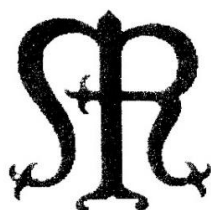

Newsletter #31

Friday 14th April to Friday 28th April 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 Jeanette Howe, Mike Nethercott and Rob Hughes for their contributions.

Kind Regards

Stephen Hutchinson (hutch@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org)

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Figure 1 Pulford Church in Snow by Mike Nethercott

Parish information

Rector:

Pulford/Eccleston	Revd. Dr Stephen Torr	rector@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org
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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
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Pulford	Clare Willan
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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
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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.

All services will be led by the Reverend Dr Stephen Torr.

Please see <https://ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org/services> for latest service times.

Date	St Mary's Church PULFORD	St Mary's Church ECCLESTON
Sunday 16 th April	9.45am Holy Communion Service.	
Sunday 23 rd April	9.45am Holy Communion Service.	11.15am All-age Baptism (No HC).
Sunday 30 th April		11.15am Choral Holy Communion Service.
Sunday 7 th May	9.45am 5 th Week after Easter / Coronation Commemoration Holy Communion	
Sunday 14 th May		11.15am 6 th Week after Easter Choral Holy Communion Service
Sunday 21 st May	9.45am 7 th week after Easter. Holy Communion	11.15am All-age incl. Messy Church.

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: Low Sunday - Low Key.



I was recently asked why we tend to describe the first Sunday after Easter as Low Sunday... my reply was superfluous, as the person asking it had, apparently, already been told, authoritatively, by someone else that "... it's because fewer people come to church relative to Easter Day". Well, even that could be queried, as Easter Day is probably better-attended than may be 'usual', rather than the Sunday after being particularly 'lowly attended...

What we tend to term as Low Sunday has many other titles, in fact. For example:

- Quasimodo Sunday, which refers to the introit to the anthem sung as a priest approaches the altar for Mass.
- White Sunday, which refers to those who might wear white robes following baptism at the Easter Vigil.
- Thomas / Divine Mercy Sunday, in deference to what happened when Jesus first revealed Himself to the disciples.

Other terms include: Divine Mercy Sunday, Antipasha ('after Easter'), Renewal Sunday, Octave Day and Bright Sunday, and I'd encourage you to look these up to discover their origins...

The term **Low Sunday** is most likely simply a relative term - in essence 'low key' relative to the **high** festival of Easter Sunday - the time for ultimate celebration for Christians.

It occurs to me that much about Christ's ministry was pretty low key in many ways, but had a most profound effect on the people who were there at the time - and immeasurably influenced the human race ever since.



The infant Jesus was born into poverty, in a 'stable', in a tiny village. He was brought up in another small village, and learned skills in carpentry (and associated building work, most likely), helping his father to run a family business. At the start of His Ministry, He had only twelve 'close friends', no fixed base, and yet there was clearly 'something special' about Him (and His message) that attracted large crowds to hear what he had to say. He walked in the streets and countryside, healing the sick (no ceremony) and walked on. Performing miracles (no flashing lights), then moving on.

Figure 2 The adoration of the shepherds by Gerard van Honthorst

His influence was so great, and His message so strong, that He was feared and hated by the religious authorities, and probably viewed as a potential terrorist by the Roman invaders and their local henchmen. And so, he was eventually hunted down, trumped-up charges brought against Him, ultimately betrayed and cruelly executed. Then laid to rest on a borrowed tomb.

At no stage during His three-year ministry did he do anything wrong; He was loyal to His calling, never compromised His quiet peace-seeking way of life, and message of love and hope. Yet even the people who greeted him days before the crucifixion were disappointed, misinterpreted His intent, and disowned Him. The only thing high-key was His public humiliation and death!

Even His resurrection was low key - talking place in a quiet garden scene. He made no fuss, and had little to say to Mary at that time... When the time was right, by all accounts, he simply resumed the same ministry for a while. No fanfares, no fuss, no drama.

I'd like to summarise the 'low-key' theme by paraphrasing the final words of the poem written in 1926 by Dr James Allan Francis: "**One Solitary Life**".

*In the centuries have that come and gone, Jesus has remained a central figure of history. All the armies that have ever marched, navies that have ever sailed, parliaments that have come and gone, and monarchs that have ever reigned **put together** have not affected the life of mankind on earth as powerfully as that one solitary life.*

No pomp; no ceremony; no fuss. As simple as that!

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.

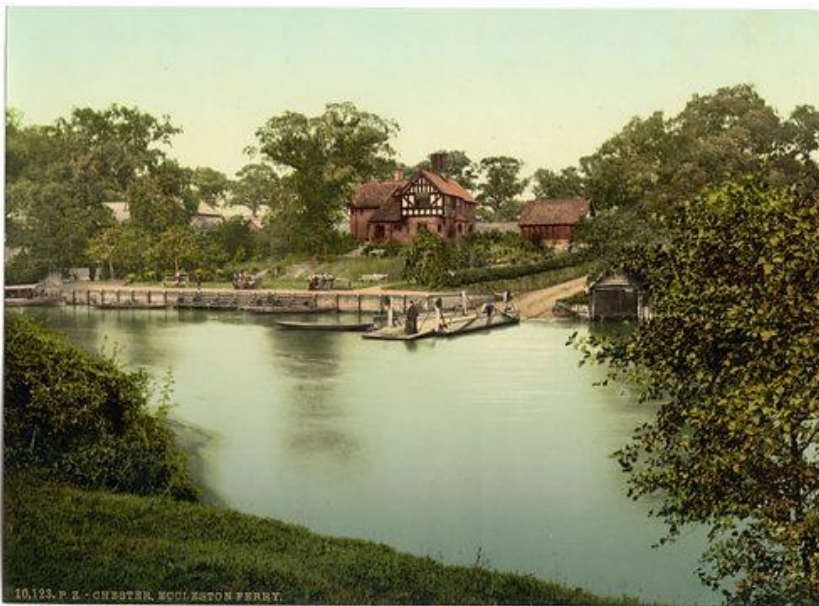
For it is in giving that we receive;

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life

[Rob Hughes]

Eccleston Ferry



Mike Nethercott has created a lovely painting of Eccleston Ferry.

Many years ago, there used to be an active ferry service that would take people working on the Eaton Estate into Chester to do their shopping.

Here's a photo of the ferry service together with Mike's painting.

Standing on The Edge – Poem by Jeanette Howe



Standing on the edge
Glancing over the precipice, a
Giddy distance between life
and Death.

You can see geological history
Rising from the sea's depths.
White maned waves breaking
In submission to the Rock of
Ages.

A spot peeking
Out of turquoise
Draws your magnified gaze to
A seal eyeing you inquisitively.

Hidden in the depths of
creation
From death came new life
When Christ rose as King of
His New Kingdom.

Beauty is all around this Easter.

[Jeanette Howe]



Official Facebook pages for Eccleston Church and Pulford Church:

There are now 2 official pages for Eccleston and Pulford Church on Facebook. There were already 2 unofficial pages, but these new official pages, it is hoped, will be more relevant to the Church and its activities.

Eccleston Church: <https://www.facebook.com/EcclestonChurch>

Pulford Church: <https://www.facebook.com/PulfordChurch>

Stained-Glass Window from Pulford Church



The stained-glass window on the south side of the Sanctuary in Pulford Church depicts under an inscription 'She hath done all she could' the scene in Simon the Pharisee's house (Luke 7: 37-48) where a woman washes Christ's feet with her tears and wipes those feet dry with the hairs of her head before anointing them with precious ointment.