

St Mary's Church Eccleston /

St Mary's Church Pulford

[Eccleston and Pulford Churches](#)

Email:

EcclestonChurchWarden@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org

PulfordChurchWarden@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.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:

<https://www.ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org/category/newsletters/>

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 for his contribution this week.

I would like to wish everyone a peaceful and Happy Christmas.

Kind Regards

Stephen Hutchinson (hutch@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org)



Contents

Parish information.....	3
Church Service Dates Times and Locations.....	4
Important News and Reminders: Food Bank	4
Rob Hughes Homily: “Rejoice Always; Pray Continually; Give Thanks in Everything”	5
Stained Glass Window Quiz.....	6
Pilgrimage to the Holy Land – 29 th May – 5 th June 2023.....	7
Christmas Crossword: The Birth of Jesus.....	8
Christmas Wordsearch Puzzle: Who was Jesus	10
Christmas Crossword Puzzle Solution	12



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
-------------------	--------------------	-------------------------------------------

Church Service Dates Times and Locations.

Date/ Sunday	St Mary's Church PULFORD	St Mary's Church ECCLESTON
25 th December	9.45am Communion Service for Christmas Day <i>Rev Robin Moseley</i>	11.15am Communion Service for Christmas Day <i>Reader. Jeanette Howe</i>
2023		
1 st January	09.45am Joint Holy Communion Service <i>Led by Jeanette Howe</i>	
8 th January		11.15am Joint Sung Communion Service <i>Priest. Canon Stephen Attwater</i>
15 th January	09.45am Holy Communion Service <i>Priest. Canon Stephen Attwater</i>	11.15am Sung Communion Service <i>Priest. Revd. Elizabeth Inall</i>
22 nd January		11.15am Joint Sung Communion Service <i>Priest. Canon Chris Samuels</i>
29 th January		11.15am Joint Sung Communion Service <i>Priest. tba</i>

Important News and Reminders: Food Bank

A reminder from Rachel Williams. Here are a few of the facts being highlighted on the Foodbank website: 3507, Emergency Food Parcels issued in 6 months to 30 September 22 - up 60% on pre pandemic levels, 7617, Local people in crisis fed, 2828, Feeding the equivalent of 2828 local children. The charity is very grateful for all donations - but especially non cook items such as crackers, Ryvita, Fish/meat pastes, Instant pastas/rice/soups and toiletries (toothpaste and brushes). They have PLENTY of dried Pasta, Baked Beans

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

Rob Hughes Homily: “Rejoice Always; Pray Continually; Give Thanks in Everything”



These were instructions that Paul gave to the Thessalonians - because he wanted to check on the state of their faith; he feared that false teachers might have influenced the church, and were preaching 'false messages'. However, Timothy returned from his meetings with them with some better-than-expected news. So, Paul was able to send the first of two letters of encouragement to the new believers.

Now the King James, and New King James translations of the Bible say this: “*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, **in** everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you*”. - Which would seem to imply that we're expected to give thanks **for everything** - good, bad or indifferent - because that's God's will for us all.

The New World Translation (favoured by the Jehovah's Witnesses) is even more explicit: “*Always be rejoicing. Pray constantly. Give thanks **for everything*** “. Which, as a literal 'modern translation', may not fully reflect the original meaning, and possibly distort Paul's purpose in his message to the Thessalonians; in truth, scholars are divided on this issue. However, the New International and English Standard Versions say this: “**Rejoice** *always, pray continually, give thanks **in all circumstances**; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus*”.

So, whilst St Paul needn't have worried about false leadership in Thessalonica, his letters sought to reinforce the truth that he had learned - throughout many hardships - that a living, loving God is “always there” to support us all the time - not so much by 'calling the shots', but by encouraging hope, and giving us the strength, to persevere during times of hardship, and make the best of our lives in all circumstances... This, of course, requires regular and trusting prayer. Paul had something to say about that as well...

In saying 'pray constantly', Paul wasn't expecting the Thessalonians to pray at every moment. Rather, he was encouraging them to have a **prayerful attitude all the time** - continually looking to God for guidance, in every circumstance (good, bad or indifferent). Paul encouraged them, then, and encourages us, now, to be ever-conscious of our dependence on God's support, in all aspects of our lives. Paul gave similar encouragement to the early churches in Rome, Ephesus, Philippi and Colossus, too. [I'd encourage you to refer to Romans 12:12; Ephesians 6:18; Philippians 4:6; Colossians 4:2].

