

St Mary's Church Eccleston /

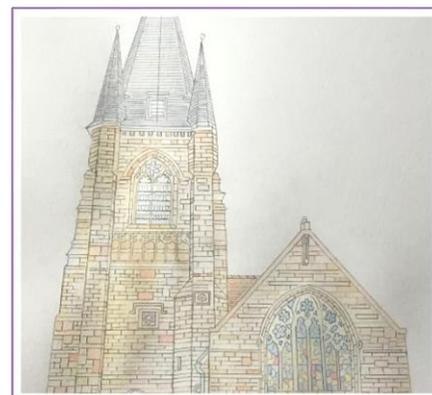
St Mary's Church Pulford

[Eccleston and Pulford Churches](#)

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Upcoming Services

- **4/09/2022 Sunday 9.45 at Pulford Church**
[Joint Service]
Holy Communion led by Canon Ian Davenport.
- **11/09/2022 Sunday 11.15 at Eccleston Church**
[Joint Service]
Sung Communion led by Canon Chris Samuels
- **18/09/2022 Sunday 9.45 at Pulford Church**
Harvest Service led by Priest Canon Stephen Attwater.
- **18/09/2022 Sunday 11.15 at Eccleston Church**
All age Communion Service led by Priest Canon Chris Samuels.
- **25/09/2022 Sunday 11.15 at Eccleston Church**
[Joint Service]
Sung Communion Service led by Priest Canon Chris Samuels.

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 \(ecclestonchurch.org\)](#)

Please feel free to email suggestions for future newsletter articles.

Kind Regards

Stephen Hutchinson (hutch@ecclestonchurch.org)

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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: What is real, and what is not!

I have a favourite scene from the Harry Potter book - The Deathly Hallows - where an unconscious Harry has a conversation with the recently-deceased Professor Albus Dumbledore about what's really been happening to him, and about his destiny. And he says to Albus - "Is all this real, or is it happening in my head?" - and the wise wizard's reply is simply - "Of course it's in your head, Harry, but why should that mean that it's not real?"



A change of scene: imagine for a moment there are a couple of people lost in the blazing heat of the desert - one stops the 4x4, and peering through the haze, points to the near horizon, having seen a shimmering pool of water, and says, "Is that a mirage, or are my eyes deceiving me?".

Well, are our thoughts real or imaginary - 'just in our heads'? Is a mirage real, or is it imaginary? And the answer: both are real enough (in our heads!). We don't imagine thoughts, but have no idea where they come from or go to! And if you had a camera, and the strength to use it, you could photograph a mirage as a lasting image.

Here's the crunch: We can be certain that what the mirage **represents** isn't real! Thoughts 'in our head' - well, when push comes to shove, they don't necessarily represent 'the truth' either! If that's so, why do we take our thoughts so seriously all the time?

Our reality - our perceptions of the world - are based on what we can see, touch, taste and smell (sensations)... Sensations are interpreted in the brain, and inform our perceptions; these translate into language for the purposes of communication. Beyond that, we develop emotions, which generate feelings - as an inevitable consequence of thinking. So thinking is real - it happens - it's meant to happen so that we can make decisions... But we now take a pause to ask this question: **is what we think ever 'the truth'.**

To be frank most of us like to think we're right, even when we might find it hard to convince ourselves of that from time to time!! But consider this:

- We might (and all-too-often do) instantly react to a situation, that actually requires a bit of thought. For the sake of example, we come to decision A.
- Or maybe we stop, and mull things over, and come to decision B instead.
- Still not convinced, we think a bit more and we come to conclusion C (quite likely the precise opposite of A or B - so start to go crazy).
- Then we think even more (by this time, we're probably and unhelpfully overthinking) and come to Conclusion D, and with a sigh of resignation, we say "that's it -I'll go with that!"

Then off we go... only to find latter on (and with hindsight) that we'd made the wrong decision, and should have chosen B, or C or D, or (by this time) maybe E. F or G!! But it's too late - its's done!

Apologies - this is a long-winded way of getting to another crunch question: Which decision was "the truth"? The reality, maybe none of them - so why is it we continually put too much trust in our thoughts? And if that is so, this could well be to the detriment of our trust in what the God needs us to know, and what He's trying to 'say' to us.

The bottom line is this. At what stage **should** we ask for God's advice when faced with an important decision? I don't know about you, but I have to admit I find myself automatically believing that the strongest thought 'in my head' is what God's telling me to do. So I react to that thought (sometimes too soon). Then I find myself going back to God to ask if he will get me out of the mess that I've just made.

In the hustle, bustle and complexity of life it's hard - really hard - to have the presence of mind: to trust enough to take a prayerful step back, to let God speak to our situation. Not in our heads - but in our hearts... This, too, is 'a practice' - a discipline. It takes practice over time, that eventually enables us to consistently make more reasoned responses to situations, and to take more effective action.

There is no guarantee that future events (probably way beyond our control anyway) may require reversal or modification of some decisions - that's life. But we really need to trust God more than we trust our thinking. Thoughts are real, of course they are. But what they represent isn't always the truth - so not necessarily "real" in that sense. God is real, and also 100% loving and trustworthy - but we have to let Him 'be that' in our lives...

Holy Spirit, teach me to trust your direction.

Help me to have confidence in your guidance and direction.

Turn my life into a powerful demonstration of what trust in God looks like.

Amen.

[Rob Hughes]

I'm diving into God's Creation Up to Kiln Down (Christow Walk 9) Part 1. A poem by Jeanette Howe.



I'm diving into God's creation
I'm walking in His ways
I'm singing His praises
In the depths of His imagination.

I'm soaking up His goodness
I'm drowning in His love
I'm delighting in His salvation,
Overcome by His graciousness.

I'm getting lost in His glory, lost in His Power
Seconds turn to minutes and minutes to hours.
I'm lost, I'm found
On the bridle path to Bowden.



Seconds are like minutes and minutes are like hours
Timeless, Endless Glorious Lord
I love the open countryside -
Honest and free.

[Jeanette Howe]



Genesis 1:11-12

And God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth." And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good

Thought for the week.

In the book of revelation, Chapter 21, verse 21, John describes his vision of the New Jerusalem given to him by an angel from God. He describes the gates and streets of the city as follows:

“The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate being made from a single pearl. The streets of the city were of pure gold, like translucent glass.”

How would John have known that pure gold really is transparent in colour like glass. The only explanation is that the book of Revelation **really is** the word of God.

Gold only has its distinctive 'gold' colour because of impurities. If gold has no impurities, then it is crystal clear. But, when John wrote the book of Revelation, it would not have been possible to refine gold to that degree so no human being could possibly have known this.



[Stephen Hutchinson]