



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

[Eccleston and Pulford Churches](#)

Email:

rector@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org

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, Rob Hughes and Mike Nethercott 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). Also, please note the additional Ascension day Holy Communion service at 7.30pm on Thursday 18th May at Eccleston Church.

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
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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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 up to date service times.

Date	St Mary's Church PULFORD	St Mary's Church ECCLESTON
Sunday 14 th May Easter 6		11.15am Choral Holy Communion Service
Thursday 18 th May		7.30pm Choral Holy Communion Service.
Sunday 21 st May Easter 7	9.45am Holy Communion	
Sunday 28 th May Pentecost		11.15am Choral Holy Communion Service
Sunday 4 th June Trinity Sunday	9.45am Holy Communion	
Sunday 11 th June 1 st Trinity		11.15am Choral Holy Communion Service

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: Seeing and perceiving



As I get older, a saying of my dad's becomes increasingly true of my situation. He'd sometimes mention: "As I get older, I lose more things, and what I miss the most is my mind!"

Have you ever been frustrated looking for something, and failing to find it? Or perhaps looking for something, knowing you 'must be getting close', getting distracted, and then falling back to 'square one'. Or, maybe giving up looking for something for a long time, finding it accidentally, and being disappointed, or not needing it anymore?

In conversations I've had with non-Christians and waverers, over many years, some seem to have been put-off because, in their words: "I've been looking for God for a long time, and never managed to find Him". Rarely, some have then added, "but I'll keep trying". I've had conversation with others who have regarded themselves as Christians, but reckoned that "God wasn't around when I needed Him the most" (usually during or after some sort of crisis). Sorry to have to admit, "I've been there, too".

Sometimes such conversations can get a bit tricky... No matter how hard you try to explain that "God is always there"; it's all-too-easy to come across as pompous, patronising, rude, or unhelpful; and can even make things worse - as the more you try, the worse it can get!

But it's true: we don't have to send out a search party to find God. In the Person of The Holy Spirit, He is always within us. So, God the Father and Son is always alongside us, ahead of us and behind us. The issue then becomes - do we expect to see, or touch Him? Or can we 'see better' when we distance ourselves from our purely-physical senses?

The human side of our nature always looks for "that littler bit more" from God; perhaps seeking more proof of his existence. We're not alone - even such miracles as the disciples had seen for themselves never seem to have been enough - even at the time. Seeing and perceiving can prove difficult to reconcile. One requires facts; the other requires faith....

A while ago I came across a saying which helped me with this one: "We usually think of ourselves as human beings who seek to experience our spiritual nature; we are, in fact, spiritual beings who routinely experience our human nature" ...

- Our human nature prompts us to believe what we see (the disciples, in the storm, saw a ghost)
- Our spiritual nature dares us to perceive other truths (the disciples in the calm perceived Jesus differently - "My Lord and my God"!)



It occurs to me that throughout His earthly ministry (and beyond!), Jesus was there with the disciples, always looking out for them; He was always at the right place at the right time - not by coincidence, but because He was simply always there, and always will be there for us, too. Not by coincidence; not because we have to seek Him out; but because He is always there. So, we don't have to look-without; we have to perceive within... with faith that He's already there - within to comfort and support us...

He can't be seen, nor heard; nor can He be touched with our human hands. But our spiritual nature can enable us to perceive Him - anytime, anywhere (which can, or course, be particularly difficult in times of crisis and chaos - and not necessarily much easier in times of tranquility and stillness).

There is an old hymn that testifies, "*Jesus calls us o'er the tumult of our life's wild, restless sea.*" But just as He instructed His disciples to face dangers (in the boat-in-a-storm, for example, and throughout their ministries), we must be prepared to keep the faith - not by "looking for Him", but by "perceiving Him", which is why we pray:

May we truly have faith that Christ will always 'be there':

- ***Above us to bless us;***
- ***Below us to support us;***
- ***Before us to guide us;***
- ***Behind us to protect us;***
- ***Beside us to comfort us;***
- ***And inside us, to give us courage, strength and joy.***

[Rob Hughes]

Chirk Castle Garden in Autumn.



This lovely painting by Mike Nethercott shows the garden in Chirk Castle in autumn.

Official Facebook pages for Eccleston Church and Pulford Church:

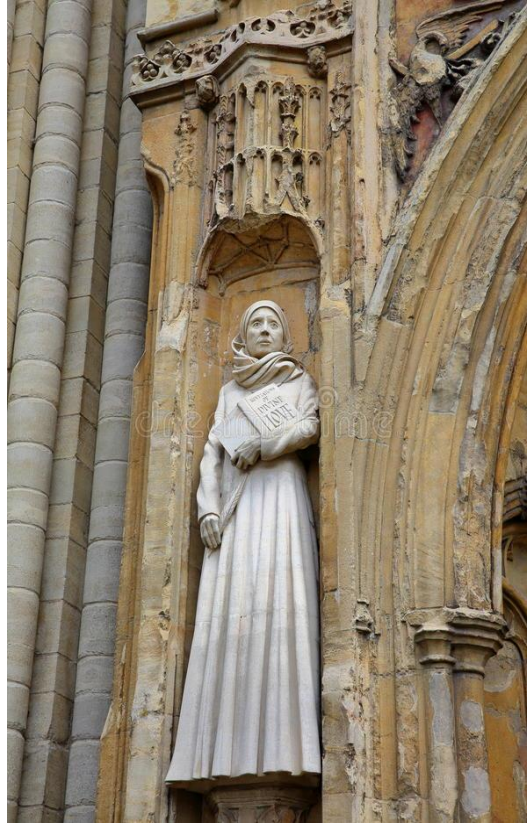
There are now 2 official pages for Eccleston and Pulford Church on Facebook. There were already 2 unofficial pages, but these new official pages, it is hoped, will be more relevant to the Church and its activities.

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

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

Jeanette Howe's Homily: A meditation from Mother Julian of Norwich.

650 years ago, 8th May, 1373, while seriously ill, Julian of Norwich received sixteen revelations of God's divine love. The final paragraph of the last meditation reads like this:



***“So it was that I learned that love was our Lord’s meaning.
And I saw for certain, both here and elsewhere,
That before ever He made us,
God loved us;
And that his love has never slackened, nor ever shall.
In this love all his works have been done,
And in this love, he has made everything serve us;
And in this love our life is everlasting.
Our beginning was when we were made,
But the love in which he made us, never had a beginning;
In it we have our beginning.
All this we shall see in God forever.
May Jesus grant this.
Amen”***

*(Julian of Norwich: Revelations of Divine Love, pg. 212. Translated by Clifton Walters, published by Penguin Books, 1966)
Picture: David Holgate's statue of Julian of Norwich, outside [Norwich Cathedral](#), completed in 2000*