

Friday 5th January to Friday 19th January 2024



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 is also 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 and also to Helen Allison for providing the article written by Peter Jackson.

We wish everyone a healthy, peaceful and Happy New Year

Kind Regards

Stephen Hutchinson (hutch@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org)

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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

Licensed 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.

Date	St Mary's PULFORD	St Mary's ECCLESTON	Reader	Prayers	Sides-person
7 th Jan.	9.45am HC		Margaret Walker	Paul Williams	Paul Williams
14 th Jan		11.15am HC	Steve Hutch	Nayland	Steve Hutch
21 st Jan	9.45am HC		Jane Yeoward	Rob Hughes	Jane Yeoward
21 st Jan		11.15am All Age	Clare Willan	TBC	
28 th Jan		11.15am HC	Garth	Mo	Garth
4 th Feb	9.45am HC		Paul Williams	Margaret Walker	Paul Williams
11 th Feb		11.15am HC	Andrew Pridding	Steve Hutch	Steve Hutch
14 th Feb					
18 th Feb	9.45am HC		Sue	Jane Yeoward	Sue
18 th Feb		11.15am All Age	TBC	TBC	Jeanette

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

An up-to-date rota for readers/intercessors and sidespeople (including the passages to be read) can be found at:

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

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: New Year, New Opportunities, New Hope, New Beginnings.

“We’ve all heard of Murphy’s law, haven’t we? Here are some examples from my own experience (and from yours, I’m sure!):

- *The Law of Kitchens and Workshops* - After your hands become coated with grease, your nose will begin to itch - and just as you start to wash your hands, the itching stops!
- *The Law of Probability* - The probability of being watched is directly proportional to the stupidity of what you’re up to at the time.
- *The Law of Queueing* - If you change queues in traffic lanes, the one you were in before will always move faster than the one you are in now. This also works particularly well in supermarkets and shops!!

We’ve experienced a lot of change during 2023, haven’t we? Especially in terms of: international relationships (in general, seemingly deteriorating); cost of living (going up, but stabilizing?); availability of some foods (we have generally regarded as plentiful); changes in weather patterns (extremes?). Yep, 2023 has been a year like no other in my memory. As we rapidly approach 2024, it’s difficult to second-guess how things might change over the next two or three months, let alone over the full year!

Even so, in Christian terms, 2024 can-and-should be seen (already) in terms of new possibilities. That’s a matter of faith, and hope. Those who follow Christ are encouraged and supported (by Him) to consider the certainty of 'new beginnings' - in every context of our existence. Even so, we can be certain that things will continue to change, all-the-time - and our fortunes will continue to fluctuate from time-to-time. Our Christian way of life doesn’t shield us from the realities of life. It should enable us to cope ‘better’.



But it occurs to me that the Bible has a lot to say about how we can ‘cope with all this uncertainty’, and how we can, and should, take steps to influence ‘a better tomorrow’ (thereby actively promoting new beginnings for ourselves and other people). Why? Because God’s love and care for us is unchanging – no matter what. And this fact should enable us to not only cope, but to also hope-for and to **expect**, the strength to forge those new beginnings, at the start of each new day.

So, whether we’re wanting to move past a year that has been filled with tragedy or hardship, or just want this coming year to be better than the last one – God will be there, offering us new beginnings all the time – not just on January 1st. The future’s a blank page waiting for us to make our mark on it! It’s up to us to remember to make our new year’s resolutions, and all our life-decisions thereafter, in keeping with God’s way of looking at things - which we can readily access in the Bible; for example:

- The Christmas story itself points out a new way of life, and better way of living it. In St Luke’s words: ***“Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.”***
- St Paul builds on this in his letter to the church in Corinth: ***“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”***
 - So that if we truly believe that Jesus is the Son of God and died for our sins, then we are no longer what we once were.
 - And whilst it’s true that bad things still happen, even to believers (and we all still make mistakes), we don’t have to live with the permanent spiritual consequences of those mistakes.
 - Jesus, even today, makes all things new for us.
- In his letter to the Hebrews, the writer invites this: ***“Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”***

