

St Mary's Church Eccleston /

St Mary's Church Pulford

[Eccleston and Pulford Churches](#)

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Upcoming Services

- **02/10/2022 Sunday 09.45 at Pulford Church [Joint Service]**
Sung Communion Service led by Priest Canon Ian Davenport.
- **09/10/2022 Sunday 11.15 at Eccleston Church [Joint Service]**
All age Harvest Communion Service led by Priest Canon Chris Samuels.
- **16/10/2022 Sunday 09.45 at Pulford Church**
Holy Communion Service with Baptism led by Priest Canon Robin Mosley
- **16/10/2022 Sunday 11.15 at Eccleston Church**
Holy Communion Service with Baptism led by Priest Canon Ric Whaite.
- **23/10/2022 Sunday 11.15 at Eccleston Church [Joint Service]**
Holy Communion Service led by Priest Canon Stephen Attwater

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.

<https://www.ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org/services/>

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

Also Wanted

- Cuppa Soup, Pot Noodles, Pasta Sauce, Biscuits, Breakfast Cereal

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.

Pulford & Poulton Local History Group.

The 2022 to 2023 Programme of some very interesting talks is now available at the group website <http://www.pplhg.org.uk/>

The talk on Wednesday the 19st October will be "A History of Hydro Generation in Chester" by Neil MacFadyen. The talk starts at 7.30pm at Pulford Village Hall (CH4 9ES).

Disruption this Sunday 2nd October 2022

Please remember that this Sunday there is a marathon, so many of the roads leading to Pulford will be closed this Sunday between 8am and 12 noon. Those wishing to attend the service at Pulford may find attendance difficult.

Rev. Chris Samuels Birthday Gathering.

The Rev Chris Samuels has invited members of the congregation to attend an informal birthday gathering after the service at Eccleston on the 9th October to help him celebrate his birthday.



Rob Hughes Homily: Help from unlikely places?



Picture the scene - a man walking along the street when, failing to see the warning notices, fell into a carelessly-unguarded open manhole into a sewer below. He wasn't seriously hurt, but there was no ladder to hand, so he called out for help.

The first person to hear him was a philosophy teacher - who, as there wasn't a ladder or rope in sight, dropped him a note with some words of wisdom scribbled on it - about staying calm in adversity. The next to hear him was a caring sole, but scared of heights and confined places, called over a passing Anglican priest - who offered a prayer for the man - but walked on. The fourth member of the public, however, scrambled into the hole, dangled by the fingertips, let go, and dropped down beside the first chap (who, in fairness was more-than-a-bit concerned), and said "Well thanks for caring, but we're both in trouble now." The reply came, "Not at all, it's just that I did the same thing the other day, but was lucky enough to wander the right way down that tunnel, then turned left for a few yards, and there's another manhole there, with a fixed ladder... I'll show you".

At face value, this could be seen as a parody of The Good Samaritan. But I have had many conversations with genuinely-concerned people, who agonise whether or not it's always the right thing to give money to an increasing number of destitute people who beg for money in the streets, sometimes adding "who just might spend it on drugs-or-drink". ***I'll offer a thought about this later...***



But another question raised is do we always help people in need in the right way? So, to extend the illustration, picture another scene - a young single mum who left her poorly six-month-old with a childminder, to pop to the pharmacy for the medicine she needed. Returning to the car, she discovered that she was locked out; her keys in the ignition, and mobile phone on the passenger seat... Crying in despair, she turned around and saw a shabbily-dressed man walking up to her, who said, "What's up, luv?". A bit frightened, she explained, and he said simply, "Just give me a mo.", pulled a bit of bent wire from his pocket, fiddled a bit with the lock, and the door opened! The woman said "Oh, thank you so much! You're an angel!" And gave him a hug. Shambling off, he said kindly: "Not exactly, luv. I'm out on bail for thieving". **You never can tell, can you?**

The first anecdote can be interpreted a number of ways, but my sense here is that it demonstrates how easily it is to slip into thinking we're helping people, but maybe just in a way that comes most easily to us, or suits us at the time, or simply makes us feel good. Yet our help may not always be what's actually required. Or maybe it's a warning about helping people in a way we think is best - 'automatically' - without giving it sufficient time, thought or effort. Or maybe we might tend, on occasion, to seek the 'safest way'.

In the story, we note that the last passer-by put himself out - risking injury - to show the unfortunate man a way out. He'd 'been there before and got the tee-shirt' So, who better to know what's required than someone who has experienced a similar situation, or been recently helped out! In the anecdote of the locked car, we see here a felon helping someone-in-need, by doing something that could be seen (by the uncharitable) as breaching the conditions of bail. The chap could get into serious trouble again - yet in taking a risk, became a most unlikely angel by stepping-up on the day!

