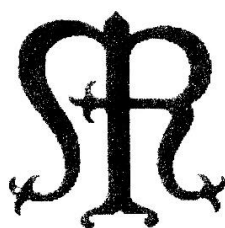

Newsletter #25

Friday 20th January 2023 to Friday 3rd February 2023



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 and Jeanette Howe for their contributions this week.

Kind Regards

Stephen Hutchinson (hutch@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org)

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Figure 1 Eccleston Church in the snow

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
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Planned Giving Officer / Treasurer

Pulford/Eccleston	Les Hocking
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Electoral Roll Officer

Eccleston	Andrew Wilkinson
Pulford	Clare Willan

Organists and Assistants

Pulford/Eccleston	Derek Whatling /Dennis Jones
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Director of Music

Eccleston/Pulford	Maureen Richards	mothemusic@gmail.com
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Tower Captains

Eccleston	Andrew Pridding
Pulford	Jane O'Connor

PCC Secretary

Pulford/Eccleston	Andrew Wilkinson
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Newsletter/Website

Pulford/Eccleston	Stephen Hutchinson	Hutch @ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org
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Church Service Dates Times and Locations.

Date/ Sunday	St Mary's Church PULFORD 9.45am	St Mary's Church ECCLESTON 11.15am
22 nd Jan		Joint All Age Sung Communion Service Service Leader: Jeanette Howe Reader: Terry Brightmore Prayer Leader: Helen Glaze
29 th Jan		Joint Sung Communion Service Priest: Canon Chris Samuels Reader: Penny Brett-Roberts Prayer Leader: Hilary Garrard
5 th Feb	Priest: Canon Ian Davenport Reader: Margaret Walker Prayer Leader: Paul Williams	
12 th Feb		Priest: Canon Stephen Attwater Reader: Garth Jones Prayer Leader: Nayland Southorn
19 th Feb	Priest: Canon Stephen Attwater Reader: Paul Williams Prayer Leader: Sue Payne	Priest: Reverend Robin Mosley Reader: Hilary Bushnell Prayer Leader: Steve Hutchinson
26 th Feb		Priest: TBA Reader: Terry Brightmore Prayer Leader: Mo Richardson

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: “Christ-centred-ness” in difficult times.

I have the great privilege and pleasure to be a granddad to David's daughter, Molly, and four-year-old old son, Alexander... Molly's now eleven (but going on seventeen!), and even at eight years of age was cute enough to have spotted my evasive response to her inevitable question – “Who's your favourite, granddad?” – my response, “You're still my favourite granddaughter, Luv” ... To which she replied, “But I'm your only granddaughter, I meant between me and Xander!!” There's no fooling our Molly!

It occurs to me that if we were to be asked who we would deem to be the greatest of the early Christians, my best guess would be that St Peter or St Paul would be at the top of most lists. In truth, I'd probably, initially at least, opt for Paul, if only because of his extensive travelling and prolific (and often poetic) writing.

But who do you think was the greater of these two, - the original disciple, Simon-called-Peter, or Saul of Tarsus, better known as St Paul? Well in spite of what I said a moment ago, Peter's ministry preceded that of St Paul. It was Peter's ministry that started things off – at a time when Paul was hunting down the early Christians.

But Gospel accounts tell us that when asked by Jesus “who do you say I am?”, it was Peter who made an outstanding confession of faith and belief – he was the first person ever, as far as we know, who answered, “you are the Messiah – the living God”. “**You are the living God**” - Wow! What an incredible and courageous thing to have said. And what a wonderful position to have been in - to have been in the company of the living God. Small wonder, then, that Peter became, in a very real sense, the first Christian leader and central player. Truly “The Rock”!

That prompts a question for us, then - If we were to be asked, who do we think Christ is, what would we say? Well, I hope we'd say much the same thing as Peter... Even so, there'd be a difference. We know the right answer – the truth - from our faith and belief, based on the insight and hindsight of the Gospels which (then) had yet to be written as we know them. We haven't had to come to that conclusion for ourselves - which makes Peter's statement even more profound and special.

