

Friday 10th November to Friday 24th 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)

Contents

Parish information.....	3
Church Service Dates Times and Locations.....	4
Important News and Reminders	5
Food Bank.....	5
Remembrance Day Service.....	5
Rob Hughes Homily: Are We at Peace with Ourselves?	6
Official Facebook pages for Eccleston Church and Pulford Church:.....	8
Pulford Painters Art Exhibition	9
Night Church Chester – Are you interested in becoming a Trustee?	10
Eccleston School Update	13
Flooding at Eccleston School.....	14
Christmas Fair November 25 th Eccleston Village Hall	15
Adverts.....	16
Pulford and Poulton Local History Group Talks (Held at Pulford Village Hall)	16
Pulford Church App	16
Reader/Intercessor/Sidesperson Rota	16
Food and Beverage Preparation Assistant at Foxhill Retreat House.....	17

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 12th Nov. Remembrance Sunday	Act of Remembrance & HC 10.45am	
Sun 19th Nov. 2 nd Before Advent	9.45am HC	11.15am All-age MW
Sun 26th Nov. Christ the King		11.15am HC
Sun 3rd Dec. 1 st of Advent	9.45am HC	3pm Christingle
Sun 10th Dec. 2 nd of Advent		11.15am HC
Sun 17th Dec. 3 rd of Advent	9.45am HC & 6pm Carol Service.	
Sun 24th Dec. Christmas Eve	Midnight HC 11.15 PM	Crib Service 4pm
25th Dec Christmas Day		10am HC
31st Dec. 1 st of Christmas		11.15am HC

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

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

Rachel would like to especially thank everyone from both Churches and Ecclestone Primary School for their spectacular generosity. Between the school and the parishes a massive 135kg of food was given to be distributed locally.

Remembrance Day Service.

Please note that the Remembrance day service this year will be at Pulford Church at 10.45am.

There is no Remembrance day service at Ecclestone Church.

Rob Hughes Homily: Are We at Peace with Ourselves?

In their album recorded in 2000, the band U2 wrote and sang this:

“Heaven on earth - we need it now
I'm sick of all this hanging around
Sick of sorrow, Sick of pain
Sick of hearing again and again that
there's gonna be peace on earth.”



Peace – world peace – most certainly seems to be a “long time a-cummin’...”.

In the decades following the end of World War 2 there have only been about 26 days when there has not been a major war, or civil war, somewhere on the planet. And these days, we hear of little else. Even in nations that seem stable and peaceful enough internally (few and far between), there’s a constant threat of terrorist attack. Terror weapons now include the internet, as well as the gun. Indiscriminate targeting of individuals, organizations and even economies affect all of us, one way or another, here and now.

And it occurs to me that in any conflict, each ‘side’ (for example in the current conflicts in the Middle East and Eastern Europe) blames the other for provoking armed intervention. YET each will insist on the other making some sort of ‘first move’ before ceasefire negotiations can even be contemplated! Then national pride and national ego kicks in, and no-one seems to ever be willing to make that first move. “Peace through superior firepower” seems to be the order of the day.

The book of Ecclesiastes (possibly written by Solomon, around 900 years BC) has this to say about life: *There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:*

- *a time to be born and a time to die,*
- *a time to plant and a time to uproot,*
- *a time to kill and a time to heal,*

- “... a time to tear down and a time to build....
- a time to love and a time to hate,
- a time for war and a time for peace

A couple of hundred years on (and 700 years or so before Christ's ministry), Micah predicted terrible times of war for the people of Israel. But then he goes on with this amazing vision of peace in the world:

“They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore”.

And around 500 BC, it was Confucius (we think) who said this: **“If there is righteousness in the heart, there will be beauty in the character. If there is beauty in the character, there will be harmony in the home. If there is harmony in the home, there will be order in the nations. When there is order in the nations, there will be peace in the world.”** So:

- Solomon seems to be saying that there's a time for war and for peace, a time to live, and to die; a time to tear down and to build - and a time for joy and for sorrow. Which is pretty “real life”, even now, is it not?
- Micah seems to be saying that whilst there have been, and will continue to be, times of war, we can, indeed should, **always work towards** a time in which weapons can be – not so much destroyed, but be put to better use - transforming items made for killing into items that will sustain life.
- Confucius seems to be saying, in no uncertain terms, that if we expect to enjoy peace on earth, it all starts with righteousness in the hearts of individuals, and within nations, before it can meaningfully exist between the nations...
- So, the peace process starts here and now... (yet it still has to be said that the U2 lyrics still haunt us – we've not cracked it yet).