In reality, amid the worries, dangers and uncertainties of our times, praying for God's guidance to help us 'put something right' is often easier than remembering to ask for His guidance in 'making the right decision' in the first place! I know I'm sometimes guilty of that... So, giving thanks to God, **in** every difficult situation, might itself be difficult - and may often seem impossible. But that is what we, as Christians, are called upon to do.

This means that we have to trust God, implicitly and explicitly, to help us to persevere in-the-faith, emerge even stronger in-the-faith, and to emerge from adversity better-able to make the best of our lives in all circumstances... good, bad or indifferent.

As the season of Lent comes to its Christmas conclusion, may we remember that the birth of our Saviour wasn't to make life a breeze for believers, but to enable us to deal with the realities of everyday living, with confidence-in-the-faith. It is up to us, as individuals and as a church family, to maintain an attitude of prayer beyond the Advent and Christmas Season - and as a way of life - and to give thanks to God for His love, no matter what the future has in store.

***Lord, we pray not so much for a blissful life at all times ;
we pray that your spirit and your love will continually support us.
Give us strength and grace to overcome all worries and adversities.
Make us ever grateful for sending your Son as living proof of your care.
We pray, always, in His name. Amen.***

[Rob Hughes]



Stained Glass Window Quiz.



Can you identify the location of this stained-glass window, what/who is depicted and the name of the church it is from?

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land – 29th May – 5th June 2023


A reminder that Canon Chris Samuels will be leading a trip to the Holy Land next year.



**An Ecumenical Pilgrimage to
the Holy Land**

29 May - 5 June 2023
with Canon Chris Samuels (*An experienced tour leader*)

8 days based in Jerusalem & Galilee departing from Manchester



For details of the pilgrimage and contact details for Chris please click on the following link to see the brochure.

<https://mccabelive.eecsoftware.com/clientlibrary/mccabe/Images/0529%20Samuels%20MAN%20BROCHURE%20insurance%20for%20WEB.pdf>

To book a place visit ...[8 Day Holy Land Pilgrimage - McCabe Pilgrimages \(mccabe-travel.co.uk\)](https://mccabe-travel.co.uk)

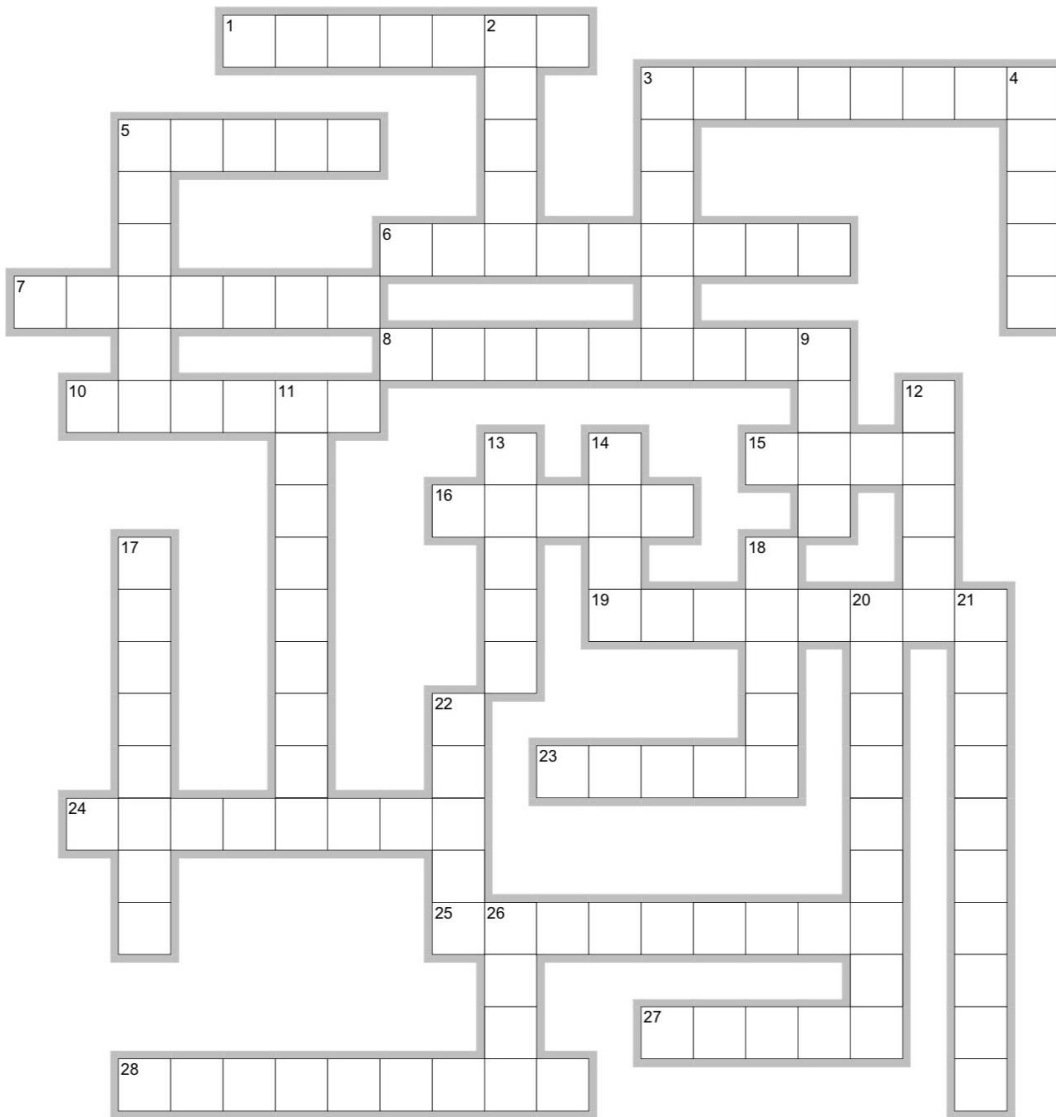
and click on the "show all dates and availability" button. Chris's pilgrimage is the one listed for 29/05/2023.

