

St Mary's Church Eccleston /

St Mary's Church Pulford

[Eccleston and Pulford Churches](#)

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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@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org](mailto:hutch@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org) )



## Upcoming Services

- **13/11/2022 Sunday 10.45 at Pulford Church**  
**Remembrance Service**  
Priest to be confirmed.
- **13/11/2022 Sunday 10.45 at Eccleston Church**  
**Remembrance Service**  
Led by Priest Canon Chris Samuels.
- **20/11/2022 Sunday 9.45 at Pulford Church**  
*Holy Communion Service*  
Led by Priest Canon Ian Davenport.
- **20/11/2022 Sunday 11.15 at Eccleston Church**  
**All Age Service**  
Led by Priest Reverend Elizabeth Inall.
- **27/11/2022 Sunday 11.15 at Eccleston Church**  
**[Joint Service]**  
Led by Priest Canon Stephen Attwater.

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## Parish information

Rector:

Pulford/Eccleston

Church Wardens:

Pulford	Sue Payne	PulfordChurchWarden@ ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org
Eccleston	John Richards	EcclestonChurchWarden@ ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org

Lay Minister

Pulford/Eccleston      Jeanette Howe

Planned Giving Officer / Treasurer

Pulford/Eccleston      Les Hocking

Electoral Roll Officer

Eccleston	Andrew Wilkinson
Pulford	Clare Willan

Organists and Assistants

Pulford/Eccleston      Derek Whatling  
/Dennis Jones

Director of Music

Eccleston/Pulford      Maureen Richards      mothemusic@gmail.com

Tower Captains

Eccleston	Andrew Pridding
Pulford	Jane O'Connor

PCC Secretary

Pulford/Eccleston      Andrew Wilkinson

Newsletter/Website

Pulford/Eccleston      Stephen Hutchinson      Hutch  
@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org

## 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 16<sup>th</sup> November** will be "An Update on the Poulton Dig" by Dr Kevin Cootes. The talk starts at 7.30pm at Pulford Village Hall (CH4 9ES).

### Informal announcement read out at St Mary's Eccleston on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

Following a successful interview with the Diocesan representatives, Rural Dean Hennie Johnson, Archdeacon Michael Gilbertson and our two Parish/PCC representatives Hilary Garrard and Jeanette Howe, the applicant Rev Dr Stephen Torr has accepted the position as Rector of our parish of Eccleston and Pulford. This appointment is subject to all the legal formalities being completed. A formal announcement will be made in due course.

### Armistice Day Friday November 11<sup>th</sup> 2022.

There will be a service at the Village Hall Memorial conducted by Jeanette Howe from 10:45am on Friday November 11<sup>th</sup> followed by light refreshments. All are Welcome.



## Rob Hughes Homily: Labels and Judgements.

When I was preparing this homily, I came across a website that quoted some useless and unhelpful labelling (of goods for sale) - these quotes are real, by the way, not made up:



- “Do not drive with sun shield in place” - on reflective cardboard sun shades that you set up on car windscreens
- “Do not use while sleeping” - on a box containing a hair dryer?!?!?
- “Danger: this product may be sharp”, on a carving knife (I wouldn't buy a blunt one, would you?)
- “May cause drowsiness” - on a box of sleeping tablets
- “This product may contain eggs”, on a box of eggs!!!.

There are loads of them, but I particularly enjoyed these!

- “Do not hold the wrong end of the chainsaw” (you'd only do that once!), and
- “*This Vanishing Fabric Marker should not be used as a writing instrument for signing checks or any legal documents*”. I couldn't help but wonder if a vanishing marker, could even be found when needed!!!

But there's serious side to 'labelling'; when we stick 'labels' on situations and people, it's tantamount to being judgemental. In many respects, even though we may not particularly notice it in ourselves, we can all-too-easily stick a mental label on people - making judgements about them - particularly (for example) when we find ourselves dealing with someone whose behaviour, we find challenging. It's pretty much automatic for the mind to stick a label on them that instantly identifies (maybe misinterprets) their behaviour, and provides a theory about them (which might be quite wrong), or 'prove what you've always thought about them is right' (which may never have been accurate in the first place).

