



St Mary's Church Eccleston / St Mary's Church Pulford

[Eccleston and Pulford Churches](#)

Email:

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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 Helen Allison, Hugh Fearnell, Hilary Garrard, Rob Hughes, Julie Richards and Rachel Williams for their contributions.

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
3 rd March	9.45am HC		Rob Hughes	Sue	n/a
10 th March	9.45am HC	11.15am All Age	Hilary	Hilary	n/a
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	n/a
Fri. 29 th March		2pm Sung Hour at Cross	Jeanette and Andrew	Steve Torr	Garth
31 st March		11.15am All Age	Hilary	Mo	



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

[Rachel Williams]

Rob Hughes Homily: Love Language



In a previous homily, I wrote about “Love Languages”. Based on research undertaken by Dr. Gary Chapman, he talks about just five main ways that people most frequently show and receive love from each other. He further suggests that whilst we are all capable of communicating any of these (depending upon the circumstances), we each have our own preferred ways of perceiving these five ‘loving ways’, and interpreting them (or mis-interpreting them!).

It appears that when our love language is different from that of someone dear to us, we tend to expect our loved one to not only understand that, but to return their love in the same way (“love language”). This needn’t necessarily lead to major issues in the relationship, but it’s one of those things that we may have to get used to - at the start of new relationships in particular. So in a way, it becomes incumbent on us to get to understand, and correctly interpret, each other’s love language to ‘get the most’ out of a potentially even more harmonious relationship.

I’ve come to believe that this applies not only to our personal relationships, but also to our relationship with God. As Christians, ‘love-given-and-love-received’ is at the very heart of our faith and beliefs, and a foundation for our everyday living. Love not only guides our decisions and actions, but also helps us to understand that little bit more about just how much God loves and cares for us, and in how many ways He shows it. So how can love language support our relationship with God?

Love Language mentions Words of Affirmation - and this can simply involve talking to people in a kindly, reassuring way, or giving a “thumbs-up/well done”. In terms of our relationship with God, we might consider offering praise and thanksgiving always - and under all circumstances; corporately, and in private prayer... and corporate prayer usually involves plain language, spoken out loud,

thereby letting others know how we feel, and the difference our relationship with God makes in our lives.

Love Language speaks about Quality Time – in other words making opportunities to spend time with our loved ones - for no other reason than simply enjoying each other's company. In spiritual terms, we may seem to be doing the opposite of verbal affirmation. This is more about finding quiet time to give God **our undivided attention**. This may, of course, include silent prayer - but needn't require 'thinking in words'. It requires us to simply "be", rather than always-saying and doing stuff. It all sounds a bit "Zen" - but it's not.

***Advert Pause:** You may wish to consider supporting the forthcoming Silent Church events that are just in the planning stage.*



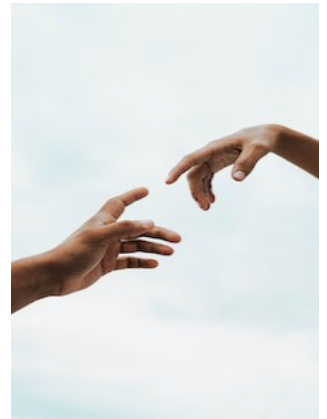
The next love language involves Giving and Receiving Gifts – self-evidently, this is usually taken to mean tangible, and meaningful (or useful), presents of some kind, or a welcome surprise... We can, of course, offer our sacrifice of fasting or self-restraint during Lent; or our sacrifice of self-reflection during Lent and Advent in particular. We can give gifts of finance to the church, or to charitable causes. The point being that when these things are done God's name, such gifts are equivalent to gifting

God Himself! As with all gifts, our motivation, and our motives, are as important to God as the gifts themselves.

Then there are Acts of Service – which is about showing love through actions, rather than words. St. Teresa of Ávila describes 'us' as the hands and feet of Jesus (full text follows the homily). What I believe she's saying that in serving the needs of God's children, we are also offering service to Him. We might include examples such as: serving on the PCC; helping out by doing any (of the many) tasks involved in running the church and the parish; organising or participating in events (***Advert Pause: here I'm hoping you've returned a completed survey form by now***).

The opportunities to show God’s love, by serving others, are endless. Service to others and service to God amount to precisely the same thing.

So, to the last Love Language: Physical Touch – Touching in the right way, to the right person, for the right reasons can be a really powerful message of caring, friendship and love. Accidental touching, or inappropriate contact can be so easily misunderstood, therefore we need to take great care! That said, people who respond to this love language can readily feel cared-for and loved through handholding, hugs, and snuggling (so this is by no means ‘all about making love’ to our intimate partners). Actions such as these can be perceived as trustful acts of care and affection, even to those who may not even regard this as their primary love language. Physical touch is the most direct way to communicate love. It’s crucial for the health and well-being of every human being, from birth, throughout life, and even when dying.



Physical touch brings a sense of loving understanding, even in the most difficult of situations, that few other things can. By reaching out (spiritually, metaphorically and literally), a hug or high-five can bring great comfort to those who need a helping hand or caring response from us.

