

Friday 2nd February to Friday 16th February 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.

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 & 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 Officers

Pulford/Eccleston	Jeanette Howe/Hilary Garard	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
SUN 4 th FEB	9.45am HC		Paul Williams	Margaret Walker	
SUN 11 th FEB		11.15am HC	Penny Brett Roberts	Steve Hutch	Steve Hutch
ASH WED 14 th FEB	7.00pm HC				
SUN 18 th FEB	9.45am HC		Sue	Jane Yeoward	
SUN 18 th FEB		11.15am All Age	TBC	TBC	Jeanette
SUN 25 th FEB		11.15am HC	Terry	Jeanette	Terry
SUN 3 rd MARCH	9.45am HC		Rob Hughes	Sue	
SUN 10 th MARCH	9.45am HC	11.15am All Age	Hilary	Hilary	
SUN 17 th MARCH		11.15am HC	Nayland	Helen Glaze	Nayland



HC = Holy Communion,

MW = Morning Worship.

*N.B. Communion will **not** be served at **All Age** services. These are services aimed at a younger audience. The prayers, sermons and hymns will be much shorter and aimed at a younger audience.*

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: Can Love be defined?

As we're approaching Valentine's Day, I thought I'd reflect on this by revisiting its origins, and a couple of previous homilies about "love".



"Valentine's Day" dates back to 1st Century Rome, then under the rule of 'Claudius the Cruel'. A time when Roman men were hesitant to 'join-up' because of their strong attachment to their wives and families. So, to get rid of the problem, Claudius simply banned all marriages and engagements!!! Then along came Valentine of Terni (who was said to have been a Roman priest at that time), and it's believed that Valentine defied Claudius, and continued to perform marriages for young lovers (in secret). But when this was discovered, Claudius ordered his imprisonment; he was eventually beaten to death and beheaded. The sentence appears to have been carried out on **February 14th**, 269 A.D. ... and to honour his Martyrdom, the 'Feast of Saint Valentine' was established by Pope Gelasius 1st, in AD496, to be celebrated on February 14th.

Fast-forwarding to the modern-day custom of sending cards as a token of love on St Valentines Day - this probably dates back to the early Nineteenth Century - though some accounts mention 'isolated incidents' as far back as the fifteenth century! These days, of course, Valentine's Day is specifically about romantic love!

Now the English word "love" is used to describe at least four types of loving relationships.

- The relationship between the members of a family, which is based on mutual respect, mutual care, mutual support - and loyalty.
- The relationship between friends is also about loyalty, but implies the enjoyment of each other's company socially, sharing common interests and simply 'caring'.
- The romantic relationship between couples has more to do with absolute commitment to each other's well-being, enjoying and satisfying each other's physical and emotional desires, and, usually, to create a family.

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- The relationship between Christ and His Church - well, that's all about absolute commitment, loyalty, trust faith, belief... not in human-to-human relationships, but in a personal relationship between 'us" and God.
 - one-to-one - and this requires a 'surrender of self' to God's will for a 'greater good').

The consensus of modern scholars is that the New Testament was written in Greek, and that an Aramaic source text was used for portions of the it, especially the Gospels. Now in the Greek language there's a different word for each type of these 'love relationships':

- **Storge:** The relationship between the members of a family
- **Philia:** The relationship between friends
- **Eros:** The romantic relationship between a man and woman
- **Agape:** The relationship between Christ and his Church

So, when St Paul wrote that incredibly-beautiful 'poem' about love in his Second Letter to the Corinthians, he used the word **agape** - the fourth type of love; the love that Jesus Christ had for His church - not the institution per se, but for His 'people-the-church'.

Paul describes the qualities of Christ's love for us as: patience; kindness; not being envious or boastful, proud nor rude; selflessness; slow to anger, quick to forgive; sympathetic; truthful; forbearing; trusting; persevering and steadfast.



To my way of thinking, there's only one other 'definition' of love that makes the point more succinctly, written in the First Epistle of John, Chapter 4: ***Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love, does not know God, because God is love. Pure and simple... all love comes from God, as He is love.***

We're not perfect; try as we might (and so many don't even try) we'll never succeed by our own efforts. In truth, human love has an end to it; marriages sometimes fall apart; family members can become estranged from one another; and friends can become foes. Such is the fragility of human love. But the love of God, and the **agape** - the Love of Jesus Christ for His people (the church) isn't like that. He doesn't take back his love when we fall short of his expectations - He continues to love us.

His is a Love that: **'always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres'**. That's why we're called not just to love one another (often seen as a summary of "all The Law"), but to love one another **as Jesus Christ Loves us...** Without condition, no matter what; on every occasion, without ceasing. And that's, often, very, very difficult, isn't it?

So, whilst Paul's poem refers to **agape** - the love of Jesus Christ for everyone who loves him - the virtues of patience, kindness, selflessness, apply to us all in any kind of human relationships, and over-arch every definition of love.

During the Lenten Season, may we examine how our conduct actually measures up to Paul's description of love? Are we 100% committed to **agape** ("The More Excellent Way of Love")? Or are we generally more focused on earthly love? When we fall short, it's then we remember, and should draw upon, the support of the Holy spirit, within- and between us, and strive towards **agape...**

"Love never fails...But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love." (1 Corinthians 13:1-8)

Dear God, thank you that you are a loving, gracious God. Thank you that you have offered us forgiveness and the gift of new life in you. Thank you that your love is perfect, it never fails, and that nothing can separate us from your love.