So how wonderful it is that, in spite of all our human frailties (Peter and the disciples had their faults, too), Jesus has always chosen ordinary people - as he chooses you and me today - to be the building-blocks on which he can extend his church. Christ is at the centre, but His people – His disciples (“us”, these days) – have a role to play, in not just keeping the church alive, but to help it to thrive and grow... And what better time to renew that resolve than now, as we approach a new incumbency?

Christ invites us to trust Him to be our firm anchor - the centre around which we chose to live day by day. Are we centred on Him, all the time? Or are we centred on people, or things, or experiences; maybe we're centred on our spouse or partner, or our children, friends, other relationships, or places?

So, when we're "just too busy" to ask for his advice, or taken by surprise, it's all too easy to make an instant decision for ourselves, maybe then regret it, then pray to God for help. That's not centered-ness in the true sense. Being centered – having an anchor in life, and seeking God's support as a first resort, not if all else fails - is vital. Our centre orientates our lives and the direction we go in. It not only shapes how we live but, more importantly, ultimately become what **God wants us to become...**

So if **Christ** were to ask us, as He asked Peter, "Who do you say that I am?", what would the truth be? If we are truly centred on Him, our answer should be the same as Peter's, during the better times and the harder times; even when we might have been knocked sideways by the unexpected, or a seemingly- insurmountable catastrophe... A life of discipleship isn't any sort of guarantee that we'll not be out of kilter from time to time. It's no guarantee that we'll maintain this absolutely resolute vision of Christ at our centre. He knew that when He chose the original 12. And He's persevered with countless other fallible human beings throughout the ages, so He will persevere with us when we're out of whack - for whatever reason.

Discipleship is a life in which we can expect to continually have to re-centre – to refocus on Christ as the anchor for who we are, and what we stand for. He knows we're not perfect – but we're in good company! Look at Peter. He was the one of little faith, sinking in the water through lack of trust. He didn't understand the parables. He argued with Jesus and ended up being called Satan. He fell asleep when he was supposed to be praying in the Garden of Gethsemane. He denied knowing Jesus, not once but three times over.

EVEN SO - Jesus could see through his imperfections, as He can see through ours. So as He shaped, formed, and encouraged Peter to be the Rock; as he also moulded Paul – the persecutor of Christians – to become a co-founder of the Faith. And as imperfect as we might be, Christ wants to mould us, and encourage us to go out there and live the Gospel, and tell others about who he really was, and who He really is... To discover for ourselves what Christ needs us, and those we meet, to become.

"Lord, make me an instrument of your peace

Where there is hatred let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light.

And where there is sadness, joy.

O divine master grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love.

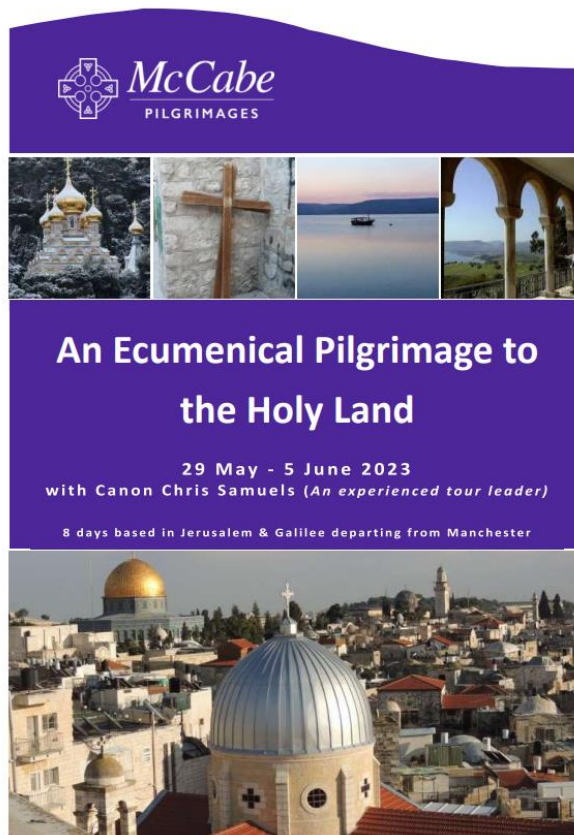
For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it's in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen." [Prayer of Saint Francis/Peace Prayer]

[Rob Hughes]

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.