When this happens, we're not only in danger of perpetuating deeply-engrained animosity, feelings and emotions, but maybe deepen them. To what purpose? Labels are judgements, and they can seriously sway the way we think about anything and everything, and therefore influence how we react impulsively, or respond considerately, to situations. Being judgemental can seriously prevent clear thinking and sound decision-making, in all walks of life.



Here's a personal, real-life example from my distant past. Picture the scene - the Hughes family (including a ten-year-old "me"; my parents, grandparents; two aunts, a cousin and an uncle) on a day-trip to Conwy. Having lunch in a restaurant, there was a heavily tattooed man, wearing a vest and shorts, laughing and joking with his extremely attractive and well-dressed wife, whilst playing noisily with two toddlers on his knee; they were pulling mercilessly at his beard and slapping his bald head... One of our party said (embarrassingly loudly): "Who'd want to marry, and have kids, with a man like that?". Even at ten years of age, I had courage enough to say "But the children love him to bits, and he really loves them!".

<< I was "spoken-to" outside afterwards, something to the effect: "It's wrong to have so many tattoos, so don't take after men like that - because they always cause trouble". **Clearly, we'd just witnessed evidence to the contrary...** >>

I wrote about the ego last time, and how it's there to warn and protect us from what it perceives as potential physical or psychological harm - or immediate 'danger'. But it's evolved way beyond the task - and not necessarily for the better. It's become easy for the ego to assign labels to people or situations, based on nothing more than our personal beliefs and opinions. In turn, we can be prone to regarding personal preferences as 'the only right way' to interpret life and to judge people.

When this happens (and we can't help thoughts popping into our heads), we **can be completely oblivious to** the harm that judgemental labelling can cause. To illustrate precisely what I'm getting at, here's another truth to the personal situation I've just described.

My relative simply didn't like, nor would ever have paid for, tattoos. OK; I've got that; as a matter of personal choice, neither would I. But she automatically judged that the tattoos and scruffy appearance were 'wrong', therefore labelling the man as a 'wrong-un' - consequently concluding that he was unfit to have a family. **How inappropriately judgemental was that!!** It was tantamount to asserting that anyone who has tattoos, and dresses 'badly' in public (itself a matter of personal opinion) isn't a nice person? That certainly wasn't the case on the day, and by no means the case generally.

It's OK to have an opinion, but it's not OK to expect everyone to share that opinion! It's a basic human right to have personal views and opinions; but it has to be tempered with responsibility not to impose it on others, or make inappropriate judgements about them!

So, what happens if, for example, we might feel we're being subjected to critical or unfair treatment, or inappropriate behaviour? After all, the ego perceives a need to defend our perceptions and opinions. Well, our egos will home-in -on why something, or someone else, is wrong, and find real (and often imaginary) faults to prove it. A label is applied to justify an often self-invented theory, and that's what we regard as the only truth.



I'd hope to make this point - we're all prone to being judgemental, to some extent because the society we live in has evolved that way, and so have we. Labelling isn't something we can turn off, as such, but being judgemental, by assigning labels to people in particular, **is simply not the way of our faith**. We can still choose how to behave after the ego's had its way!

The examples of 'silly' labelling I quoted are the result of ill-considered phraseology - we can see what they're getting at, but they're not warning us of the real 'dangers'. Judgemental labelling of people can be insidious if it remains unrecognized for what-it- really-is, so consideration has to be given to the harm it can do. We can't control judgemental thinking and labelling, and we can only control our behaviour when we identify that we're doing it.

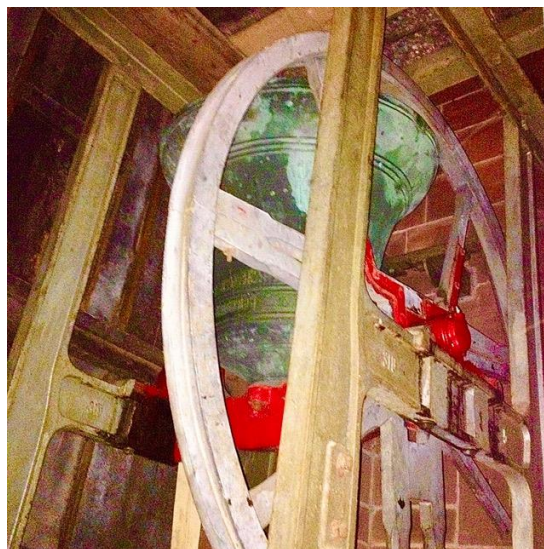
A prayer that's been adapted from Psalm 75 v7:

***Father, help us to be mindful that it is not our place to judge others... Holy Spirit, transform us into people who love unconditionally just as you do. Help us to see people the way you see them, and to be filled with compassion, even as someone is doing wrong to us. Help us to respond with love instead of anger and bitterness. God, you make the impossible possible. Thank you for filling us with your love, and may that free us from the compulsion to judge others.***

**[Rob Hughes]**

## Eccleston Church Bells

Andrew Pridding kindly gave me a tour of the Eccleston Church Belfry. I have included here, a very comprehensive history of the Eccleston Church bells written by David Andrews in 1976.



*Figure 1 Eccleston Church Belfry*

"There have been 3 churches at Eccleston since the 12<sup>th</sup> century. The first of these had a tower of graceful proportions with a half-timbered porch. In 1634 the Church Warden's accounts refer to the purchase of three ropes and it would appear that four early bells existed at this time. In 1658 2 bells were recast, probably by Scott of Wigan, and in 1757, the treble was re-cast by Abel Rudhall.

When the church was taken down in 1807, Hanshall stated, "one of the bells is placed in the clock tower in the stable yard at Eaton Hall, another was sent to Aldford to increase the ring to four bells, and the remaining 2 to Farndon making the peal there 6 bells."

The second church at Eccleston was designed by William Porden and contained a new ring of 6 bells cast by Thomas Mears of Whitechapel. These bells were in the key of F#, with a 13-cwt tenor, the other bells being G# 10 cwt, A# 8 cwt, B 7 cwt, C# 6 cwt and treble 5.5 cwt in D#. They were rung for the first time on October 3<sup>rd</sup> 1810, opening with ringing by the Saint John's ringers. These bells had a relatively short life, but 5 of them were given new bearings in 1895 – a few years before the church was demolished. On the evening before demolition began the bells were rung for the last time. The fate of these bells is uncertain, but they probably were taken to Taylors bell foundry and maybe incorporated in the present ring.

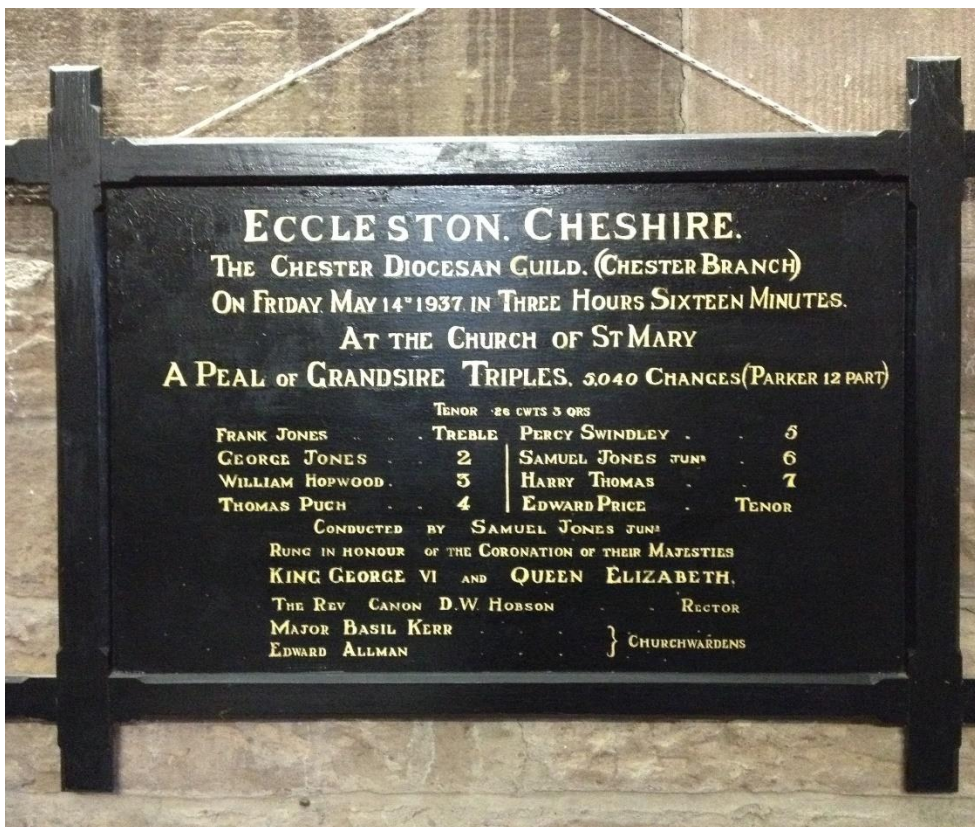
The present church was dedicated on Ascension Day 1900. It was the Duke's wish to have a ring of bells to match the back eight of the van Aerschodt Carillon at Eaton Hall, which has a tenor of 50cwt in C, but as this proved impractical, a very heavy eight in D was designed. The bells were cast in 1899 by John Taylor of Loughborough and hung in 1900 in a cast iron H frame because of space limitations. Fittings included cast iron head-stocks, plain bearings and Hasting's stays. They were not rung until 1907 whilst the tower settled, and when they were they proved to be even better than anticipated. In 1955 they were overhauled and fitted with self-aligning ball bearings.



