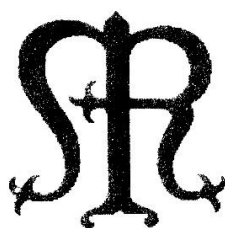

Newsletter #27

Friday 16th February to Friday 3rd March 2023



St Mary's Church Ecclestone /

St Mary's Church Pulford

[Ecclestone and Pulford Churches](#)

Email:

EcclestoneChurchWarden@ecclestoneandpulfordchurches.org

PulfordChurchWarden@ecclestoneandpulfordchurches.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.ecclestoneandpulfordchurches.org/category/newsletters/>

For up-to-date service information please see the church website:

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

Please feel free to email suggestions for future newsletter articles. Thank you to Rob Hughes for his contribution this week.

Kind Regards

Stephen Hutchinson (hutch@ecclestoneandpulfordchurches.org)

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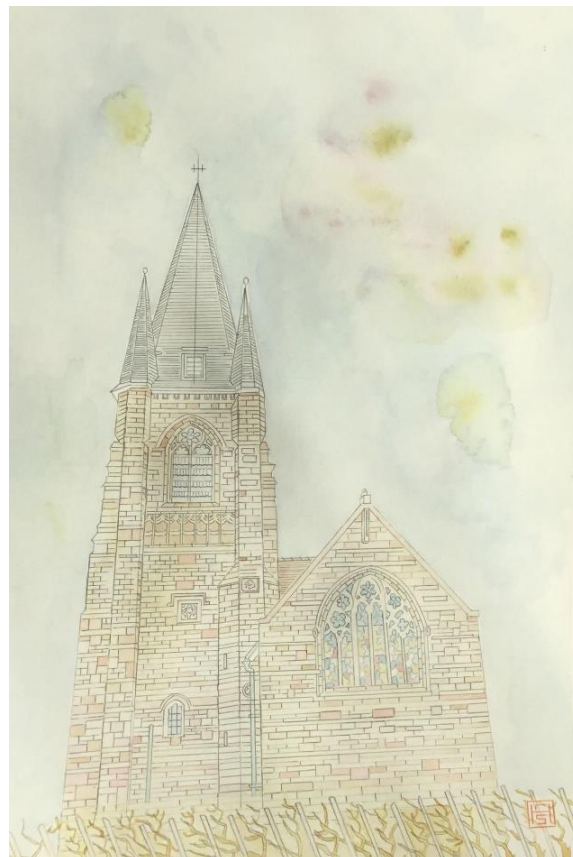


Figure 1 Pulford Church

Parish information

Rector:

Pulford/Eccleston	Revd. Dr Stephen Torr
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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	

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	St Mary's Church PULFORD	St Mary's Church ECCLESTON
Sunday 19th Feb	9.45am Priest: Canon Stephen Attwater Reader: Paul Williams Prayer Leader: Sue Payne	11.15am Priest: Reverend Robin Mosley Reader: Hilary Bushnell Prayer Leader: Steve Hutchinson
Tuesday 21st Feb		7pm The institution and Induction Service of our new rector: The Revd. Dr Stephen Torr
Sunday 26th Feb		11.15am Priest: Revd. Dr Stephen Torr Reader: Terry Brightmore Prayer Leader: Mo Richards

