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Newsletter #38

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> July to Friday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2023

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

[Eccleston and Pulford Churches](#)

Email:

[rector@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org](mailto:rector@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org)

[EcclestonChurchWarden@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org](mailto:EcclestonChurchWarden@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org)

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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 Rob Hughes for his contribution this week.

Kind Regards

Stephen Hutchinson ( [hutch@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org](mailto:hutch@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org) )

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Figure 1 Eccleston Church 1800

## 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	Jeanette @ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org
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### Planned Giving Officer / Treasurer

Pulford/Eccleston	Bridget Marsden	Treasurer @ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org
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### Safeguarding Officer

Pulford/Eccleston	Hilary Garrard	Safeguarding @ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org
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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	
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### 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 6 <sup>th</sup> August (The Transfiguration)	9.45am Holy Communion	
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> August (Trinity 10)		11.15am Choral Holy Communion
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> August (Trinity 11)	9.45am Holy Communion	11.15am All Age Service
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> August (Trinity 12)		11.15am Choral Holy Communion.
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September (Trinity 13)	9.45am 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: Uncertain World.

I guess for most of us, the long hours of isolation due to the pandemic is a distant memory. But I still remember sympathizing with parents of younger people - having to look after and educate them at home... And my daughter-in-law didn't see the funny side when I mentioned that she needn't feel so guilty about how much more TV the kids were then allowed to watch. "After all," I said: you could always:

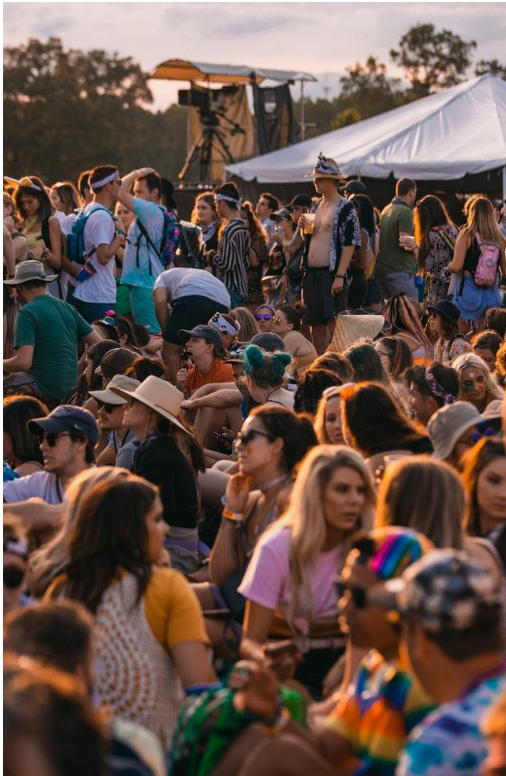


- "Either mute the sound, put the subtitles on, and hey presto, they'll be reading!
- "Maybe select French or German Language from the sound options, and enable English subtitles, and then they'll be learning a new language!"

Her look was frosty (at first) over Zoom. But "needs must", as they say, and who knows, it might even have worked! But on a more serious note, it's at difficult times like those we need to dig deep into our beliefs and faith to remember that our God is a caring and loving God, who wants the best for us, not the worst! That was the key message of New Testament times; and it's still the message for us, here and now.

The book of the Acts of the Apostles (a specific passage follows the text) talks about how the early Christian movement began and grew in a dangerous and equally-uncertain world. We can read about their approach and priorities. Teaching-and-preaching of a small band of faithful people who were dedicated to spreading the Good News of their risen Lord.

The good news for us, two millennia later, is exactly the same - no matter what happens from now on. It hasn't changed - the same as it's always been, and always will be... So what are our priorities as Christians? Are they the same as those of the first apostles?



**Firstly**, the early apostles placed a high priority on the studying and teaching of the word of God - then learning from each other. And as their knowledge and understanding of what their Lord - our 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. Do we help others to move forward 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, as well as 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 can meet in person on Sundays, or anytime, but it doesn't have to "stop" because

of a virus, or global uncertainty, no matter how relentless.

**Thirdly**, the early church met regularly, in homes, or even in the open air, in order to "break bread". St Paul wrote about 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?" (1 Corinthians 10:10)

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 the 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. If so, I hope this quote might be an encouragement: ***You can certainly do more than pray, after you have prayed... But you cannot do more than pray, until you have prayed... Pray often, for prayer is a shield to the sole...*** (John Bunyan).

So, we should never underestimate the power of prayer; it will not only sustain our faith, it can sustain our being - though the current world crises (there a many of those at the moment!) - and beyond. Which is why we must continue to hope and pray that we will not simply emerge from the current world "as we used to be". We must make e time to reflect on our own personal and corporate, relationship with Christ, with each other and with society. May we seek to become "something more" - "someone better", someone closer to how God, in Christ, wants us to be.

