to time. Both donation stations are emptied on the last service in the month and for those parents who receive the magazine we collect from school the last week of each half term.



Homily submitted by Rob Hughes

Seeing or Perceiving?



Have you ever been frustrated looking for something, and failing to find it? Or perhaps looking for something, knowing you 'must be getting close', getting distracted, and then finding yourself back at 'square one' - and having to start all over again? Or maybe you've given up looking for something for a long time, finding it accidentally, and being disappointed at not needing it anymore?

In conversations I've had with non-Christians and waverers, over many years, some seem to have been put-off because, in their words: "I've been looking for God for a long time, and still haven't found Him". Rarely, some have added, "...but I'll keep trying". Even in conversation with others, who have regarded themselves as Christians, some have said something like "God wasn't around when I needed Him the most" (usually in reaction to some sort of crisis).

Sometimes these conversations can get a bit tricky...No matter how hard you try to explain that "God is always there"; it's all-too-easy to come across as pompous, patronizing, rude, or unhelpful; and it's easy to make things worse, as the more you try, the worse it can get!

But it's true: we don't have to send out a search party to find God... God-the-Father, through the death and resurrection of The Son (that we have just commemorated), and in the Person of The Holy Spirit, is always: within us; alongside us; ahead of us; and behind us. The issue then becomes - do we expect to see, or touch Him? Or can we 'see better' when we distance ourselves from our physical senses, in all-too-rare silences!

The human side of our nature always looks for "that little bit more proof", doesn't it? ...Even such miracles as the disciples had seen for themselves never seem to have been enough. Seeing and perceiving can prove difficult to reconcile. A while ago I came across a saying which helped me with this one: "*We usually think of ourselves as human beings who seek to experience our spiritual nature; we are, in fact, spiritual beings who routinely experience our human nature*". ... And that's where things can go wrong...

- Our human nature prompts us to believe what we see (for example, like Thomas, we'd need to see the wounds in the side of the risen Lord)
- Our spiritual nature dares us to perceive other truths (at the 'meeting in the room', the disciples finally perceived Jesus differently - as their Lord and their God!).

Jesus was with them, **then**, in person. He will always be there for us, too, **in the here-and-now**. Not by coincidence; not because we have to seek Him out; but because He is **always** there - we don't have to *look without*; we have to *perceive Him within*... We have to have faith that He's already there, even though He can't be seen, nor heard; nor touched with our own hands.

But it's in the silences that our spiritual nature can enable us to **perceive** Him - anytime, anywhere. It can, of course, be particularly difficult in times of crisis and chaos; but it's somewhat easier in rare times we make for tranquility and stillness). **We have to make that time!**

There is an old hymn that testifies, "Jesus calls us o'er the tumult" But just as He instructed His disciples to face dangers by keeping the faith - we, too, must be prepared to keep the faith - not by "looking for Him", but by "perceiving Him", in the stillness and silence of our hearts - which is why we pray:

May we truly have faith that Christ will always 'be there':

- ***Above us to bless us; below us to support us;***
- ***Before us to guide us; behind us to protect us;***
- ***Beside us to comfort us; and inside us, to give us courage, strength and joy.***

Rob Hughes Hobby interests: Model Making.



A 1/72 Spitfire Mk 1, as flown (with a few others) from RAF Hawarden during the summer of 1941, combat training for newly qualified pilots - mock 'dogfights' - and no doubt regularly seen over Chester, Queensferry, Pulford, Poulton and Eccleston. It had been thought that the German military didn't know about the aircraft factory at Broughton - but a visitor from Germany, a while ago, sent a scanned copy of a 1942 Luftwaffe target map that proved they did!!!! Strange to think that attempts were made to destroy Bymbo Steel Works, but not the Broughton factory!!!!



1/72 scale diorama showing the exchange of a Defiant, single-engine night fighter, for a then-more-modern, twin engine Beaufighter, as would have happened at Borrax Airfield in 1942 - used in the defence of North Wales and North West England industrial plants and cities.



A 1/700 scale model of HMS Chester at the Battle of Jutland, May/June, 1916, during which she was severely damaged. A 16-year-old boy won the VC for continuing to operate one of the guns, though mortally wounded. The gun is preserved, and displayed in the Imperial War Museum. By all accounts,

Mount Chester in the Canadian Rockies was named after the ship, and Mount Cornwell after the gunner, John Cornwell.



A flint knife made from deer antler and flint shard - it really is extremely sharp and useable, and doesn't blunt!!!!

Reflections (Part 2) [from previous newsletter]

Meditations and thoughts to stimulate and stir disciples:

“Come, come, whoever you are,
Wanderer worshipper, lover of leaving,
It doesn't matter –
Ours is not a caravan of despair.
Come, come, even if you have broken your vows a thousand
times;
Come, come, yet again come.”

[Rumi – Sufi Mystic]

“Wherever you draw the line, you'll find Jesus on the other
side of it.”

[Nadia Bolz-Weber – Lutheran Pastor]

“The seeker should not stop until he finds.
When he does find he will be disturbed.
After having been disturbed he will be astonished.
Then he will reign over everything.”

[Oxyrhyncus Papyrus – 2nd century]

“He who with God is, is at no time less alone than when he is
alone.”

[William of St Thierry – 12th Century]

“In religion as in everything else,
Survival is assured only by change.”

[Harvey Cox – theologian]

“He is such a fast God,
ahead of us, and leaving us as we arrive.”

[R.S.Thomas – priest and poet]

“We need not all think alike to love alike”.

[Francis David – 16th Century Bishop]

“Blessed is the man who knows his weakness.
This knowledge is for him the foundation and beginning
Of his coming to all good things.”

[St Isaac of Syria – 7th Century]

“Be whom God meant you to be
And you will set the world on fire”

[St Catherine of Siena – 14th Century]

