

St Mary's Church Eccleston /

St Mary's Church Pulford

[Eccleston and Pulford Churches](#)

Email:

Warden@ecclestonchurch.org

PulfordChurchWarden@ecclestonchurch.org

Dear Reader,

The parish newsletter as well as home worship guides for those unable to attend the service in person, are available to download from the church website as well as being emailed once a fortnight.

For up-to-date service information please see the church website [Services – St Mary's Church Eccleston and St Mary's Church Pulford \(ecclestonchurch.org\)](#)

Kind Regards

Stephen Hutchinson (hutch@ecclestonchurch.org)



Upcoming Services

- **07/08/2022 Sunday 9.45 at Pulford Church**
Parish Communion [Joint Service] Led by Revd. Robin Mosley.
- **14/08/2022 Sunday 11.15 at Eccleston Church**
Choral Communion [Joint Service] Led by Rev Elizabeth Inall.
- **21/08/2022 Sunday 9.45 at Pulford Church**
Parish Communion
- **21/08/2022 Sunday 11.15 at Eccleston Church**
Choral Communion
- **28/08/2022 Sunday 11.15 at Eccleston Church**
Choral Communion [Joint Service]

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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

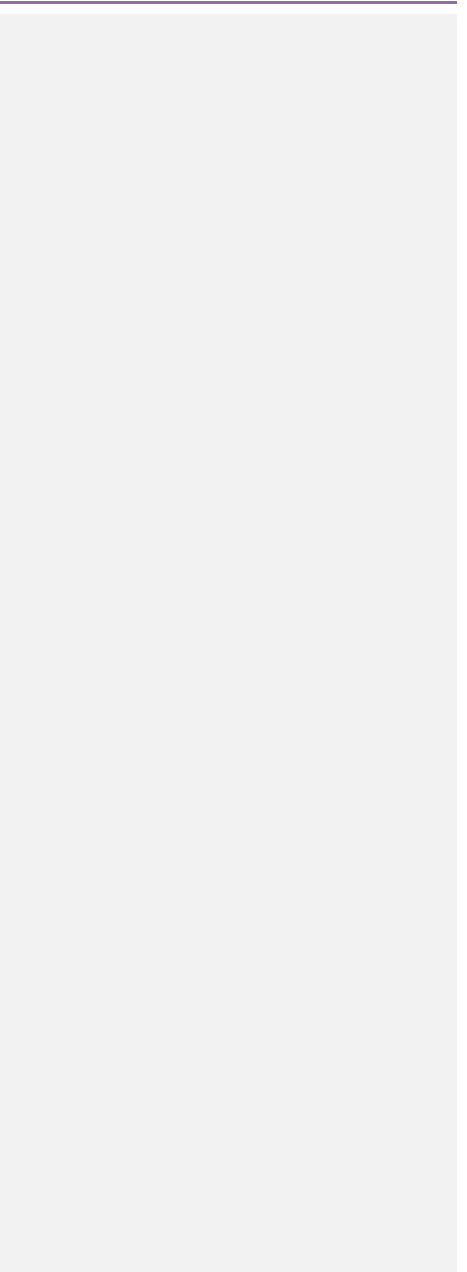
Wanted

- 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.



Rob Hughes Homily: Prayerful thinking.



Many years ago, when my reader robes were brand new and Cannon Skipper was our rector, the then-new service booklets had been made available - so Laurie asked me to co-present Rites A, B and C at the next three consecutive Evensongs (in those days we could expect about a dozen regular evening worshipers at each of our churches). Evensong was chosen for a number of reasons - mainly to introduce the new formats 'gently' before broader use, and secondly (forgive me) potential damage-limitation if the congregation didn't like them!! As things turned out, Laurie had made a wise decision.