In reality, sometimes, a new year or a new beginning may not arrive with feelings of joy or excitement. But these verses are an important reminder that we can come to God with any need, and we **will** receive His help. So, when we're facing a difficult decision or an uncomfortable transition in life, we can count on God's support, and will receive His grace and love. Indeed, in the last book of the Bible, we are reminded about God's promise, fulfilled in His Son: ***"And he who was seated on the throne said, 'Behold, I am making all things new.'"***

No matter what changes we fear, or what may concern us deeply, as things unfold, we can be assured of this (Text, from Ecclesiastes 3, follows Homily): ***"God has made everything beautiful in its time... I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God"***.

I hope you all have a safe, healthy and enjoyable 2024. Not only in the sense of a new calendar year, but in the hope and expectation that, in Christ, **each new day** invites a new beginning, whatever our circumstances in the moment...

"Lord, may each new day be a potential new beginning, especially for all those who struggle in this one".

Amen

[Rob Hughes 05/01/2024]

Rectors of Eccleston Part 2 – The Reverend Charles Mytton (1776 to 1801)

(This article originally appeared in the March 2009 edition of the Parish News and was written by Peter Jackson).

The Mytton family was of ancient and continuing importance and hailed from Halston in Shropshire. Father and son were successively Rectors of Eccleston, and it is on record that the father built a new Parsonage House shortly after assuming office. It seems that this Parsonage was built on or about the site of the late Victorian building now known as the Old Rectory. The family were wealthy and it was not unknown for clergy to fund the building of their own accommodation. A typical case is, of course, Parson Hawker of Harvest Festival fame, who build a new Rectory on arriving in his Cornish Parish. We also know from the Visitation of Bishop Portenous is 1776, that a school had been built in Eccleston in 1770 by voluntary contributions.

The second Mytton is shown by Ormerod as having been a friend of one Edward Thornycroft of Thornycroft Hall, Siddington, who was the last of the male line. He had two sisters neither of whom married, both of whom pre-deceased him. Burke's Landed Gentry shows that on Edward's death, his Estate passed to the Reverend Charles Mytton who, in the language of Burke's Landed Gentry "assumed, by Royal License (28/10/1831) the surname and arms of Thornycroft only in compliance with the testamentary injunction of Edward Thornycroft".

The Mytton family also included John, who had been High Sheriff of Salop and Merioneth and Member of Parliament for Shrewsbury. He attended Westminster and Harrow, was expelled from both, and was entered at Oxford and Cambridge Universities, but matriculated at neither! This foreshadowed a somewhat dissolute career as a redoubtable eccentric. He squandered a considerable fortune and died at the early age of 34. His memoirs were written in the book "Memoirs of the Life of the late John Mytton with notices of his Hunting,

Shooting, Driving, Racing, Eccentric and Extravagant Exploits” by NIMROD [pseudonym of Charles James Apperley] published in 1837.

[Peter Jackson 2009]



Figure 1 - John Mytton, brother of the Rector of Eccleston Charles Mytton from his Memoir.

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

Foxhills Events

To Print off a full list of foxhills you can download their brochure from the following link: [Foxhills events. – ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org](https://www.foxhillchester.co.uk/foxhills-events)

There are some upcoming “encounter” days on Wednesday 24th January entitled “*He shall direct your path...*” and Friday 23rd February “*His steadfast love endures...*” From the Foxhills website....

“Encounter days are all about connecting more deeply with God.

How do you most readily experience a sense of God’s presence?

Some people love silence and long for space to simply be. Others find silence difficult, almost physically painful.

In our Encounter Days there will always be lots of space for quiet for those who value the silence, but we also recognise that not everyone processes internally.

We want to encourage additional ways of seeking a sense of God’s presence which might include discussion, prayer, or walking in a group or with another, making or listening to music, making or creating something, reflection using writing or reading.

