

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October 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) )

---

# Contents

Parish information.....	3
Church Service Dates Times and Locations.....	4
Official Facebook pages for Eccleston Church and Pulford Church:.....	5
Important News and Reminders: Food Bank .....	5
Rob Hughes Homily: Is Christianity a Democracy?.....	6
Pulford Painters Art Exhibition .....	9
Eccleston Church Poster.....	10
Pulford Church Poster .....	11
Adverts. ....	12
Pulford and Poulton Local History Group Talks (Held at Pulford Village Hall).....	12
Pulford Church App .....	12
Reader/Intercessor/Sidesperson Rota.....	12



Figure 1 Pulford Church

## Parish information

### Rector:

Pulford/Eccleston	Revd. Dr Stephen Torr	Rector @ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org
-------------------	-----------------------	--

### 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
-------------------	---------------	--

### Planned Giving Officer / Treasurer

Pulford/Eccleston	Bridget Marsden	Treasurer @ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org
-------------------	-----------------	---

### Safeguarding Officer

Pulford/Eccleston	Hilary Garrard	Safeguarding @ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org
-------------------	----------------	--

### Electoral Roll Officer

Eccleston	Andrew Wilkinson
Pulford	Clare Willan

### Organists and Assistants

Pulford/Eccleston	Derek Whatling /Dennis Jones
-------------------	------------------------------

### Director of Music

Eccleston/Pulford	Maureen Richards	mothemusic@gmail.com
-------------------	------------------	----------------------

### Tower Captains

Eccleston	Andrew Pridding
-----------	-----------------

### PCC Secretary

Pulford/Eccleston	Andrew Wilkinson
-------------------	------------------

### Newsletter/Website

Pulford/Eccleston	Stephen Hutchinson	Hutch @ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org
-------------------	--------------------	---

## 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 15 <sup>th</sup> Oct. (Trinity 19)	9.45am HC	11.15 All-age MW
Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct.		11.15am HC
Sun 29 <sup>th</sup> Oct.		11.15am HC
Sun 5 <sup>th</sup> Nov. All Saints	9.45am HC	
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup> Nov. Remembrance Sunday	Act of Remembrance & HC 10.45am	
Sun 19 <sup>th</sup> Nov. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Before Advent	9.45am HC	11.15am All-age MW
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup> Nov. Christ the King		11.15am HC
Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec. 1 <sup>st</sup> of Advent	9.45am HC	4pm Christingle
Sun 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec. 2 <sup>nd</sup> of Advent		11.15am HC
Sun 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec. 3 <sup>rd</sup> of Advent	9.45am HC 6pm Carol Service.	

**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: Is Christianity a Democracy?



National Unity', even in moderate societies, cannot be achieved if any government mandate terminates in a 50/50 division of opinion (for and against). Where have we seen this before, in the UK (most notably Brexit) and the USA (seemingly every time a President has to be chosen!! Anything even remotely approaching an agreement, will inevitably displease as many people as it will satisfy. Even so, and paraphrasing what Winston Churchill once said: "Many forms of government have been tried, and will be tried, in this world of sin and

woe. And it has been said that democracy is the worst form of government, except for all the others that have been tried from time to time."

On the subject of unity... Picture the scene at The Last Supper 2000 years ago...Jesus had shared a meal with his disciples, washed their feet, given them a new commandment to love others as he loved them, and told them he was going to have to leave them. He prayed to His Father "I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one" (John 17). Three times he asks His Father that "we would all become one" – so this isn't subject to majority opinion - it's nothing less than a call for unity.... We'd do well to note that Jesus doesn't pray for tolerance; he doesn't pray for "us" to "get along and be nice to each other." He doesn't even pray that we should set aside any differences. Instead, he prays for our one-ness, as he and the Father are one. Unity in spite of a world-full of differences.

Now more than ever, God wants us to move forward in one-faith. united, as Christians behind one Lord-and-saviour. An in so doing, God isn't calling for conformity – quite the opposite - He wants us to recognize and celebrate our differences (between each other, within communities and nations, and throughout the global community of nations, so that we can demonstrate to others that we're not simply toeing the line...

