

Friday 16th February to Friday 30th 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**.

All services are on **Sunday** unless indicated otherwise.

Date	St Mary's PULFORD	St Mary's ECCLESTON	Reader	Prayers	Sides-person
18 th Feb	9.45am HC		Sue	Jane Yeoward	
18 th Feb		11.15am All Age	TBC	TBC	Jeanette
25 th Feb		11.15am HC	Terry	Jeanette	
3 rd March	9.45am HC		Rob Hughes	Sue	
10 th March	9.45am HC	11.15am All Age	Hilary	Hilary	
17 th March		11.15am HC	Nayland	Helen Glaze	Nayland
24 th March		11.15am HC	Terry	Steve Hutch	Steve Hutch
Thur. 28 th March	7.30pm HC		Ann B.	Rob Hughes	
Fri. 29 th March		2pm Sung Hour at Cross	Jeanette and Andrew	Steve Torr	Garth



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: Lent and Parenthood.



One evening, a young wife (and new mum) found her husband standing over the sleeping baby's crib. She watched him as he stood looking down, and saw on his face a mixture of emotions: amazement; disbelief, doubt; delight... and with tears of love in her eyes, she slipped her arm around him, saying "A penny for your thoughts?". His reply: "It's amazing! I just can't see how anybody can make a crib like that for the price".

In days gone by, I think it's true to say that there was a tendency to differentiate between male and female parents in terms of fathers being protectors, providers (hunters, now earners) and disciplinarians... Whilst mothers tended to be seen as child-bearers, nurturers, comforters and 'foragers' (now shoppers). And there are, of course, a thousand-and-one other tasks that are required - by both parents!

These days, the roles are no longer sharply definable - especially with the increasing need for both parents to go out to work to simply make ends meet. And there are many other challenges for families in our frantically-busy society. And there's a quote I came across the other day about 'modern parenthood' - "*Let's get married and have kids - so instead of enjoying coffee in the morning, you can braid hair, while I pack lunches, and we can all be late*" (Simon Chollan). And I got to pondering why we celebrate Mothering **Sunday** (if you can find such a card these days), but only Father's **Day**?

Joking aside, a clue about God's take on things can be found in the Book of Genesis: **when God created man and woman, He said that it was good.** We're told that He made them in His image and likeness. He put the wholeness of who He really is and divided it between the both of them. So that together, mothers and fathers can demonstrate to their children a balanced view of God's love!

So, parenthood, irrespective of gender, should reflect His unconditional love, extreme patience, self sacrifice and nurturing care. So regardless of any specific roles-and-responsibilities we might try to apply, decent parents, in whatever they do, should always act in loving, patient, selfless and caring ways.

But it also occurs to me that the church's timetable can be quite challenging at times - Mothering Sunday being one of those times... because we have to reconcile the joyful celebration of Motherhood with the otherwise more austere and contemplative season of Lent.

In Chapter 2, verse 33 of Luke's Gospel, for example, we hear:

"The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: 'This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign ... a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.' "

An alternative Gospel for Mothering Sunday goes further, and relates the story of Mary at the foot of the cross...

So, during the Lenten journey, we're challenged to reconcile:

The Good News - the encouraging messages from Christ's ministry

With the horrors - of His execution on the Cross.

But there's another (often unsung) 'hero' in the Gospel Story - that's Joseph.

What about Joseph's role in all this? Well in truth, we know very little about him, other than 'the obvious. But he was important, too, as are all dads: as Mary's husband; business man; family provider; and, of course, Jesus' step-dad. And in my background reading for this homily, I discovered that Christ had a lot to say about fatherhood as well as motherhood.

For example: in the Gospels, He uses the term:

- “**My Father**” fifty-three times.
- “**Our Father**” twenty-one times!
- “**Your Father**” a further twenty-one times

And this speaks of a very personal relationship between us and God.

It's wonderful to believe God's has a parent-like awareness of our needs; He wishes the best for us, and is always approachable. But human parents are not as available as they might wish to be - because of the complexities of modern life. Even so, God is always near, always available, day or night, in good times and in the not-so-good!

So, the Lenten Season is challenging us to learn to trust the Lord - regardless of what our circumstances may look like, and to trust in His power to support us in every circumstance we may ever face.

Our Father,
who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
Amen

[Rob Hughes 16/02/2024]

Rectors of Eccleston part 6.

This fascinating article by Peter Jackson originally appeared in the July/August 2009 edition of the Parish News. Thank you to Helen Allison for allowing me to republish.

“Before proceeding to the Clergy of the 18th and 19th centuries, it might be germane to consider their status and training. To this end, it is useful to examine John Aubrey (“Brief Lives”) who, during his career, fell upon hard times and considered entering the clergy.

(Note, the book “Brief Lives” is available for free to read. See link at end of article).

He had an Oxbridge degree which was largely theological but he protested that he had a speech impediment which might disqualify him! He was assured, however, that if a living valued at £400 p.a. could be found then he could employ a curate to take the services for a stipend of £100 p.a. retaining the balance for his own purposes.