£27 per person - Includes lunch and refreshments.

~ Special Offer ~

If, in one transaction, you book five Encounter Days for 2024, you will only pay for four. This applies to both individuals or a group booking - only when booked directly through Foxhill and paid by BACS payment, cheque or cash.”

Contact details for Foxhills are:

<https://www.foxhillchester.co.uk>

phone: 01928 733777

Address: Tarvin Rd, Frodsham WA6 6XB

Email: Foxhill@chester.anglican.org

Religious Painting of the week: “The Last Supper” by Leonardo da Vinci.



Everyone is familiar with this painting. However, there are some interesting and amusing stories associated with this painting.

Leonardo is reputed to have worked intermittently on this painting from 1495 to 1498. It is said that a prior from the monastery complained to Leonardo about the delay in completing the painting. He was so enraged by this, that he wrote to the head of the monastery explaining that the reason for the delay was that he had been struggling to find the perfect villainous face for Judas. He added that he would now use the features of the prior who had complained.

Leonardo’s apparently left Christ’s face unfinished, following the advice of his best friend Bernardo Zenale who told him: “it would be impossible to imagine faces lovelier or gentler than those of James the Greater or James the Less”!

The Last Supper portrays the reaction given by each apostle when Jesus said one of them would betray him. All twelve apostles have different reactions to the news. From Left to Right, according to the apostles heads:

- Bartholemew, James, son of Alphaeus and Andrew form a group of three; all are suprised.
- Judas Iscarior, Peter and John form another group of three. Judas is in the shadow looking withdrawn and taken aback at the sudden revelation of this plan. He is clutching a small bag perhaps signifying the silver given to him as payment to betray Jesus. He is also tipping over the salt cellar, which could be a reference to the near Eastern expression to 'betray the salt' meaning to betray one's master or could be associated with the Roman superstition of spilling salt being associated with back luck, evil spirits and tears. He is the only person to have his elbow on the table and his head is vertically the lowest of anyone in the painting. Peter is looking angry and is holding a knife foreshadowing his violent reaction in Gethsemane during the arrest of Jesus. John, the youngest apostle, leans towards Peter and appears to faint.
- Jesus
- Thomas, James the Greater, and Philip are the next group of three. Thomas is clearly upset; the raised index finger foreshadows his incredulity of the Resurrection. James the Greater looks stunned with his arms in the air. Philip appears to be asking for an explanation.
- Matthew, Jude Thaddeus and Simon the Zealot are the final group of three. Both Thaddeus and Matthew are turned towards Simon as if asking for an answer to their initial questions.

The angles and lighting draw attention to Jesus. All perspective lines converge to the vanishing point which is the Jesus' right cheek. Jesus looks downwards directing the viewers focus along the diagonal line of his left arm to his hand and therefore the bread.

Leonardo's friend, the mathematician Luca Pacioli, called the painting "a symbol of man's burning desire for salvation".

[Ref : [The Last Supper \(Leonardo\) - Wikipedia](#)]

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 Quiz and Buffet at Pulford Village Hall (CH4 9ES) on **Wednesday 17th January** at 7.30pm. Tickets are £8 and can be purchased in advance from the Pulford and Poulton Local History Group. Email: info@pplhg.org.uk for details.

Their website is available at <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. It was suggested that either the reader or prayer lead for the service act as sidesperson to make things easy. If someone is already available to read then it saves having to try and organize an additional rota for sidespeople.

Duties of the sidesperson include

- ***greeting people*** as they enter the church
- ***handing out hymn books/service sheets***
- ***inviting people to communion (for Holy Communion Services)***
- ***recording the total number in the congregation.***
- ***Putting the correct hymn numbers in the hymn boards.***

If any of the readers/intercessors do not want to appear as sidesperson, please let me know

by emailing me at admin@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org

The Rota for readers/intercessors and sidespeople is accessible at:

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