Of course, ultimate peace and justice and joy will come only in-and-through the Kingdom of God. But that doesn't mean that we just sit and wait – it's never too soon to start cultivating an oasis of peace in the desert of a war mongering world.

It all starts 'here and now', and in the words of Mahatma Gandhi, "**Peace is not something that you wish for. It is something that you make, something that you do, something that you are, something that you give away.**"

Remembrance Sunday is upon us, a time for the remembrance of (in respect and thankfulness for) the lives of so many whose lives have been the price for our freedom. And if we really want to honour those who died in war, we perhaps owe it to them, to ourselves and to each other, to **make peace** - make peace with ourselves, with each other, and with God - seeking, if you will, 'righteousness in the heart and harmony in the home'.

This would seem to be a prerequisite to creating order in the nation. But it's still up to us to do whatever we can wherever we can, whenever we can - and to set that example. Then to get the message out that we are a nation at 'peace-within' - to then promote 'peace-without'. The problem being there are few nations at peace within - yet. Let's set that example!

Christians have a part to play in any and every peace process (in spite of the headlines and newscasts that might make us feel powerless). The question remains for us, as individuals and communities, **do we?**

[Rob Hughes]

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>

If there is anyone who would like to volunteer to be our church Facebook administrator, please email me at admin@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org

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

Night Church Chester – Are you interested in becoming a Trustee?

Introduction

One trustee has recently come to the end of their term of office. The remaining trustees are therefore keen to recruit one additional trustee to increase the total number of trustees from three to four.

What is Night Church?

Night Church Chester was launched in December 2010 by The Light Project, an evangelical charity based in Chester. In September 2015 Night Church Chester separated from the Light Project and became an independent small charity. Then in June 2016, as resources exceeded £5,000, it registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation with the Charities Commission. It operates from St Peter's Church, Chester.

“Night Church a sacred space in the centre of Chester open to everyone: where anyone in town on a Saturday night can experience something of God's presence. We welcome people of all faiths and none. We are seed sowers, participants in God's mission; trusting that God has planned our visitors' next step, but knowing that we may not see it”

Trustees are appointed by serving trustees, in accord with the Constitution and good practice set out in the Charities Commission. The structure of Night Church Chester is the Board of Trustees: a Project Leader and a Leadership Team and a Treasurer. The Project Leader works with a Leadership Team to plan and operate Night Church Chester at St Peter's Church. The Project Leader and Treasurer prepare reports for Trustees and attend Trustee Meetings. Trustees have regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. We have a Memorandum of Understanding with St Peter's Church. This is the basis of our working relationship with St Peter's Church, what they provide for us and what we pay them. Night Church Chester has a very close working relationship with St Peter's Church for which we are very thankful.

Night Church operates on one Saturday night a month and remains open until the early hours of Sunday morning. We have an illuminated sign above the front door with the words "Night Church" which is very visible and so important in indicating our presence. Inside we have tables at a safe distance from each other and serve coffee and tea. There is a prayer corner where visitors can light a candle, pray or leave a prayer request; there is also background Christian music, at times with live music and song. Lighting in the Church is subdued. We have a minimum of 2 leaders and 8 volunteers each night along with musicians and a prayer team. (These numbers are based on a risk assessment.) One or two of the volunteers each night will have had first aid training. Our objective is to ensure that volunteers and visitors are safe. In total we have approximately 20 volunteers who come from a range of local churches.

We have Trustee Liability and Employer and Public and Products Liability Insurance. Buildings insurance is covered by St Peter's Church.

We begin each evening by setting up facilities for Night Church and then have a time of preparation when volunteers are reminded of safety procedures, safeguarding and possible risks. We then have a time of quietness, prayer and introductory words. This is good preparation for Night Church.