Eccleston bells are without doubt one of the finest eights in the country, being renowned for their rich tone and east with which they can be rung."

	Weight (Imperial)	Weight (Metric)		Diameter (Imperial)	Diameter (Metric)
Treble	6 cwt 0 qt 19 lb.	313 kg	In D	2 ft 5.75 inches	75.6 cm
2 <sup>nd</sup>	6 cwt 3 qt 7 lb.	346 kg	In C#	2 ft 7.25 inches	79.4 cm
3 <sup>rd</sup>	8 cwt 0 qt 3 lb.	408 kg	In B	2ft 9.625 inches	85.4 cm
4 <sup>th</sup>	8 cwt 3 qt 1 lb.	445kg	In A	3ft 0.25 inches	92.1 cm
5 <sup>th</sup>	12 cwt 0 qt 1 lb.	610 kg	In G	3ft 4.25 inches	102.2 cm
6 <sup>th</sup>	14 cwt 1 qt 18 lb.	732 kg	In F#	3ft 6.875 inches	108.9 cm
7 <sup>th</sup>	18 cwt 3 qt 23 lb.	963 kg	In E	3ft 11.125 inches	119.7 cm
Tenor	26 cwt 3 qt 3 lb.	1,210 kg	In D	4ft 5 inches	134.6 cm

Figure 2 Details of the Bells at St. Mary's Eccleston



All bells are inscribed "John Taylor & Co. Loughborough, Leicester – 1899. Founders".

In addition, the Tenor is inscribed "Dono Dedit, Hugh Duke of Westminster".

["He gave as a gift, Hugh Duke of Westminster"]

[David Andrews 1976]

Figure 3 - A Peal Board showing a 5,040-change peal of Grandsire Triples.

## “Beautiful, magical, tree: the Silver Birch” (a poem by Jeanette Howe)

A beauty in the forest,  
An uplifting sight of bark, as though painted white.  
Memories of magic fill my mind;  
Taking me back,  
Back to a place  
I visited long ago;  
To a place where magic was real.  
A memory almost lost  
A feeling that has almost disappeared  
But for the silver birch tree.

Here stands the evidence  
The magic is still there in my heart  
A reminder of childish thought  
A glimpse of mystery  
A glimpse to say that anything is  
possible,  
With God.

I amble closer after the short storm,  
To find the bark is broken and torn;  
Not what I expected to see.  
Smooth white, crowning open brown  
wounds, on this tree's skin.  
Deep textures, like wrinkles, displaying  
years of growth,  
The impact of life,  
No less beautiful with its scars;  
Open to life, to the hearts of others

Vulnerable

Still weeping.

Ready for healing

**In the presence of this beautiful, magical, silver Birch tree.**

**[Jeanette Howe]**

