

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September to Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023



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)

[PulfordChurchWarden@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org](mailto: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 Rob Hughes for his contribution this week.

Kind Regards

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

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Figure 1- Seven Sunflowers

## 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 PULFORD	St Mary's ECCLESTON
Sun. 17 <sup>th</sup> Sept. (Trinity 15)	9.45am HC	11.15am All-age MW
Sun. 24 <sup>th</sup> Sept. (Trinity 16)		11.15am HC
Sun 1 <sup>st</sup> Oct. (Trinity 17)	11am Harvest HC	
Sun 8 <sup>th</sup> Oct. (Trinity 18)		11.15am HC
Sun 15 <sup>th</sup> Oct. (Trinity 19)	9.45am HC	11.15 All-age MW
Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct.		11.15am HC

**HC = Holy Communion, MW = Morning Worship.**

## 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: Children live what they learn.

About six years ago, I attended a management away-day with a client organization, to help to run one of the dreaded team-building events. And, yes, they did the exercise that the actors and actresses do all the time, apparently. Each delegate in turn was blindfolded, and stood in the middle of a circle of colleagues – then ever-so-gently, and keeping feet together and tongue firmly in cheek – deliberately overbalanced. In the absolute certainty (I say with irony) that someone, or a couple of mates, would catch him, or her.

It's incredibly hard to trust people, isn't it? If truth be known, it can be incredibly difficult to trust God, too. Have we? Can we? Will we, when invited, ever "let go of the rope" for God?

It's not impossible to "trust implicitly", of course. For example, when my two lads were each about three years old, they both liked to play the game of hurling themselves off the stairs, knowing, trusting, that I would catch them. My grand-daughter Molly was much the same – and my increasingly-heavy grandson still likes this game. Though my shoulders don't!



Kids are amazing, aren't they? Children - especially young children – trust, implicitly, the people they know and love. Children learn what they live, and live what they learn – but I guess we adults sort of lose this wonderful gift of implicit trust as we get older, and more cynical.

To get to the point. There's no doubt that Jesus wasn't everyone's idea of a spiritual leader, let alone a saviour. He spoke with Samaritans (unbelievable!), he treated women with respect (incomprehensible), and he passed the time of day with society's losers, drop outs and unclean (unforgivable!). He loved and encouraged children, even though, in first century Jewish society, children weren't really rated as members of the community until they could take an active part as young adults...

Yet we can read in the Gospels about what happened when little children in the crowds started getting a bit close to Jesus. Basically, the disciples tried to shoo them off. At the time, they did exactly what would have been expected... *“But when Jesus saw this, He was indignant and said to them, “Permit the children to come to Me; do not hinder them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it at all.” And He took them in His arms and began blessing them, laying His hands on them.*

His attitude to the youngsters might well have seemed odd. Yet these children had humble, unpretentious faith and trust, that could rightly be called “childlike.” **Not childish** – but child **LIKE**. So, when Jesus wanted to bless the children, He said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them”. He was setting an example for everyone to follow - Them, then; and us, now.

Of course, children can be easily fooled and led astray (as can we!). On occasion, they can tend to miss the truth and be drawn to myths and fantasies. But that isn't what is meant by having a **childlike** faith. Jesus promoted a humble, honest faith in God, and He used the innocence of a child as an example to the rest of us.

We are enjoined to “let go of the rope” - take risks - from time to time for God; we're encouraged to jump off the stairs; to chuckle when thrown in the air; to lean back and let others catch us. So far from children being of little value in Jewish society in Christ's day – Jesus saw them quite differently:

- **Earlier in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus said:** "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.
- Later in His ministry, Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."
- [Luke 18:17](#) - Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."

Children are important. How we treat them is critical - not only within a family, but throughout society. How they perceive the example we set can often be an issue – because children learn what they live, and live what they learn... But do we?

**Dorothy Law Nolte wrote about this (and I'd invite you to "Google" the full version):** If children live with criticism, they learn to condemn. If children live with pity, they learn to feel sorry for themselves. If children live with ridicule, they learn to feel shy. If children live with jealousy, they learn to feel envy. If children live with shame, they learn to feel guilty.

**BUT:** If children live with encouragement, they learn confidence. If children live with tolerance, they learn patience. If children live with praise, they learn appreciation. If children live with acceptance, they learn to love.

Winston Churchill said this (November 6th, 1948, on the birth of Prince Charles): *"There is no doubt that it is around the family and the home that all the greatest virtues, the most dominating virtues of human society, are created, strengthened and maintained."*

Surely it follows that if children learn what they live, and if we expect them to live what they learn, we have to be role models of faith and trust ourselves - learning to trust in God, in each other, and in our younger family members of all ages.

**[Rob Hughes]**



## Christian Art of the week: Pietà by Michelangelo [1498 – 1499]



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Original Photo by Stanislav Traykov (from Wikipedia)

The *Madonna della Pietà* informally known as **La Pietà** is a marble sculpture of Jesus and Mary at Mount Golgotha.

The sculpture is pyramidal in structure. What is interesting about this sculpture is that the figures are quite out of proportion. Mary is represented as being much younger than her 33-year-old son, rather than the usual depictions of Mary as a naturally older woman (aged 45+). This was the only work of art signed by Michelangelo who was only 23 years old when he completed this sculpture.

More information about this beautiful sculpture can be found here:

[Pietà \(Michelangelo\) - Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pieta_(Michelangelo))

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, providing 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:



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 PCC.

Thank you for all you are able to give.

# Pulford Church Poster



PULFORD / CHESTER



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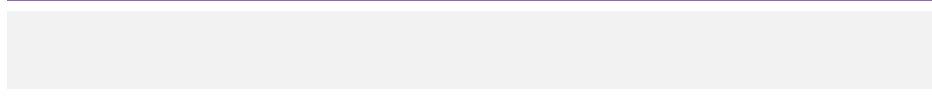
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79937926  
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Eccleston and Pulford PCC.



## Adverts.

There have been several requests to return to including adverts in the Parish Newsletter. If anyone would like to advertise, please email:

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