Two volunteers stand at the door to greet people passing by and invite people into Night Church. Other volunteers are at various places inside the Church. We are a place of hospitality and visitors are free to have a drink or sit quietly listening to music or chatting among themselves. Volunteers are always available to help or to have conversations on topics raised by the visitor. Each time we are open there are always amazing conversations. Very occasionally we have a difficult visitor, usually drink or drug related and we help as necessary, liaising with the police if needed. Our policies cover values, appointment of Trustees, strategic plan, safeguarding, volunteer policy and role, dealing with drugs and alcohol, health and safety,

dealing with incidents, risk assessment, prayer policy, and complaints policy which is on our website. They ensure that the Charity and its operations are on a secure basis and equip volunteers for ensuring a safe and friendly environment.

It was so good to re-open after Covid in November 2021 and since then we have welcomed an average of 80 visitors each night.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees recognise their responsibility under the Charities Act 2011 for the governance of the Charity in accordance with our Constitution, to prepare financial statements and a report for each financial year which gives a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and its surplus or deficit for that period. In preparing those financial statements we are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make reasonable and prudent judgements and estimates;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis

We are also responsible for:

- good governance;
- keeping proper accounting records;
- safeguarding the charity's assets;
- taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud.
- ensuring the charity complies with relevant laws and regulations including Health and Safety, Safeguarding, Employment and Charity legislation.

Further Information

If you are interested in discussing this opportunity then please contact Terry Green (Chair of Trustees) by email at jontygreen31@gmail.com

See also our website at <https://nightchurchchester.org/>

[Mrj/2023.09.15]

Eccleston School Update

The Eccleston CofE School PTA along with staff, governors, pupils, parents, the local community and dignitaries, including Chester MP Samantha Dixon and High Sheriff of Chester Dennis Dunn attended an event to celebrate an investment of £15,000 in new play equipment for Eccleston CofE Primary School.

The PTA have been fundraising for improvements to the school grounds over the last seven years, largely through school events, such as a ball for the parents, sports day summer fair and the school nativity.

Katie Prescott, headteacher at Eccleston school said: “We want our playground improvements to be part of our 150-year-old story and so we are working towards that goal, but we are also appealing for stories and photos from past pupils, teachers and the local community. It would be great to hold a big celebration event in 2025 and invite past pupils to be part of it alongside our wonderful current pupils”.

As well as the new play equipment, the PTA is also leading the transformation of a nature garden as part of the wider grounds in a piece of land ‘donated’ by the Grosvenor Estate.

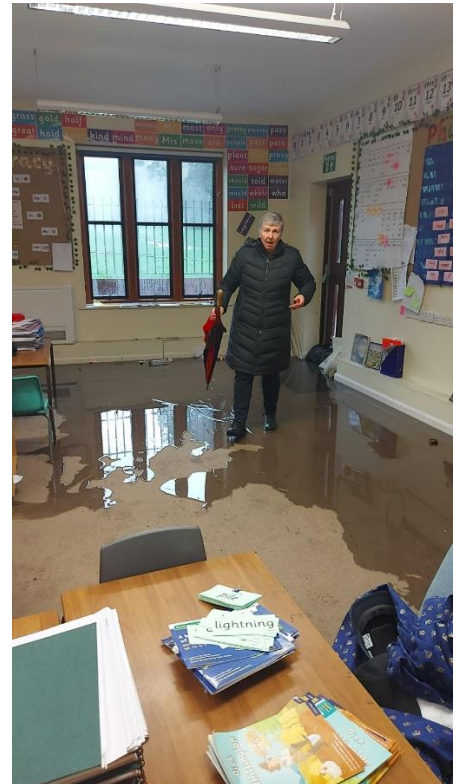
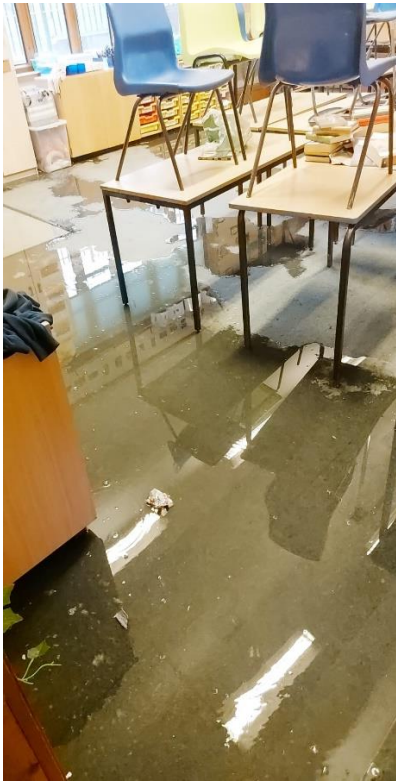
Following a volunteer day organized by Network Rail earlier in the year, local grandad Paul Murphy is volunteering his time to drive forward the improvements and get it ready for the children to plant in the spring.