At the end of the very first new-style service, I was (figuratively speaking) pinned to the wall by an irate worshipper who basically threatened to 'go elsewhere, with all the others'. Why? Because the booklet contained a (now very commonly-used) 'modernized', version of The Lord's Prayer. Whilst I was being taken to task, Laurie was getting feedback from someone else who felt the opposite - that actually reading the prayer helped him to focus more on the wording, and

therefore better appreciate the meaning and message. One's person's distraction is another person's motivation, apparently.

Now I wasn't unsympathetic to the point of view expressed to me; I was extremely surprised by the threatening behaviour, though. But this situation, even now, brings to mind the question as to whether or not our prayers are always spontaneous and authentic, as opposed to repetitive, and 'automatic'? Put another way, are our prayers:

- dependent on our ability to remember what we want to 'say', through frequent repetition?
- or less dependent on what we actually say, and more focused on what our hearts are seeking our prayers to accomplish - and for whom?

Well, the Bible's got a lot to say about praying - the New Testament in particular, in which Jesus and the Apostles bring a very clear perspective as to where and what we should pray about...

- **Matthew 6:** *'But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then **your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.** And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one"'*.
- **Romans 8:** "In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us through wordless groans".

- **1 John 5:** "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us - whatever we ask - we know that we have what we asked of him".

Over the past two or three years in particular, I've come to realise that I am not alone in having been inclined towards talking **to God** (praying-by-saying, or thinking in plain language), and far less time **listening** to God speaking to me... Perhaps there's much truth in leadership and management mentoring I used to deliver, when I'd sometimes say: "*During meetings, remember God's given us two ears and one tongue - so remember to listen twice as much as you speak*". The same is true of public and private worship, and, arguably, especially during private prayer.

I don't know about you, but I frequently have dry spells when it comes to private prayer. I can easily lose concentration, or even fall asleep! I used to worry about this - unnecessarily, as it turns out, if (as St Paul mentions above) we trust the '*the Spirit Himself to intercede*' - and simply make the time to listen.... The 'stillness' we're invited to experience at the start of church worship is equally valid, important, and effective in private prayer, too. Just setting aside uninterrupted time for God is vitally important - now more than ever before. And in saying this, I'm by no means suggesting it as an **alternative** to other opportunities for prayer - but it's when we cooperate with the Spirit within that we become fully enabled to pray, and perceive God's response.

Which is why I now invite the readers of these homilies to send me an email (at bob.hughes251@mac.com) if you would wish to consider (no obligation or pressure) to support the re-introduction of Silent Church - then I'll be sure to keep you up-to-date with developments.

[Rob Hughes]

Kestor Rock Walk - Greening On the outskirts of Chagford, Devon, part 2. A poem by Jeanette Howe.

Isaiah 48:13

***My hand laid the foundation of the earth,
and my right hand spread out the heavens;
when I call to them,
they stand forth together***



See ponies scattered everywhere
Their home; their shelter away
from the modern world.
With ancient rocks placed in rows
and circles
Evidence of moorland people
long ago.
Creating passages through time.



Unmoving ponies challenge us
for the right to stay on the
pathways in the moor.
Only a foal moves closer to his
mother,
Looking for comfort, away from
the unknown;
To reaffirm the bond between
them.



I wonder;
I wonder how many people are seeking comfort;
Comfort that can only come by reaffirming the eternal bond between our
faithful, loving God and his creation?

***Dear Lord,
May we be Your hands and feet,
shining a light in the darkness,
bringing comfort to those in need.
Amen.***

[Jeanette Howe]

Annual year 6 Leavers Service at Eccleston St Mary's Church.

On 21st July, Eccleston CE Primary School celebrated their annual year 6 Leaver's Service at Eccleston St. Mary's Church. The service was beautifully led by Jeanette Howe, who welcomed the parents of the Year 6 children and all of the staff and children from Eccleston School. The children shared their memories of their time at Eccleston, anecdotes about their friends at school, thankyou's to staff, friends and family and prayers for a successful future. The Bible reading and Blessing shared by Jeanette Howe were particularly poignant and fit the occasion perfectly.



[text by Bev Arrowsmith, Deputy Head teacher at Eccleston Church of England Primary School]