We're called to unite behind our leader, and to let others know how this makes a difference to us - the difference in how we behave, how we speak, how we respond to people and to situations, and how we serve – each other, and anyone else who needs our support.

God doesn't offer a democratic way forward, where we look to respond to some sort of majority decision, or maybe choose not to bother. We don't vote on it, we accept it, or we don't. That's the deal... and it's not necessarily going to be an easy deal to keep to.

Sounds like a dictatorship? Not at all – we have free will to follow Him, or not – that's entirely up to us! And maybe that should make us feel a bit uncomfortable from time to time... Jesus's prayer for unity, for one-ness, of his disciples at the time, applies to us here and now. His prayer is inviting us to recognize anything that prevents our unity – recognize any boundaries and differences that divide us - accept that they exist. Only then can we prevent them from getting in the way of moving forward in-the-faith.

We live in a world full of differences and divisions that seem to be coming to a head - everywhere! There are divisions within ourselves, within and between families, within and between churches; demonstrably within our nation and (maybe dangerously) between nations... We could go on and on listing the boundaries that we encounter, maybe sometimes oblivious to occasionally promoting them - most often, unwittingly.

When push comes to shove, boundaries and differences aren't about issues. They're about real people, with names, lives, joys, sorrows, concerns, and needs - just like us. I think we sometimes forget or ignore this, because It's easier to deal with issues than with people. We write agreements and treaties; we come up with charters and laws, and frameworks that govern how we intend to get along with each other (and behave towards each other) in the midst of all our differences.

The problem becomes that, we then try to get along by obeying the rules, rather than because it's "the right way to go", we might seek justification to renegotiate the rules, or simply break them, when they no longer serve our interests. In this situation, where does a united front (in doing the right thing, for its own sake) fit? Where does loving kindness fit in the rules? It doesn't; It can't, because true, loving kindness knows no boundaries. But that prayer of Jesus, for unity cuts through all of this.... In short, our love should have no boundaries, and when that is so, the rest – national and international peace and cooperation will follow.

Until that time comes, we'll have to make do with treaties, and rules, and regulations and statutes. The ultimate truth remains - God's love knows no boundaries, so neither should ours... God loves our enemies the same as he loves us. If that's how God loves, how can we do anything less and still call ourselves Christians?

The requirement is for us to UNITE IN LOVE for each other, and UNITE BEHIND OUR LORD. We answer his prayer every time we choose how to love, who to love, and where to love. A love that is unwilling to simply accept or avoid boundaries and divisions - but a love that helps to recognize them in order to break them down, and erase them.

Jesus said, and so we understand: "I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

"Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as in heaven" ...

Amen.

**[Rob Hughes]**



## Pulford Painters Art Exhibition

There is an art club in Pulford that are holding an exhibition of their work. See below for details.



Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November 11am to 5pm &

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November 10am to 5pm

[Poulton and Pulford Parish Council - Pulford Painters Art Group](#)

Pulford Village Hall. For car park follow CH4 9ES

*Art for sale – Refreshments – Free Admission*

# Eccleston Church Poster



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:



Thank you for all you are 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 PCC.

# Pulford Church Poster



PULFORD / 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:



Thank you for all you are 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 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 and Poulton Local History Group Talks (Held at Pulford Village Hall)

There will be a presentation by David Hearn at Pulford Village Hall (CH4 9ES) on **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October** starting at 7:30pm on “Liverpool’s Fab Five – Architects”. There will also be a talk on **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November** at 7.30pm which is titled “Update on the Poulton Dig” by Dr Kevin Cootes. More information about the Pulford and Poulton Local History Group can be found at their website

<https://pplhg.org.uk>

## Pulford Church App

A Pulford Church tour guide is available for Android Phones only.

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

## Reader/Intercessor/Sidesperson Rota

At the last PCC meeting it was suggested that Eccleston Church return to having a sidesperson to greet people as they enter the church, hand out song books and invite people to communion.

Would anyone like to volunteer to be on our Eccleston Church sidesperson Rota?

If so, please email me at [admin@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org](mailto:admin@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org)

The Rota for readers/intercessors and sidespeople is available for all to see (and edit) at

<https://www.ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org/servicedetails>