
Newsletter #36

Friday 28th June to Friday 14th July 2023



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 for their contributions this week.

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 (assistant Bridget Marsden)	PulfordChurchWarden@ ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org
Eccleston	John Richards (assistants Julie Rowland and Steve Hutchinson)	EcclestonChurchWarden@ ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org

Lay Minister

Pulford/Eccleston	Jeanette Howe
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Planned Giving Officer / Treasurer

Pulford/Eccleston	Bridget Marsden
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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 up-to-date service times.

Date	St Mary's Church PULFORD	St Mary's Church ECCLESTON
Sunday 2 nd July (Trinity 4)	9.45am Holy Communion	
Sunday 9 th July (Trinity 5)		11.15am Choral Holy Communion
Sunday 16 th July (Trinity 6)	9.45am Holy Communion	11.15am All-age "MW"
Sunday 23 rd July (Trinity 7)		11.15am Choral Holy Communion
Sunday 30 th July (Trinity 8)		11.15am Choral Holy Communion.
Sunday 6 th August (The Transfiguration)	9.45am Holy Communion	
Sunday 13 th August (Trinity 10)		11.15am Choral Holy Communion

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>

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:



When Sue, David and I set up our family business; we provided leadership and management mentoring advice and consultancy, and I'd often come home from client meetings and say "if only I had a fiver for every time clients said to me":

Top of the pops being:

- " We need everyone to be trained to be **leaders**".
- Hmm!! There's a world of a difference between the roles and responsibilities of leaders and managers (who need to support their own staff in totally different ways!)

And a close second:

- "They all (i.e. "everyone else who works here") need training in time management".

In reality, poor time management of employees is usually down to the worse time management of the leaders and managers themselves - who needed training first !!!

I was often taken to task for voicing this opinion....

Much of what I ended up doing was helping leaders and managers to get out of their own way, by redefining their own roles and responsibilities differently, and to include skills in identifying for themselves how to develop their people to become (what's now termed) "a better fit" in all the other roles.

It occurs to me that St Matthew's Gospel tells us a great deal about how Jesus went about recruiting the first twelve disciples; but little is said about what qualities he was looking for - why, precisely, did he choose them - at face value, "a right motley crew"? Later we learn that these twelve men, between them, could be loyal and courageous, but on occasion sceptical and fearful; they could be extremely enthusiastic, impulsive, and even fiery in the forefront; or quiet and reserved in the background. Their careers and life experiences encompassed (mainly) fishing, to collecting unjust taxes (in collaboration with the Roman occupiers); political activism (a Zealot) and a turncoat. In short, they were a small group of individuals that represented a typical broad-spectrum of the community they lived in, and were immersed in the politics and problems of their day. **As are we immersed in the politics and problems of our day...**

As Christians, we're called to be disciples, too. And Jesus himself defined discipleship in terms of mission, rather than job tasks: "**Go rather to the lost sheep... As you go, proclaim this message - the Kingdom of Heaven has come near... Freely you have received; freely give**". That's always been, and will always be, the primary aim of discipleship: to make other people aware that The Kingdom of God is at hand, and to freely give (as we receive from God): love and compassion; friendship and support.

In short, Jesus chose **them, then**, for **who they were, then** (at first meeting) - not for what they knew, nor for their career background. Similarly, Jesus wants **us, now** to be, authentically, who we are, here and now.

Indeed, Eugene Peterson (who was an American Presbyterian minister, theologian, author, and poet) had this to say:

"Christian discipleship is a decision to walk in His ways, steadily and firmly, and then finding that the way integrates all our interests, passions, and gifts, our human needs and eternal aspirations. It is the way of life we were created for".

Jesus wants to take us as we are, here and now, so we need to:

- Believe in Him, totally, have absolute commitment to Him, and trust His leadership.
- Follow Him faithfully, and trust that the Holy Spirit will guide our journey into an uncertain and unknowable future.

To be effective disciples, we must be prepared to:

- Continually put the needs of others first, and "pray for the needs of the whole world"
- Seek to learn from God's Word, and, through prayer and reflection, carefully consider what that means to us in our every-day lives
- Enthusiastically learn from each other (through fellowship and worship)
- and (crucially) to then **pass on** what we learn, what we know and what we come to understand (as our discipleship develops) - to then inspire others to come and see for themselves - who we are, what we believe - and the difference that makes to us!



Jesus was a leader, not a manager; His strategy for winning the world was simple: win a few men and women to Himself, then enthuse them - empower them - to repeat the process over again. And that's where we come in... It may seem unsettling to realise that we are required to obey, knowing that things will change, and that we will be changed as we "win" others for God. But for now, to be at our most effective, we have 'to be ourselves', and invite the Holy Spirit to take control as we follow our Leader.

I came across this prayer the other day about discipleship:

"Jesus, you said we cannot truly call you Lord unless we do the things you said we should do. With all of my heart, I want to be authentic when I call you Lord. Help me to give you my full devotion and complete obedience. Make me a true disciple.

Amen"

[Rob Hughes]

Jeanette Howe: A Poem composed by a computer (ChatGPT)

To give you an indication of how advanced AI (Artificial Intelligence) is, here's a poem composed by the ChatGPT computer algorithm for Mark RD Long at Church of St Peter.

'Echoes of Sacred Pews'

In sacred pews, where souls seek solace deep,
Where hallowed whispers rise like gentle hymns,
A sonnet weaves its verse, its secrets keep,
And paints the canvas where the spirit brims.
Within these sacred halls, the poets dream,
Their quills caressed by sacred, hallowed air,
Their words, like prayers, flow through a timeless stream,
In melodies that touch hearts unaware.
Each line a prayer, each rhyme a hymn divine,
They carve emotions on the parchment's face,
Through sonnets' grace, the spirit finds its sign,
Within these sacred pews, a sacred space.
Oh, let the sonnet's rhythm, rich and true,
Unveil the depths where faith and verse imbue.

Poem by ChatGPT, an AI language model developed by OpenAI.

[Jeanette Howe]

Jeanette Howe: A Reflection on Lectio 365 'Travelling at the speed of love'

"Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."

Matthew 11:28–30 (MSG)

Isn't it extraordinary that Jesus never hurried? With just three years to save the world, He still made time for fishing trips, picnics, and parties, which means that He was officially less busy than most pastors. 'Let me make one observation,' writes Kosuke Koyama in his book *Three Mile an Hour God*, '[God] walks "slowly" because he is love. If he is not love he would have gone much faster. Love has its speed. It is an inner speed. It is a spiritual speed. It is a different kind of speed from the technological speed to which we are accustomed... It is the speed we walk and therefore it is the speed the love of God walks.'

Prayer:

Help us to walk the speed of love, dear Lord

To overcome the busyness

To make love for You and your creation the priority in our interactions today

Amen

[Jeanette Howe]

Painting of the week. The Angelus by Jean-Francois Millet (1814-1875)



The artist Millet said that the idea for the Angelus came to him when he remembered that his grandmother, hearing the church bell ringing while they were working in the fields, always made them stop work to say the Angelus prayer for the poor departed.

The Angelus Prayer:

Let us pray. Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts: that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. Through the same Christ our Lord.

Amen.

[Stephen Hutchinson]

Contemporary Christian Music Song of the week:

My contemporary Christian Music Song this week is Getaway by Taya Gaukrodger.

Funnily enough this is based on the same passage as Jeanette's homily this week (i.e. Matthew 11:28-30)

Youtube: <https://youtu.be/ax1xgLTE3I4>

Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/track/3shXjil3dziPRshJCINTKM?si=c416cd11797f488b>

[Stephen Hutchinson]