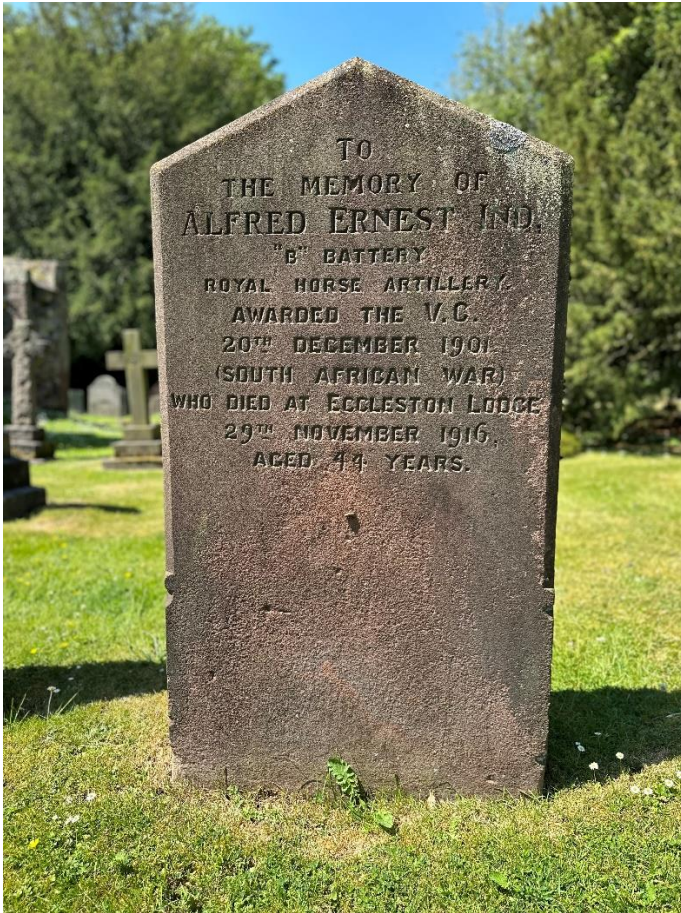
### **Acts 2:42-47**

*"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the Breaking of Bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved."*

**[Rob Hughes]**

## Eccleston Gravestone Cleaning.

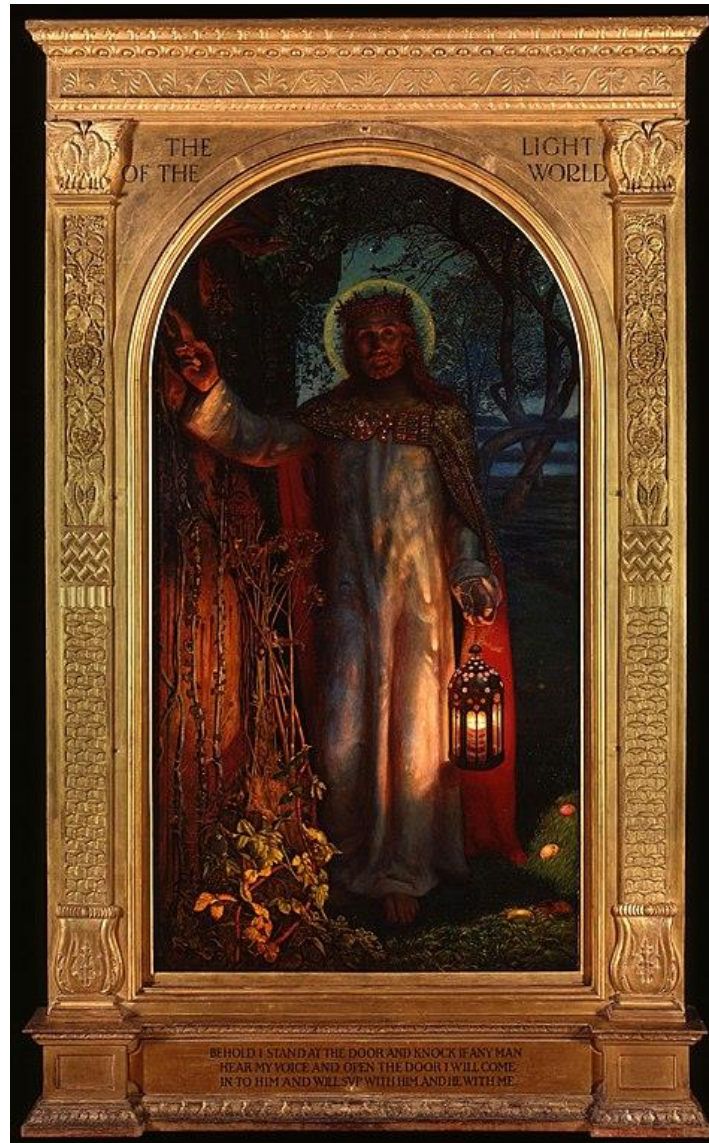
Eccleston church has had one of the gravestones professionally cleaned. This is the grave of Alfred Ernest Ind. Before and after:



Alfred Ernest Ind (VC) (1872- 1916) was a recipient of the Victoria Cross. He was 29 years old during the Second Boer War. During an incident where the rest of his team had been shot down, he continued to fire until the last possible moment. It was due to this act of heroism, and in every other action since he joined the Pompom section that led to him being awarded the Victoria Cross. He later achieved the rank of Sergeant and was a member of the Chestnut Troop.



## Christian Painting of the Week: “The Light of the World” by William Holman Hunt (1827-1910)



**Revelation 3:20** "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any man hears My voice, and open the door, I will come to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me".

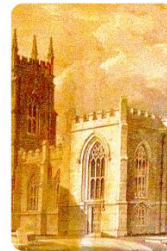
The door in the painting has no handle, and can therefore only be opened from the inside, representing (according to the artist) "the obstinately shut mind".



WELCOME TO

# ST MARY'S CHURCH

ECCLESTON / CHESTER



## WELCOME TO ST MARY'S

Thank you for visiting St Mary's today. We are proud to be the heart of our village community, a place of peace and sanctuary, proving a space to encounter God in all walks of life. We hope you have enjoyed your visit. If you have any questions, please contact [rector@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org](mailto:rector@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org)



"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."  
2 Corinthians 9:7-8

Gifts to our church are a response to God's generosity to us, and enable us to live out Christ's story in our local community.

If you would like to give a gift to St Mary's Church, simply scan your phone camera here:



Cash donations are still gratefully received too.  
Thank you for all you're able to give.

Alternatively, if you would like to give directly to our church, our details are:

**Sort Code:**  
60-40-08  
**Account Number:**  
79937926  
**Account Name:**  
Eccleston and Pulford Churches.