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)

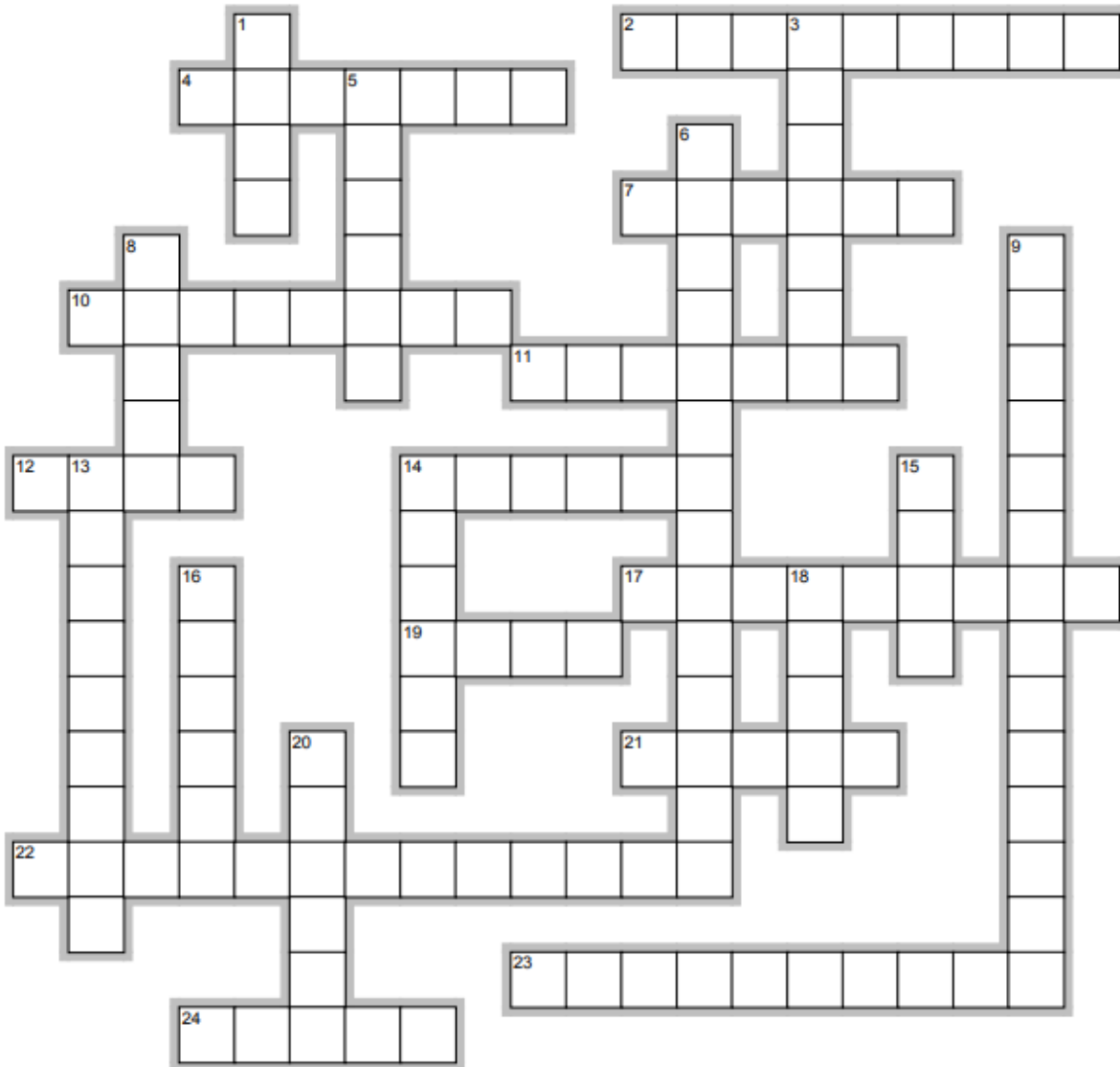
and click on the "show all dates and availability" button. Chris's pilgrimage is the one listed for 29/05/2023.