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

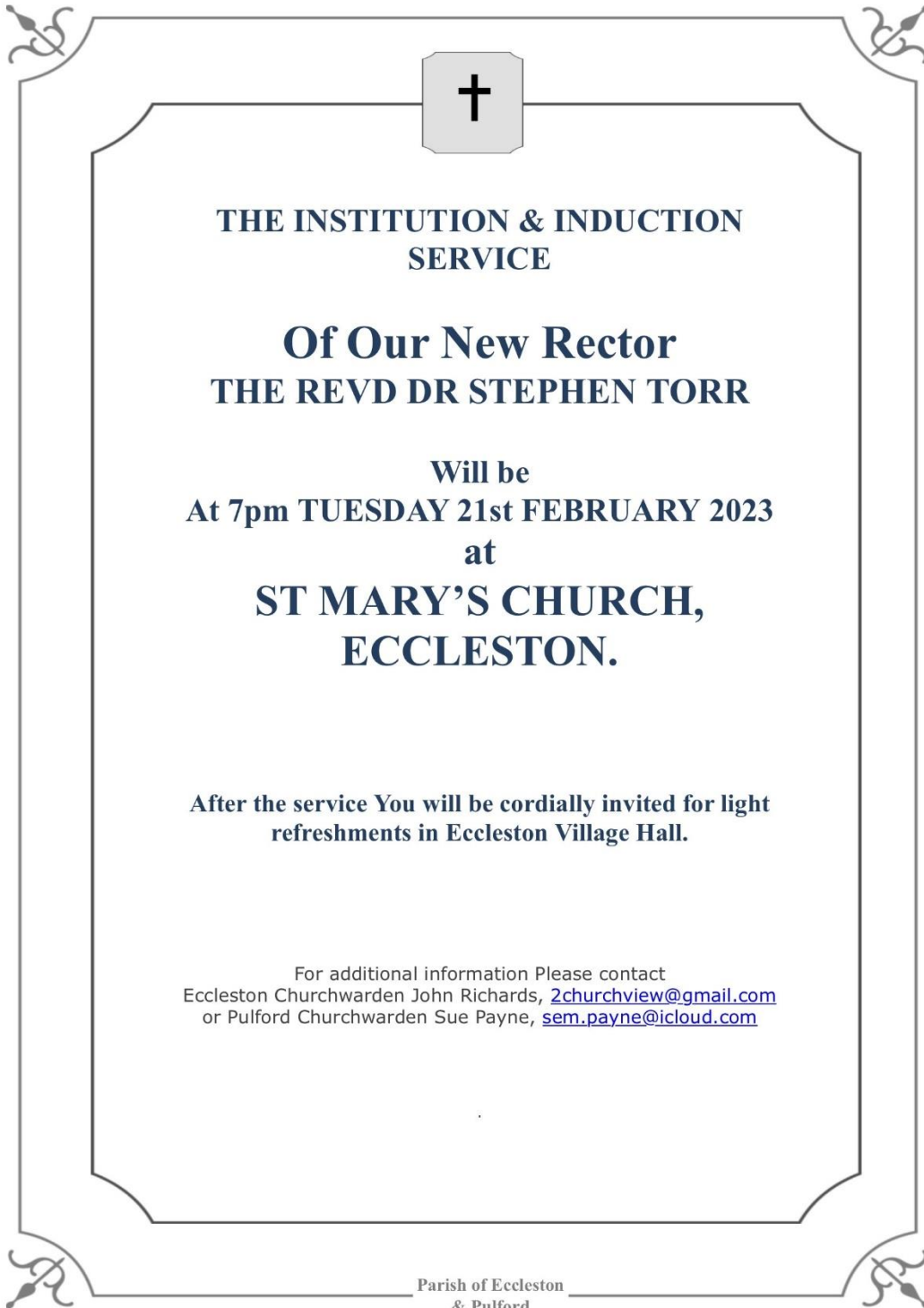
Urgently Wanted

- 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

The Institution and Induction Service of our New Rector the Reverend Dr Stephen Torr.



+

**THE INSTITUTION & INDUCTION
SERVICE**

**Of Our New Rector
THE REVD DR STEPHEN TORR**

**Will be
At 7pm TUESDAY 21st FEBRUARY 2023
at
ST MARY'S CHURCH,
ECCLESTON.**

**After the service You will be cordially invited for light
refreshments in Eccleston Village Hall.**

For additional information Please contact
Eccleston Churchwarden John Richards, 2churchview@gmail.com
or Pulford Churchwarden Sue Payne, sem.payne@icloud.com

Parish of Eccleston
& Pulford

Rob Hughes Homily: Faith and Belief (Do actions speak louder than words?)



In my previous blog, I touched on the relationship between faith and hope - basically offering an opinion that both are about trust: faith being trust in the present, influenced by past learning and experience; and hope is also trust, but that something will happen (that you anticipate or “hope-for”) in the future...

As you will no doubt have gathered, I greatly value and respect the New Testament's description about faith being: **“confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what**

we do not see”. The Letter to the Hebrew Christians goes further and speaks about “belief” - specifically that: **“without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.... trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.”** This text encouraged me to say something about belief this time.

I guess it's true to say that when we have faith, we trust or believe in someone, or something, very strongly - deep within ourselves and within our hearts. Faith comes from what we've been taught, and what we've experienced-in, and learned-from, life. But it's not necessarily based entirely on proof, as there's room for intuition - that niggling opinion we 'feel', deep down.

'Belief', on the other hand, refers to something that we consider to be true - here-and-now; 'deep-down', irrespective of the facts or any beliefs or opinions of others. And in this respect, it could be argued that belief comes first. It's that 'feeling' that actually enables us to have faith in someone or something. In a religious context, we're mindful that **“he who comes to God must believe that He is”**.

