

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September to Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October 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)

[PulfordChurchWarden@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org](mailto:PulfordChurchWarden@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- St Matthew (Font at Eccleston Church)

## 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 1 <sup>st</sup> Oct. (Trinity 17)	<b>11am Harvest HC (followed by lunch at village hall)</b>	
Sun 8 <sup>th</sup> Oct. (Trinity 18)		<b>5.30pm HC</b>
Sun 15 <sup>th</sup> Oct. (Trinity 19)	<b>9.45am HC</b>	<b>11.15 All-age MW</b>
Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct.		<b>11.15am HC</b>
Sun 29 <sup>th</sup> Oct.		<b>11.15am HC</b>

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

**Please note that the 1<sup>st</sup> October Sunday's service at Pulford is at 11am and is followed by a Harvest Lunch at Pulford Village Hall at 12:30pm**

**Please also note that the 8<sup>th</sup> October Sunday Service at Eccleston will be at 5.30pm as the roads will be closed in the morning due to the MBNA marathon.**

## 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: We Reap More Than We Sow - But we share less than is wasted



Maybe the Harvest Season is a particularly appropriate time to reflect somewhat less on **how** Creation started, in order to **marvel instead at how effectively and reliably God's creation provides for us, year on year.**

And that in spite of all our mistakes, lapses and wobbles, God still invites us to simply enjoy the fruits of His creation!

Although the human race hasn't yet got the message about more effectively and lovingly sharing those resources.... harvest-time reminds us that God has given humankind access to all the earth's resources, enabling most of us to lead comfortable and happy lives to the full. Even in the face of the often-dangerous forces of nature, and current hardships and concerns.

He's also given us free-will to make our own choices. Choices always (**always!**) have consequences - which is why we have to take responsibility for what we think, what we say, what we do, and how we behave towards one another. And towards the rest of Creation - whether or not we hoard, or share what the earth can provide in abundance (usually!).

The pursuit of knowledge (scientific, or otherwise) isn't always matched by increasing wisdom on how we use that knowledge... That's why each and every one of us has to take responsibility for the consequences of our own decisions - decisions about who we follow, and who we choose to support (or not). In complex economies and societies, our decisions need to be based on trusting that those we follow, in turn, will make sound and just decisions on behalf of society, the nation, and (ultimately) the world! There are a number of principles here, that apply to individuals and to nations:

- We can only reap what we sow; if we sow anger and frustration and fear, that's what we'll experience in life; if we sow 'thorns', we'll get 'thorns'.
- In reality, we continually reap more than we sow (and often more than we realize), thanks to God's creative actions; "sow an acorn, we get an oak tree; sow a few grains of seed, we get a harvest of corn; sow love, we receive love; sow forgiveness, we receive forgiveness".
- But in order to reap a meaningful 'spiritual harvest', we have to be patient and persistent - we have to try, maybe fail, but then try again, and again...

We have to seize upon every opportunity to do right by God - not only by living the life he wants us to lead, but also by letting others in on what we believe, why we believe it, and how that influences the way we live and love; and share and care. And opportunities, for that, exist here-and-now. It all starts here in our hearts...

- Sow a thought, reap an action
- Sow an action, reap a habit
- Sow a habit, reap a character
- Sow a character, reap a destiny

We already reap more than we sow in terms of everyday resources that we all-too-often take for granted. We already receive more love (from God) than we could ever repay. But we have to try, and so we pray:

***Lord Jesus, help us to sow our beliefs and our faith in the way we live, the way we speak, and in what we do. If we have been sleepwalking through life, going through the motions, sowing to the flesh, frittering away our opportunities, failing to take responsibility, and ignoring the needs around us - teach us to count the many blessings we still receive every day. Then teach us to make our days count.***

***Wake us up, Lord! Shake us up. Do whatever it takes to get our attention. Help us to get busy living for you.***

**Amen**

**[Rob Hughes]**



## The Desiderata by Max Ehrmann (1927)

Go placidly amid the noise and the haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence. As far as possible, without surrender, be on good terms with all persons. Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even to the dull and the ignorant; they too have their story.

Avoid loud and aggressive persons; they are vexatious to the spirit.

If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain or bitter, for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself. Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time.

Exercise caution in your business affairs, for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals, and everywhere life is full of heroism. Be yourself. Especially do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love, for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment, it is as perennial as the grass.

Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth. Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with dark imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness.

Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself. You are a child of the universe no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here. And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.

Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be. And whatever your labors and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life, keep peace in your soul.

With all its sham, drudgery, and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be cheerful. Strive to be happy.

(In memory of Les Hocking who sadly passed away on the 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023. Les was treasurer of Eccleston and Pulford Churches and took this job extremely seriously, doing an incredible job for many years. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him).

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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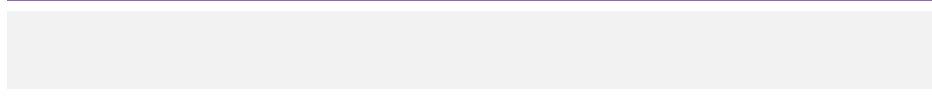
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- Account Number:** 79937926
- Account Name:** Eccleston and Pulford PCC.



## 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)

## Pulford Church App

A Pulford Church tour guide is available for Android Phones only. (iPhone version coming soon)

[Click here for Pulford Church Tour Guide for Android Phones](#)