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

[Video of typical Holy Land tour](#)

Crossword (Characters in the Gospels) Puzzle

How many of these people from the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John do you know?
Clues appear on the next page.



EclipseCrossword.com



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Across:

2. Mother of John the Baptist
4. Man whom Jesus raised from the dead
7. The earthly father of Jesus
10. Short tax collector
11. Tax collector who wrote became a disciple
12. Temple prophetess
14. He found no guilt in Jesus, yet sentenced him to death
17. Father of John the Baptist
19. Doctor and New Testament writer
21. The disciple who was also called Peter
22. Betrayer of Jesus (2 wds)
23. Blind beggar healed by Jesus
24. The Way, the Truth, and the Life

Down:

1. The mother of Jesus
3. Father of disciples James and John
5. Peter's brother
6. The forerunner of Jesus (3 wds)
8. The tempter
9. Man who issued decree for census (2 wds)
13. He asked, "How can a man be born again?"
14. The disciple who called Nathanael to follow Jesus
15. Writer of the second gospel
16. Mary's very busy sister
18. He had John the Baptist beheaded
20. Official whose daughter was healed by Jesus



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Wordsearch (Joseph) Puzzle

The life of Joseph, found in Genesis Chapters 30 – 50, was fascinating! Find the 42 words listed below in this word search puzzle. They may appear in any direction, both backward and forward. Also, find one phrase that is NOT on the list, the name of his most famous garment.



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ASHER
AUTHORITY
BAKER
BENJAMIN
BROTHERS
CANAAN
CISTERN
CUPBEARER
DAN
DREAMS
EGYPT
EPHRAIM
FAMINIE
FATHER

