



St Mary's Church Eccleston / St Mary's Church Pulford

[Eccleston and Pulford Churches](#)

Email:

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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 Mike Nethercott and Rob Hughes for their contributions this week.

Tom and Margaret Walker are hosting a Soup and Sandwich lunch at Pulford Village Hall on Tuesday 16th May from 12:30 to 2 pm. Entry is by donation to Christian Aid (Please see their poster on page 4).

Kind Regards

Stephen Hutchinson (hutch@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org)

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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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CHRISTIAN AID

SOUP AND SANDWICH LUNCH

IN PULFORD VILLAGE HALL

TUESDAY 16 MAY 2023

12.30 – 2.00PM

EVERYONE WELCOME

ENTRY BY DONATION

**PROCEEDS TO ANNUAL PARISH CHRISTIAN
AID APPEAL**

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 30 th April Easter 4		11.15am Choral Holy Communion Service.
Sunday 7 th May Easter 5	9.45am Coronation Commemoration Holy Communion	
Sunday 14 th May Easter 6		11.15am Choral Holy Communion Service
Sunday 21 st May Easter 7	9.45am Holy Communion	All-age incl. Messy Church.
Sunday 28 th May Pentecost		11.15am Choral Holy Communion Service
Sunday 4 th June Trinity Sunday	9.45am Holy Communion	

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: Fellowship

During the pandemic, and ever since, I hear people saying “things will never be the same again” ... and all the social media channels are still buzzing with theories, opinions and homespun philosophy about the pandemic (and other global catastrophes) being, for example:

- “nature’s way of telling us that there are far too many people chasing far too few (and swiftly dwindling) resources”
- And even “God’s way of punishing us for our sinful and selfish ways!” ...

The Easter Season, however, reminds us that our God is a **caring and loving God, who wants the best for us**, not the worst! That was a key message of New Testament times - and one of the themes of readings from the book of The Acts of the Apostles. We can read about how the early Christian movement began and grew, in a dangerous and uncertain world (as we still do, but for different reasons).

We can read about the teaching-and-preaching of an initially small band of faithful people, who were dedicated to spreading the Good News of their risen Lord. The good news for us, here and now, no matter what happens from now on - is that the Good News of the New Testament hasn’t changed - it’s the same now, as it’s always been - and always will be. Here’s why.

Firstly, the early apostles placed a high priority on studying and teaching of the Word of God - then learning from each other. And as their knowledge and understanding of what their Lord had been talking about (basically, God’s Love-in-practice), they passed their understanding on to more and more people, who then did the same. Practicing our faith - caring for those we can care-for “practically” in some way; simply “keeping in touch” will help us all to not only keep the faith, but to increasingly live the faith. We must make to not simply maintain our faith, but to grow-in-faith...



Secondly, the early church existed within a growing **fellowship**. Now the use of the term “fellowship”, in this context, is an attempted translation (albeit an inaccurate one) of the fascinating Greek word *koinonia*. *There is no English equivalent*, as the word means an intimate sharing of one’s self with another. To us, here and now, it means sharing who we are, and what we stand for; sharing with others our personal relationship with our Lord; sharing time, prayers and conversation; living our faith, not just keeping it to ourselves. Certainly, that’s easier when we meet in person on Sundays, but can, and should, be practiced anytime - all the time.

Thirdly, the early church met regularly, in homes, or even in the open air, in order to “break bread”. St Paul wrote concerning the breaking of bread to the Corinthians: *“The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?”* Interestingly, the word “communion” here is the same Greek word *koinonia* (also meaning fellowship). So, to the early apostles, “Communion” wasn’t only the sharing of the Elements of the Sacrament; it was also a demonstration of the one-ness that we all share in Christ.

Fourthly, the early church promoted the important practice of prayer. It isn't fourth in priority, in fact - prayer was top priority with the Apostles, alongside study of the word. In some churches, there may seem to be more emphasis on "doing things" - Christian service; donating; voluntary work of many kinds. These are, of course, necessary and worthy "things that Christians do", and to be encouraged and supported. But the early Apostles would have taken the line "not at the expense of prayer". And private prayer can be practiced wherever and whenever the spirit moves us.



In a far-too-complex and far-too-busy world, finding quiet time for private prayer can, in itself, seem problematic; so, it's easy to be tempted to wonder how much more we can achieve by "doing" for God, rather than "being silent" with Him. Indeed, we tend to promote 'stillness' even during services. But I'd offer this quote: ***You can certainly do more than pray, after you have prayed... But you cannot do more than pray, until you have prayed...*** So, we should never underestimate the power of prayer; it will not only sustain our faith, it can sustain us - though the many current global crises - and beyond.

I don't believe, for one instant, that God is using biological means by which to punish a wayward planet! I do, however, believe that He wants to encourage and guide (those who choose to believe-and-trust) to make time to reflect upon:

- our **faith in Christian fellowship**, as a global community of worshippers
- and how we might each play our part in restoring a more compassionate and forgiving world.

May we each seek to become "someone better"; may we, as a Christian Fellowship, seek to become "something more", and closer to how God, in Christ, wants us to be. Amen

[Rob Hughes]

Pulford – The Pump Cottages.



This painting by Mike Nethercott is of the old Pulford Post Office (the Pump Cottages) which is one of the oldest buildings in the village. It was the local Post Office and village store until the late 1990s. Thank you to Mike for sharing his painting.

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>