[Article from Chester Standard Newspaper [Chester Standard article.](#)]

Flooding at Ecclestone School

Here are a couple of shots of the flood damage caused by the storm that hit Ecclestone on Monday 30th October afternoon. It forced the school to close on Tuesday but, following the devastation and after a gargantuan clear-up effort by staff and parents, the school was back open for business on Wednesday morning!

[Nayland Southorn]





Christmas FAIR
SAT. NOVEMBER 25TH
12PM - 3PM
ECCLESTON VILLAGE
HALL

Mulled wine and mince pies,
tombola, gift stall,
Book stall,
Cake stall,
Hamper Raffle,
hot dog & pork/apple/stuffing
rolls,
brie and grape rolls,
guess the weight of a cake,
guess the teddy's name,

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 will be available live at:

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

Food and Beverage Preparation Assistant at Foxhill Retreat House

Part Time – 14 hours per week including some evenings and weekends

School term-time only

With the option of additional shifts in busy periods

Salary: £25,055 Full Time Equivalent

Actual salary for working 14 hours per week £10,022

Foxhill House is the Diocese of Chester Retreat and Conference Centre in Frodsham. It is seeking to recruit a Food and Beverage Preparation Assistant who will work to ensure that Foxhill House is a place of welcome and a clear example of Christian hospitality by assisting the Assistant Director for Food and Beverage to provide an outstanding Food and Beverage offer to guests and visitors at Foxhill and to deputise for them in their absence.

The successful candidate will have a catering / food qualification, or relevant experience.

For an informal conversation, contact Rev Lucy Brewster, Director of Foxhill at lucy.brewster@chester.anglican.org

For more details about this job, please visit:

<https://www.ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org/2023/11/09/food-and-beverage-assistant-at-foxhill-retreat-house/>

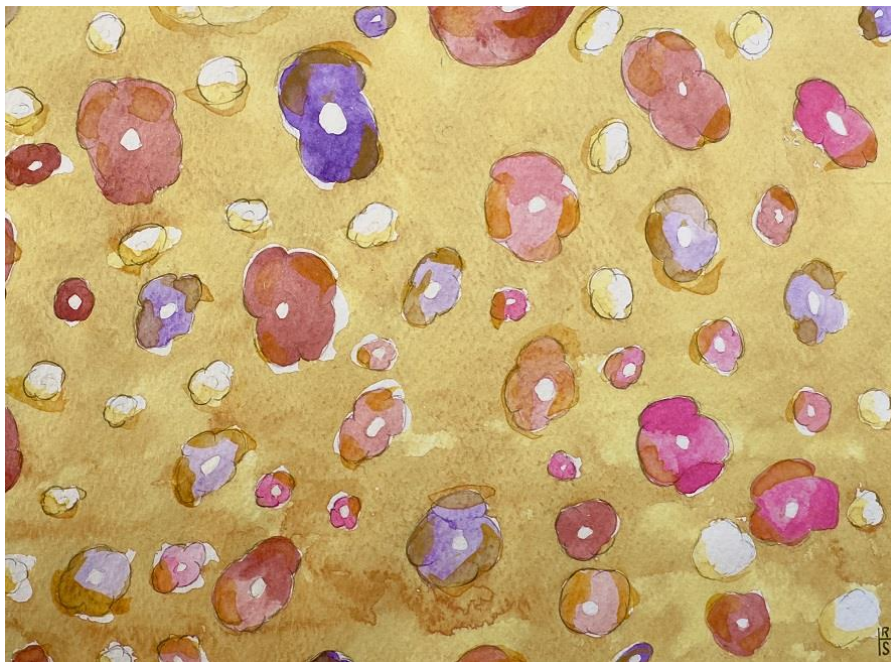


Figure 1 Remembrance Day 2023