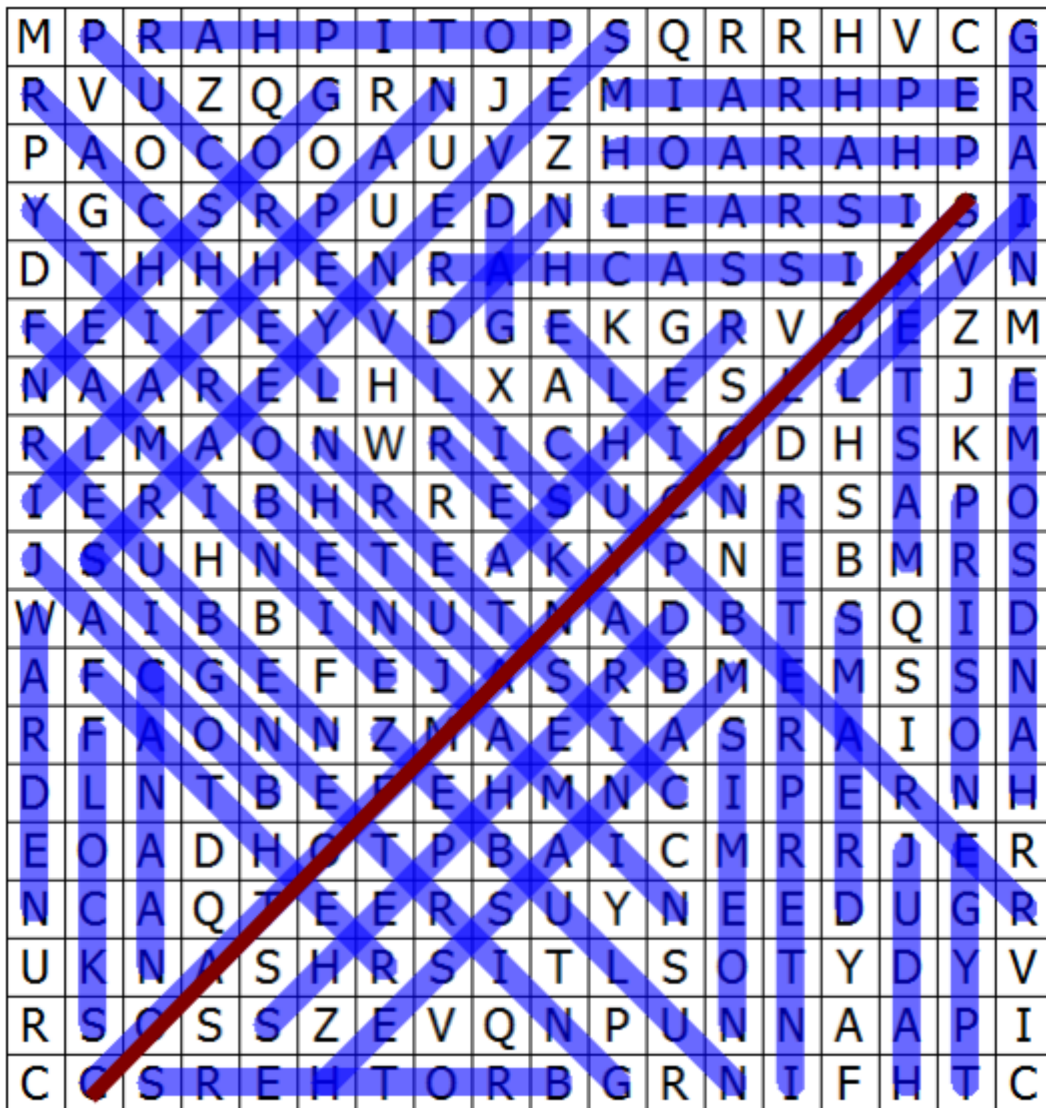
FLOCKS
GAD
GOSHEN
GRAIN
HANDSOME
INTERPRETER
ISRAEL
ISSACHAR
JACOB
JUDAH
LEVI
MANASSEH
MASTER
NAPHTALI

NILE
PHARAOH
POTIPHAR
PRISON
RACHEL
REUBEN
SEVEN YEARS
SHEPHERD
SIGNET RING
SILVER CUP
SIMEON
WARDEN
ZEBULUN



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Wordsearch Puzzle (Joseph) Solution



Joseph's famous garment was his COAT OF MANY COLORS.



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Crossword (Bible Characters) Puzzle Solution

Across:

2. ELIZABETH 4. LAZARUS 7. JOSEPH 10. ZACCHEUS
11. MATTHEW 12. ANNA 14. PILATE 17. ZACHARIAS
19. LUKE 21. SIMON 22. JUDAS ISCARIOT
23. BARTIMAEUS 24. JESUS

Down:

1. MARY 3. ZEBEDEE 5. ANDREW
6. JOHN THE BAPTIST 8. SATAN 9. CAESAR AUGUSTUS
13. NICODEMUS 14. PHILIP 15. MARK 16. MARTHA
18. HEROD 20. JAIRUS



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Jeanette Howe's Poem: Drogo Caste Estate Walk from Fingle Bridge Devon"

We reached the top to find
A narrow path between hilltop trees
Clinging to the rock, to stop,
Them slipping down the steep sided gorge
Shale and stones, rocks and earth
Beneath my feet.



Some slide away, some give purchase
Some sharp beneath my sole
Rocks jutting through the crust
I wondered
I wondered whether the pain of feet clinging to the rock
Was like the suffering that drives us home to God?
A healing, saving pain?

Descending gently into joy
Our eyes spotted little blue butterflies,
A small brown lizard and
Lemon headed yellowhammers
Landing on warm brown rock,
Oak apples, toadstools
Rowan berries, Alder buckthorn berries,
Blackberries
Ferns, grasses, trees
So many wild things speaking out,
About the bountiful goodness of our God.



[Jeanette Howe]