Here is a link showing the fascinating beauty of the Holy Lands:

[Video of typical Holy Land tour](#)

Christmas Crossword: The Birth of Jesus

The story of the birth of Jesus is one of most beloved in the entire Bible. We know that some of these answers will be easy for you. But you may need to look up a few. We used the Matthew, Chapters 1-2 and Luke, Chapters 1-2 in the New International Version.



EclipseCrossword.com



© 2010 word-game-world.com
All Rights Reserved.

Across

1. Angel who told Mary that she'd have a Son
3. "The holy one to be born will be called the ___ ___ ___."
5. Old Testament prophet who said a ruler over Israel would be born in Bethlehem.
6. Where Joseph and Mary went to register for census
7. "Glory to God in the ___"
8. Governor of Syria when census was taken
10. Occupation of Elizabeth's husband
15. Wise men from the east
16. The angel told Mary she had found ___ with God.
19. Town in which Mary was living before the birth
23. The king of Judea at the time of Christ's birth
24. Name of the Caesar who called for a census
25. What Mary and Joseph offered at the Temple
27. The Wise Men brought gold, incense and ___ to Jesus.
28. Elizabeth's husband

Down

2. An angel told Joseph to flee to this country to keep the Baby safe
3. Devout man who waited at the Temple to see the Christ
4. God warned the Wise Men in a ___ to take a different route home.
5. Where Mary laid Jesus after wrapping him in cloths
9. What led the Wise Men from the east to Jesus
11. They were tending flocks when an angel told them of Christ's birth
12. Number of days after his birth when Jesus was presented at the Temple
13. "He will be great...and he will reign over the house of ___ forever..."
14. Name of Elizabeth's baby
17. Name for Jesus that means, "God with us."
18. Jesus would be given the throne of this father
20. Mary's relative who was also expecting a child
21. Elizabeth was filled with the ___ ___ when Mary visited her.
22. Name that was to be given to Mary's son
26. Prophetess at the Temple who gave thanks for the Child



© 2010 word-game-world.com
All Rights Reserved.

Christmas Wordsearch Puzzle: Who was Jesus

Jesus was known by many different names. There are 40 names hidden in this puzzle. Names may appear horizontally, vertically or diagonally, both backward and forward. The list of Jesus' names can be found on the next page.



© 2010 word-game-world.com
All Rights Reserved.