[Rob Hughes 02/02/2024]

Rectors of Eccleston part 5 – R.A Henry Wigley [1690-1701] & Samuel Tilley [1701-1704]

(This fascinating article originally appeared in the June 2009 edition of the Parish News. They were written by Peter Jackson and kindly submitted for re-publishing by Helen Allison)

The evicted Ralph Lowndes was succeeded as Rector by Henry Wigley, and he was to see out the tumultuous and troubled 17th Century, though only just!

Wigley was a Cheshire man, son of the Rector of Warmingham. Educated at St. John's College Cambridge, he came to Eccleston at the early age of 28. He married one Anne Bradgate of Ullacombe, Leicestershire, and their son practiced as a physician in Chester. A memorial tablet to Ormerod, showed that he died of fever in 1701 at the age of 39.

He was succeeded, in 1701 by Samuel Tilley. The patron of Eccleston living at that time, was the Earl of Abingdon, and Tilley had been his Domestic Chaplain. Tilley left in 1704 to become Rector of Bladon with Woodstock, in Oxfordshire. I researched his reasons for departing so soon and to such a distance. The Rector of Bladon informed me that the Earls of Abingdon, as High Stewards, had paid £20 per annum towards a Curate's salary from 1695 to 1702. Bladon is now in the gift of the Dukes of Marlborough, but Tilley was the last presentee of the Crown.

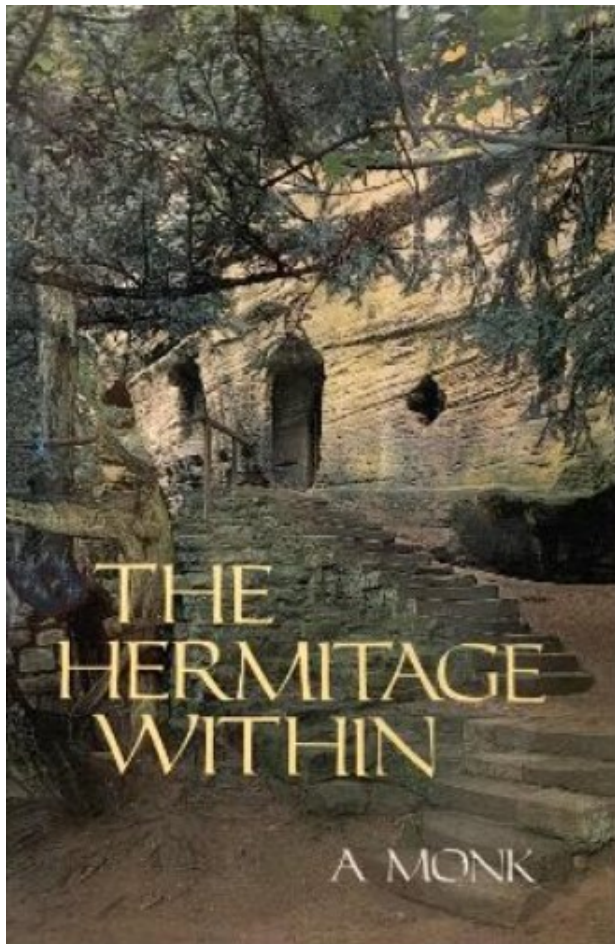
The Dukedom was created to reward John Churchill for his military career, and Queen Anne built Blenheim Palace as a further reward for his victorious career in the Wars of the Spanish Succession. It is said that the Duke and Duchess virtually ruled England, but they were, eventually, accused of misappropriation and fell from favour. They were, however, restored to favour later. Bladon is, of course, the last resting place of Winston Spencer Churchill, who was born at Blenheim Palace in 1874.

We shall move shortly to the Clergy of the Georgian and Victorian centuries but, before, we must look at the changing circumstances of the clergy in those centuries, and this will be the next submission.

[Peter Jackson, June 2009]

Book Recommendation. The Hermitage Within.

“When self-advertisement is all the rage, here is a book by a man who will not divulge his name.



Not everyone can, or should, live as a hermit. Yet all Christians need an inner hermitage, a place apart where we come face-to-face with our true selves, and listen to the still small voice of God. It is a place of silence, of fear and fascination, of anguish and grace.

The writer of this profound yet simple volume encourages us to find our own inner hermitage - a place of calm and contemplation, apart from the demands of the modern world, a place so silent that we can hear God.

The desert, the mountain, and the temple provide the focus of the anonymous author's reflections. He meditates on the wilderness experiences of such biblical persons as Jesus, John the Baptist, and Mary Magdalen. He considers the place held in the Christian story by Mount Sinai,

the Mount of Olives, and Calvary. He ponders the idea of temples, using such images as our inner temple and Christ the temple, the foundation of the Church”.

This review, from the back of book sums up the contents of this excellent book. I thoroughly recommend this book.

[Stephen Hutchinson]

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 *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

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 talk on “**Neston Colliery**” at Pulford Village Hall (CH4 9ES) on **Wednesday 21st February** at 7.30pm. Tickets are £5 (non-members) and £3 for members. For details of up-and-coming lectures please contact 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 and collecting them at the end of a service.***
- ***inviting people to communion (for Holy Communion Services)***
- ***recording the total number in the congregation.***
- ***Putting the correct hymn numbers in the hymn boards.***
- ***Taking the plate money to the vestry for counting.***

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>

Eccleston Church Stained Glass Window to Colour In.



[See Page 11 for colour scheme.]