



St Mary's Church Eccleston /

St Mary's Church Pulford

[Eccleston and Pulford Churches](#)

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## Upcoming Services

- **16/10/2022 Sunday 09.45 at Pulford Church**  
Holy Communion Service led by Priest Revd. Robin Mosley
- **16/10/2022 Sunday 11.15 at Eccleston Church**  
Holy Communion Service *with Baptism* led by Priest Revd. Ric Whaite.
- **23/10/2022 Sunday 11.15 at Eccleston Church [Joint Service]**  
Sung Communion Service led by Priest Canon Stephen Attwater
- **30/10/2022 Sunday 11.15 at Eccleston Church [Joint Service]**  
Sung Communion Service led by Priest Revd. Elizabeth Inall
- **6/11/2022 Sunday 09.45 at Pulford Church [Joint Service]**  
Holy Communion Service led by Priest Revd. Robin Mosley

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. Thank you to Rob Hughes and Jeanette Howe for their continuing contributions.

Kind Regards

Stephen Hutchinson ( [hutch@ecclestonchurch.org](mailto:hutch@ecclestonchurch.org) )

# Contents

Upcoming Services ..... 1

Important News and Reminders: Food Bank ..... 3

Pulford & Poulton Local History Group. .... 3

Rob Hughes Homily: Dominion. .... 4

Tottiford to Bowden Farm Circular – Water Walk Park 1. A poem by Jeanette Howe. .... 7

## 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 19<sup>st</sup> 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).



## Rob Hughes Homily: Dominion.

I've just re-watched, for the third time, the latest instalment of the Jurassic Park / Jurassic World DVDs - **Jurassic World - Dominion**. To someone like me, it's absolutely terrific in terms of special effects (and I'll certainly keep a more respectful distance away from large animals, and fast-running smaller ones with teeth!). But the script could be accused of perhaps over-egging some of the messages that have been repeated throughout the previous five films.



Except for one new and sinister one - a stern warning! Picture the scene - Dr Ian Malcom (*aka* Jeff Goldblum) is addressing some new recruits into an organization run by the arch-villain from the first film, who still hasn't got the message - **that it's extremely dangerous to mess with genetics, and with the forces of nature**. Dr Malcolm says this (paraphrased):

*"To human beings, a hundred years is a long time; to the earth, it's nothing; a million years is nothing. We've been guests here for the blink of an eye... we not only lack dominion over nature, we're subordinate to it... so if we want to instigate revolutionary change, we must transform human consciousness".*

That seems to me to be massively true in the real world, too!

Now "having dominion" is generally defined as **the power, or absolute right, to govern and control, and in so doing, exercising absolute authority over territory, and everything (and everyone) in it!** In short, a single ruler holds absolute sway!! Ring any bells? And humankind seems to be generally of the belief that scientific advances enable us to do whatever we like with the knowledge - hence 'we have dominion' over the natural order of things.

In the first chapter of the book of Genesis (v 26), the Bible has something to say about 'dominion' in real terms - specifically where humankind should really 'fit' into (in with!) God's natural world:

**King James Version:** And God said, *Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.*



The New Revised Standard Version and English Standard Version concur, and also use 'dominion'. However, other translations use different terminology:

- The Good News Bible uses **have power over**
- The New Living Translation uses **reign over**
- The New International Bible favouring **rule over**

So, what are we to conclude from the Genesis account of creation? Did God 'really mean it' when He said we'd be granted 'dominion' over the whole world - does he intend us to have absolute authority and jurisdiction? I think **not!** So, we have to look at the whole context within the creation accounts, which mention that humankind was created 'in God's image'. Basically, this means He intends us to '**know**' (recognise and celebrate) Him as the one true God, and worship and respect Him; he wants us to be naturally loving and caring towards each other, and use and share all the earth's resources - to be good stewards within, and cooperating with, nature - and certainly not to manipulate it to suit ourselves!

Clearly, humankind has a God-given curiosity to 'find out' and learn more about the universe - physics, biology and chemistry, outer space, and how to harvest and harness all the resources at our disposal. But the more-we-think-we-know, the more we find there is to discover, and to simply marvel at! So, increasing knowledge and understanding (as we perceive it) doesn't give us dominion over anything. But we have, unfortunately all-too-often, discovered something new, immediately done something with it, and then simply hoped for the best.

That's got to change, and it won't be easy after centuries of industrial, scientific and technological revolution. So, when Ian Malcolm unequivocally states "*if we want to instigate revolutionary change, we must transform human consciousness*", I sense that will require a fundamental shift in humankind's ability to recognise past mistakes, learn from them, and learn to cooperate (as individuals, communities, nations, and international relationships) with each other, with nature and with God.

It's no longer enough to merely fight the present symptoms of 'decline' in the many and varied political, economic, scientific and human relationship challenges of our time. We should be hoping and praying for a fundamental shift in the way we look at pretty much every aspect of our international, national, and, maybe even local-community relationships... and most of all, our relationship with God.

Whatever we try to do; whatever we choose to worry about; whatever hardships we may have to face, over the next few days, weeks, months or years, **the earth will, ultimately, be fine**. But if humankind can't learn to understand and embrace God's initial plan for us (to be loving-caring-and-sharing), **humankind may never be fine**. Unless, that is, we can make a fundamental shift in how, as a global community, we approach the issues that clearly affect us all. So Dr Malcolm's (albeit scripted) warning is that current challenges may yet be a necessary, a defining - next step in our own evolution.

Whether or not that concerns us, or inspires us, is entirely **up to us**, irrespective of how governments and leaders behave. But a truly peaceful and cooperative global society starts here-and-now with individuals - you and me included –

***"Where there is righteousness in the heart, there is beauty in the character. When there is beauty in the character, there is harmony in the home. When there is harmony in the home, there is order in the nation. When there is order in the nation, there is peace in the world."* – A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.**

Can humankind transform the way it thinks? And find sufficient humility to care-and-share 'with righteousness in the heart'? It must all start here and now, which is why we pray:

***Gracious and loving God, we understand that you call us to be the stewards of Your abundance, the caretakers of all you have entrusted to us. Help us always to use your gifts wisely, and teach us to share them generously. May our faithful stewardship bear witness to the love of Christ in our lives.***

**Amen.**

**[Rob Hughes]**



## Tottiford to Bowden Farm Circular – Water Walk Park 1. A poem by Jeanette Howe.



Rock, greenery and clear water surrounds us,  
Encapsulates us,  
Nurturing our souls, if we give it time.  
Renewing and refreshing us, in calm dappled  
sunshine.

Tottiford Reservoir is a wonderful place to be.

Around the edges the water is light and bright,  
Revealing its life beneath.  
Water-growing grass reaches out into the air,  
And red and blue dragon flies skim the surface

Beyond is dark and deep.

Who would venture the depths of the unknown?  
Who would go there alone?  
Not many, except for those trusting in God  
For their protection and purpose.

Maybe to rescue some lost soul.

*Psalms 31:1-2*

*In you, O LORD, I seek refuge;  
do not let me ever be put to shame;  
in your righteousness deliver me.  
Incline your ear to me;  
rescue me speedily.  
Be a rock of refuge for me,  
a strong fortress to save me.*



**[Jeanette Howe]**