Practicing love is the key to **whether or not** we should help the needy, in any particular situation. It can also inform precisely **how** we ought to respond. We can 'feel' moved to offer, lovingly, that little bit of assistance, that can be exactly the next step needed at that time. Yet on occasion, we might feel moved (in all love and sincerity) to have to decline assistance **because we 'genuinely feel' this may be the right thing to do** (even if painful to us). Then that is a response that may yet be the most appropriate. However, it would seem entirely wrong to decline assistance based on any sort of possibly-incorrect judgement about the person or situation. Or second-guessing the intentions of the recipient - is that not, in itself, judgmental?

It's sometimes hard to know what is the best thing to do; it's sometimes hard to fail to do that-which-we-think-we-can, but maybe shouldn't. When push comes to shove, we may not always immediately perceive what God wants us to do there-and-then. We can, however, be absolutely clear that no effort is too small, or no gift of love too insignificant, that God can't take it, and use it, and magnify it. The converse may also be true - we may not always recognise assistance that we receive as being by God's hand, and might put it down to fate, coincidence or luck!

Would you have dropped down into the manhole? Would you have used knowledge or skill from the past to do someone a good turn? Would you decline a donation of money simply on the basis of judgement or prejudice? It's sometimes a difficult choice in the heat of the moment.

Here's a thought I promised earlier. A few years ago, however, I stumbled across a contemplation which rang true for me: "we are not called to help **everybody** - all the time. We are simply called upon to help anybody we can, in any particular place or situation, the best we can". As Jeanette mentioned in her sermon last Sunday (words that I paraphrase here): the young Queen Elizabeth said that it may not be possible for all of us to do great things, but it is possible to do little things with great love. I leave you with this prayer.

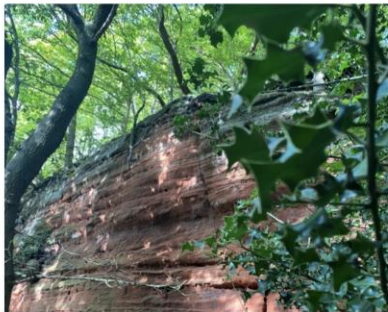
Everlasting God, you are the source of love, and blessed are those who love you. We seek your love, your way, your peace so that we can help those in need by offering our love, and making our choices by listening-out for Your wisdom.

Amen

[Rob Hughes]

Jeanette Howe's Retreat.

Retreat at Foxhill, near Frodsham



Now at that I am free, who am I?

Poem by Andrew Rudd, leader of the retreat with his wife Wendy.

Dwelling

I am not there
I am not then
I am nowhere else
but here.

I am not them
I am not you
I am myself.

I rest from doing,
Need not achieve.
I do not ask
I do not need.
This is the place
For me to be.

Here I am.



For more of Andrew Rudd's poetry, please see his book:

<https://quietgarden.org/2022/nowhere-else-but-here-a-booklet-of-poetry-by-andrew-rudd-poet-in-residence-manchester-cathedral/>

Safeguarding at Eccleston and Pulford Church.

Hilary Garrard is the safeguarding officer appointed by the Parochial Church Council for Eccleston and Pulford. The importance of ensuring the safety and wellbeing of potentially vulnerable people of all ages is a matter of priority at both local level and throughout the Anglican community. The P.C.C and Hilary are working to ensure good practice in both our churches and church communities. Hilary will be promoting such practice and will be informing and advising the P.C.C. about best safeguarding practice. With this in mind, Hilary will be refreshing her training accreditation and updating her DBS certificate.

Hilary's background has been in Education. She was a teacher for 40 years, 5 of which were in Eccleston school before becoming the Headteacher at Dodleston C.E primary school for 19 years. Prior to her retirement and remarriage, she was 'Mrs. Bushnell'.

Hilary believes safeguarding has a broader responsibility which she is happy to pursue. If anyone has concerns regarding safeguarding issues or potential safeguarding issues – please do not hesitate to contact her (details below). Any conversation either in person or by email will be entirely confidential. Hilary will do what she can to help you herself, or if your concern is more serious then she will help you to find appropriate support elsewhere.

Safeguarding is not just for children but for all of us and covers a multitude of areas of concern. The P.C.C want to ensure that both our churches and church led events are safe places for everyone regardless of age, gender, race or faith. So please contact Hilary directly if you need information, advice or initial support.

Hilary's email address is:

PccSafeguardingOfficer@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org

<https://www.ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org/safeguarding-in-eccleston-and-pulford-churches/>