Is this another chicken-and-egg situation? Does faith require belief, or is it vice-versa? I don't believe it's either of these, because it's next-to-impossible to convincingly argue that faith can exist without someone or something to have faith-in. Conversely, I really can't imagine a situation in which we, deep-down, believe in something unless we have credible experience or intuition that he/she/it exists. It doesn't make sense to separate the two, does it? Furthermore, the Bible teaches that God intends our **faith** and our **actions** to go hand in hand - **“What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds?”** (James 2:14).

In itself, this says nothing about belief... but it does beg the question, do our actions truly reflect what-or-who we actually believe in? It occurs to me that in order to be right with God, we have to not only have faith and **do things**, but what we **do** needs to be in tune with what we **believe in**. In short, neither faith nor belief mean all that much unless we believe the right things. Evidence about what 'these right things' are is clear to read-about in the Gospels, in the Acts of the Apostles and in the Letters to the early church. The early church, frankly, struggled to believe in the right things, and often strayed from 'the truth', so St Paul made many journeys to put them right!

Accepting for a moment that belief may be at the root of faith (and probably at the root of hope, as well?), if you were given a choice as to which takes precedence - "right action" or "right belief", what would you say?

- Some might mention ethical conduct;
- others might claim the important of moral high ground;
- many might come down on the side of faith, or grace;
- others might favour ritual, practices and rites
- How many would say "right belief"?

When push comes to shove, there is only One Truth - God's Truth, demonstrated in action by Jesus Christ, "lived" by the apostles - and by countless practicing Christians ever since. They, and we, believe in God the Father - first and foremost, and God, the Son, and God the Holy Spirit (who also enables and supports hope).

As practicing Christians our challenges include believing the right things, in order to do the right things:

- throughout our daily lives;
- in everything we say and do;
- whilst maintaining faith that we'll be loved and supported every step of the way during this difficult journey.

It seems to me that it's **right belief that sets the course** - from which right actions, living faith, and genuine hope then flow.

In his recent sermon at Pulford, Canon Ian Davenport quoted St Teresa of Avila which, for me, sums up our beliefs, and our potential for faith-in-action:

***"Christ has no body now on earth but yours,
no hands but yours,
no feet but yours,
Yours are the eyes through which to look out
Christ's compassion to the world.
Yours are the feet with which he is to go about
doing good;
Yours are the hands with which he is to bless men now."***

[Rob Hughes]

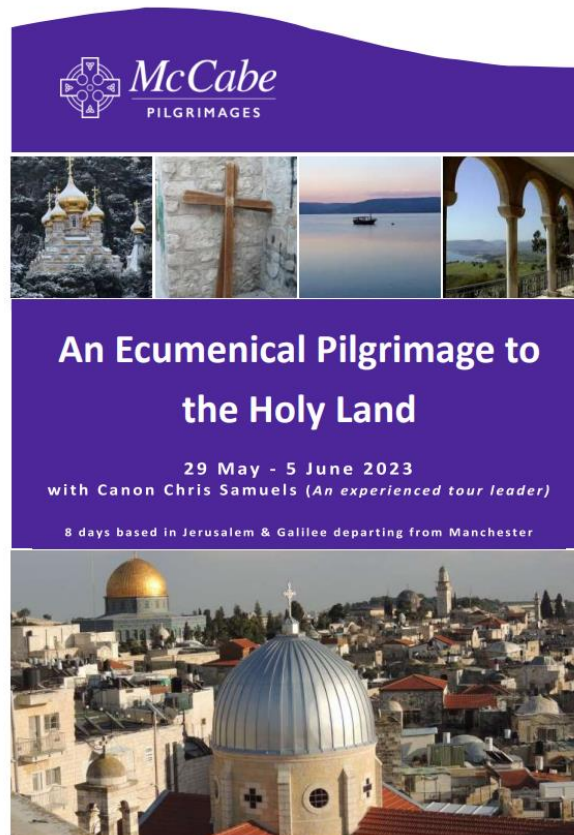
Eccleston Church Vestry Stained-Glass Windows:

As the vestry is normally inaccessible to visitors, I thought I would include some photos of the beautiful stained-glass windows that are present in Eccleston Church vestry. It is incredible that such attention to detail was present when creating these windows even though they will never be viewed by the public. I wonder if anyone knows the history of these windows?



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 \(mccabe-travel.co.uk\)](http://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](#)