

Friday 27th October to Friday 10th November 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 Rob Hughes for his contribution this week.

Kind Regards

Stephen Hutchinson (hutch@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org)

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Figure 1 St Edith Church, Shocklach (in existence since 1150)

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 29th Oct.		11.15am HC
Sun 5th Nov. All Saints	9.45am HC	
Sun 12th Nov. Remembrance Sunday	Act of Remembrance & HC 10.45am	
Sun 19th Nov. 2nd Before Advent	9.45am HC	11.15am All-age MW
Sun 26th Nov. Christ the King		11.15am HC
Sun 3rd Dec. 1st of Advent	9.45am HC	4pm Christingle
Sun 10th Dec. 2nd of Advent		11.15am HC
Sun 17th Dec. 3rd 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: Waiting



“I find waiting more tiring than action”. So said Winston Churchill. So, I guess I’m in good company; and so are many of us, I guess, in this fast-moving world that gives us little time to be patient, and simply ‘wait’.... I guess impatience may be inherited, and I’m pretty sure that most parents would agree that children don’t want to wait for anything. In my family, whenever I say ‘just a sec.’, I still get “Aw, Dad” from each of two sons, **and** each of two grandchildren!!! Does this ring any bells?

If it’s true that impatience at having-to-wait follows most of us into adult-hood, we may be a bit more controlled in our response (maybe not, on occasion, when we have to queue “yet again”). That being so, not much has changed over the past two thousand years, has it?

Picture the scene recorded in Acts 1, verse 6: the account of Christ’s Ascension to Heaven - an event that left the Apostles having to “wait a while” for the gift of the Holy Spirit. *So, when they had come together, they asked him, ‘Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?’ ⁷He replied, ‘It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority.* In other words, ‘wait until God’s ready’.

Do we ever get impatient with God? Do we sometimes pray deep down for God to give us patience “**straight away**”? If so, let’s not forget that, unlike the first Apostles, we no longer have to await the Holy Spirit; He is within us, all the time. It’s more likely that He will have to **wait for us to let Him in** - into our lives and situations. But the reading tells us, in no uncertain terms, that God required the first Apostles to **wait** for the gift of the Holy Spirit, even though they seemed raring to go and get on with “doing things”. Maybe most of us are much the same...

Whilst society makes every attempt to make our lives easier and faster, so that we can do more-with-less (but always at a price!!!), God works on a very different timetable. In His mind, nothing's wrong with waiting. In fact, God uses "waiting" to change things - and can use waiting time to change us, if we let Him. So, whilst we may not be comfortable with relative inactivity (in life, in worship, following prayer, whenever), we've *not* been abandoned, and we're certainly *not* helpless.

I came across this quote the other day (attributed to the theologian, John Piper):
*"Waiting on the Lord is the opposite of running ahead of the Lord, and it's the opposite of bailing out on the Lord. It's staying at your appointed place while he says **stay**, or it's going at his appointed pace while he says **go**. It's not impetuous, and it's not despairing."*

Winston Churchill had something profound to say about waiting, too: he was, in fact, quoting John Milton's "*Sonnet 19*"), when he said: "*They also serve who stand and wait*". Churchill was referring to people on the British home front - giving them due credit for standing fast, and waiting for their loved ones to return, while troops fought on the battle lines.

When things don't happen soon enough (for us), we have a choice to either get angry and frustrated; or to take a deep breath, release our clenched hands because we can't "do anything at the front line" yet, and wait for opportunities, especially if we can't seem to make them (yet!). We also serve when we let God be God, and when we do what He needs us to do - at the right time (for Him). If this means "waiting", so be it, as long as whilst we wait, we do so in the certainty of His ability to give purpose to that waiting. So, if we're tempted to pray "Lord, give me patience, now", maybe we could, instead, pray for humility and trust:

Humility comes when we remember that God is the one who put us here, especially when we find ourselves getting impatient and frustrated with Him or with other people.

Trust is about being aware of at least two things about God;

- *Awareness of His Power*, which means that we accept that He cares about everything that's happening.
- Awareness that His *Love for us* means that there is care and purpose behind everything that happens - good and bad.

Waiting may well be counter-intuitive for us today - especially when we might "want to get busy" and "do something constructive". Maybe we might expect God to intervene and do something as well. But **He's already doing something**. In this ever-changing, and increasingly-complex and dangerous world, patiently waiting may be a means by which we're now being prepared to live our lives in a different, better way that's closer to God's way. He may well be helping us do this by saying "wait a bit longer".

The Christian author, Joyce Meyer, wrote this: *"Patience is not simply the ability to wait. It's how we behave while waiting."*

So, we pray:

***God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change;
Courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference.
Living one day at a time; enjoying one moment at a time;
accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;
Taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it;
Trusting that He will make things right if I surrender to His Will;
So that I may be reasonably happy in this life
and supremely happy with Him forever in the next.***

[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 18th November 11am to 5pm &

Sunday 19th 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



"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.

The Shepherd – Watercolour Painting.



“As a shepherd carries a lamb, I have carried you close to my heart”

Isaiah 40:11

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

Pulford and Poulton Local History Group Talks (Held at Pulford Village Hall)

There will be a presentation by Dr Kevin Cootes at Pulford Village Hall (CH4 9ES) on **Wednesday 15th November** at 7.30pm which is titled "Update on the Poulton Dig". 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 hymn books/service sheets 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

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

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