This illustrates several aspects of the clerical life of the time: First, there was no vocational training for the clergy, though all were expected to hold a degree. Vocational training did not emerge until the 1830’s, with the creation of theological colleges.

Second, there was no salary structure and the value of a living lay in the tithe (the tenth payable to the clergy), the glebe land which could be let out and a minor amount from charges which the clergy might levy.

There were very wide discrepancies between Parishes, some were very valuable, others extremely poor. These discrepancies contributed, to some extent, to the practice of pluralism. This meant that a clergyman might hold more than one parish at one and the same time. This practice endured until the 19th century, and led to such situations as clergy holding Parishes which they never visited! Some were hundreds of miles apart, and the sole object of pluralism appears to have been to improve their personal financial situations. Curates were paid small amounts to maintain the services, and John Aubrey found that many enjoyed as little as £35 p.a. for their efforts, which makes his idea of £100 for a curate lavish indeed.

Eventually, the system was changed. Tithes, possibly the oldest tax known, were redeemed, and a structured stipend basis introduced. England was the last European country to abandon the tithe in 1936. The new system, though it equalizes the income of parochial clergy is, to my mind grossly inadequate having regard to the training required and the nature and expense of the office. So, it would seem that discrepancy has been replaced by inadequacy. Next month we will look at the 18th Century, described by one historian as the age of “gentrification” of the clergy and their rise in status.

[Peter Jackson, July/August 2009]

Brief Lives by John Aubrey



[The Project Gutenberg eBook of Aubrey's 'Brief Lives' \(Vol. 1\), by Andrew Clark.](#)

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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

Eccleston Church 1826

Here is a print and a watercolour of the old Eccleston church from 1826. The remains of this church can still be found in the old cemetery. At the bottom right appears to be a 'castle' like structure which is probably Eaton Hall. At the bottom left is a mystery house with a bay window and a pitched roof, that may or may not still be standing. The print is titled "South East View of Eccleston Church, Cheshire. Drawn on Stone by JD Harding from a Drawing by J Buckler". As the print was showing signs of decay, I wanted to capture this in a painting before the print fades/disintegrates.



From Ormerod Volume 2 [1886]

“The present church [1815] has been recently rebuilt by earl Grosvenor in a most sumptuous manner, after the designs of Mr. Porden. The materials are red stone from an adjoining quarry; the fabric consists of a light tower with pinnacles, battlements, and buttresses, of three stories: a nave without side aisles, on each side of which are three acutely pointed windows; two transepts, and a small chancel, the exterior of which forms three sides of an octagon. The communion table is placed in the centre between two gothic niches, and over it is a painting of the Nativity by Polidoro Caravaggio. In 1835, the church was entirely refitted. A chancel was added to the original structure; the windows were filled with diapered ground glass, and open seats of solid oak were placed in the nave, and oaken stalls in the chancel. In 1869, the side galleries were taken down, and other minor alterations made. A large new organ, and very handsome brass eagle, were given to the church in 1874, by the duke of Westminster; and in 1877, the west gallery was decorated with very beautiful designs emblematic of the Blessed Virgin, the patron saint of the church].

In the south transept is the vestry, over which is the pew for the Grosvenor family. The opposite transept is the mausoleum of the same family. The antient monuments having been removed when the former church was pulled down, the names of the persons interred are preserved. ...

In the window over this are the arms of Grosvenor, together with the several quarterings claimed by that house: Mobberley, Downes, Pulford, Phesaunt, Eton, Stockton, Coton, Rudware, Waltheof, Basing, Falconer, Thurstaston, Venables, Vernon, Davies and Warre; at the sides of the last coat, are the original coat of Grosvenor, Azure, a bend Or, and the same coat with the prisure awarded by Richard II. When the simple coat was confirmed to the Scroops, a bordure Argent.

The roof is vaulted; the tower contains six new bells. Eccleston church may be classed among the happiest imitations of Gothic architecture. The resemblance is perhaps weakened by the substitution of slender iron work for stone mullions in the windows, which though elegant in design and beautifully executed, is too slender when contrasted with the general proportions.

The situation of the church-yard is beautiful; on a dry rock above the Dee, and adjacent to the grounds of the parsonage, without the intervention of any object which could displease the most fastidious eye. It is observable that it has become such a favourite place of interment for the citizens of Chester, that it has been found necessary to place a heavy charge on opening graves for strangers, to secure sufficient room for the parishioners”.

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](#)

Cemetery Map

A reminder to anyone who might be interested in Eccleston Cemetery. The map of the cemetery is now complete. I have added the location and names of all graves. If anyone wishes to add a short tribute, or photo to the pin, please contact me at admin@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org

Also please contact me if there are any errors or omissions.

<https://www.ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org/cemetery-map/>

Also, if anyone would like a similar map for Pulford cemetery, please contact me.

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>

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.ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org/foxhills-events)