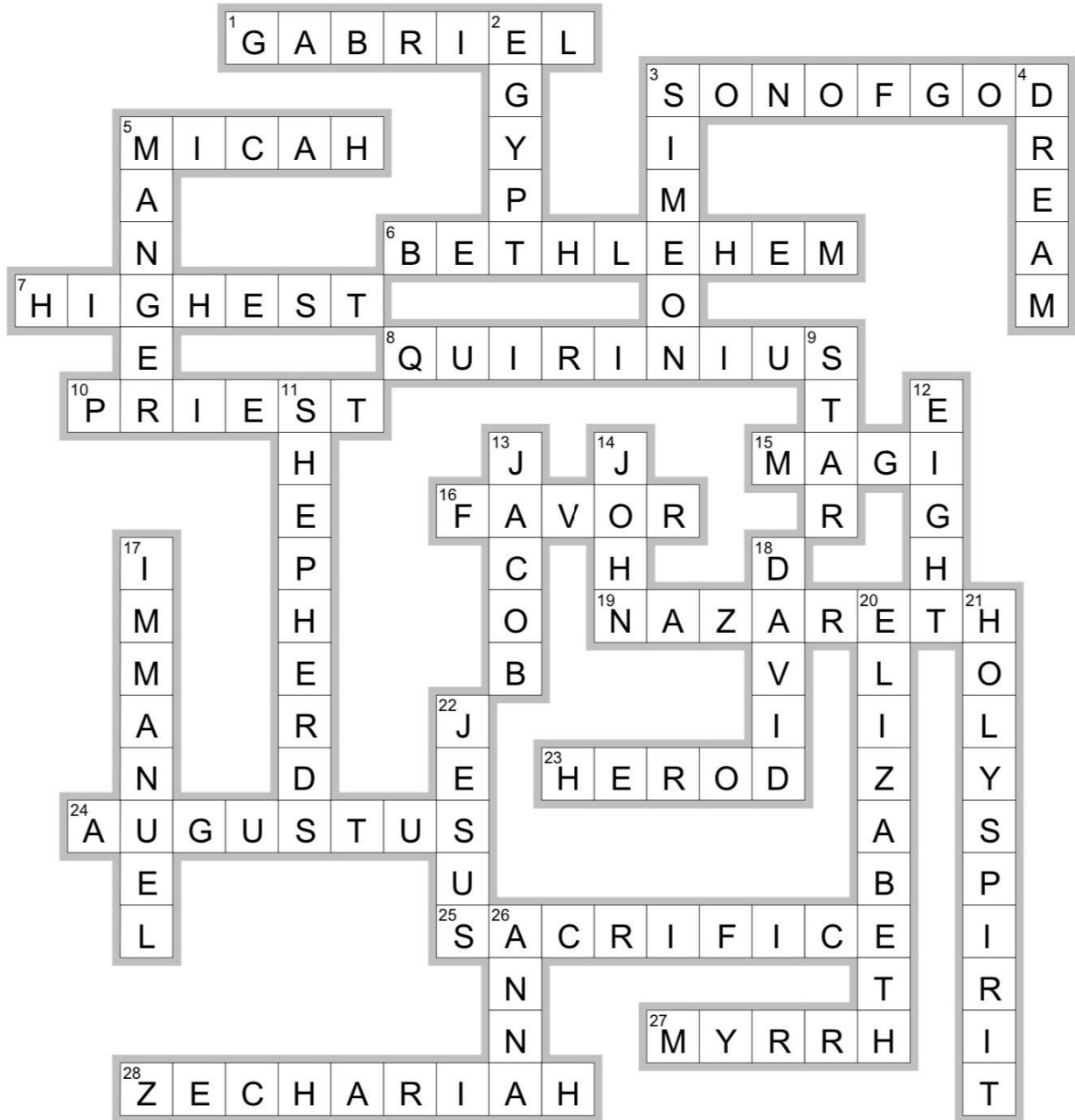
ADVOCATE
ALMIGHTY
ALPHA AND OMEGA
BELOVED SON
BRANCH
BREAD
CARPENTER
CHOSEN
CHRIST
CORNERSTONE
COUNSELOR
DELIVERER
DOOR
EMMANUEL
EVERLASTING
FOUNDATION
HIGH PRIEST
KING OF KINGS
LAMB OF GOD
LIFE

LIGHT
LION OF JUDAH
LORD
MASTER
MEDIATOR
MESSIAH
MORNING STAR
NAZARENE
PRINCE OF PEACE
REDEEMER
RESURRECTION
ROCK
SAVIOR
SERVANT
SHEPHERD
SON OF GOD
SON OF MAN
VINE
WAY
WORD



© 2010 word-game-world.com
All Rights Reserved.

Christmas Crossword Puzzle Solution



EclipseCrossword.com



© 2010 word-game-world.com
All Rights Reserved.