So, if you discover (indeed, you may already be aware) that you have a particular ‘love language preference’ (and especially if you’re having difficulty communicating with God on occasion (as we all do, I guess!)), why not try using another love language during this Lenten season, and beyond.

[Rob Hughes]

“War – what is it for.” a poem by Hilary Garrard

Hilary’s poem was inspired by the Holy Spirit, the news and two Victoria Hislop books; one about the Spanish civil war, the other about the Greek/Turkish conflict in Cypress.

To make some rich and others poor
To give some power
While others cower

What is it for - war
To dominate, defend or more
To impose autocracy
Or establish democracy

What are they for- wars
To fight for which cause
For freedom for slavery
Or just humanity

What are they for- wars
Religion - whose God is whose
Politics - whose promises pose
Truth or lies who knows

What is it for - war
To justify the guilt of gore
A breeding ground for hate
The inexplicable hand of fate

What is it for- war
Was there once a time before
Will there be a time beyond
When enemy and enemy can befriend?

[Hilary Garrard, October 2023]

The Eccleston Church Cope

There is an interesting story attached to the cope used for weddings that resides at Eccleston Church.

Heber and Judith Fearnall made this cope for the Reverend Eric Jones (rector of Aldford and Eccleston) to wear at their wedding at Aldford Church 2nd May 1964.

The cope then came to Eccleston Church and was worn by the Reverend Eric Jones for the christening of Hugh (Heber and Judith's son). It was then Reverend Lawie Skipper's turn to wear the cope for the christening of Jane (Heber and Judith's daughter). The Reverend Hugh Linn wore the cope for Janes wedding too.

Hugh and Jane Fearnell will undoubtedly have fond memories of this cope and its significance to their family history.



[Julie Richards, Feb 2024]

Rectors of Eccleston part 7.

This fascinating article by Peter Jackson originally appeared in the September 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, we should look at the monarchy which, at that time, was somewhat convoluted. James the second had fled to France in 1688, and had been succeeded by William of Orange and Mary who reigned jointly. Mary was James the Second’s elder daughter and was a niece of William. Mary died in 1694, of smallpox, and William died in 1702 following an accident. The new monarch was Anne, second daughter of James the Second. She married George, son of the King of Denmark. She had no fewer than 17 confinements, producing 5 children, none of whom survived into adulthood. When Anne died in 1714, she was succeeded, by the terms of the Act of Settlement which precluded all Roman Catholics from the throne, by George of Hanover. However, the influence of James the Second and possibly, his prime ambitions were not yet ended, as we shall see.



Figure 1 The Church at Eccleston during Aubrey's time as Rector.

When Samuel Tilley transferred to Bladon, he was succeeded as Rector, in 1704 by Thomas Aubrey. He was native of Carmarthen, and was possibly related to the John Aubrey of “Brief Lives” fame also an Oxford graduate. He became Rector at the tender age of 27 and I have attempted without success so far, to determine what circumstances brought him to Eccleston. He remained Rector until 1758 when he died aged 81, and thus appears to have been the longest serving incumbent!

Aubrey married twice: firstly, Elizabeth Oldfield, who died in 1738; and secondly to Catherine Wrench of Chester. We are fortunate in that we have extracts from a volume, a History of Eccleston, written in the 1770’s by the Reverend Crane who was a Senior Master at the King’s School. The volume has been lost but Ormerod had access to it and copied it into his “History”, an inscription from a wall memorial in the pre-Porden Church, to Aubrey and his first wife. The inscription, written in Latin and in the eulogistic fashion of the 18th Century states that Aubrey “having commended to God the flock he cherished for 54 years resigned his spirit into the hands of Christ”. There is no mention of his second wife on the memorial.

But all was not sweetness and light! A document in the Grosvenor Archive shows evidence of a number of complaints made against Aubrey in 1738 and this document, together with an incident during the first Jacobite rebellion (1715) show Aubrey to have been something of an Autocrat.

But the 18th Century was the time when the clergy, particularly in rural parishes assumed a new and more powerful status. This led them, in some cases, into conflict with the civil power or with the patron, but this is a subject for another day.

[Peter Jackson, September 2009]

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

Bird Song Identification App Recommendation.

I can highly recommend an app created by Cornell University that is able to identify every bird in your garden by its song.

The app is called Merlin, and is available to download for free for both Apple phones and Apple iPads...

[Merlin Bird ID by Cornell Lab on the App Store \(apple.com\)](#)

And for Android Phones too. Just search the app store for "Merlin Bird ID".

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.labs.merlinbirdid.app>

A history of the Dee Bridge

With the Dee Bridge being closed recently, I thought it might be interesting to delve into the history of this bridge.

Prints exist of the Dee Bridge as far back as 1779 as can be seen in this print from "The Modern Universal British Traveller".



Here we see the River Dee before it was allowed to silt up in 1779. Chester must have been a busy sea port in those days.



On the left hand side we see the Dee Bridge circa 1818, and as it is today.

In 1818, the Dee Bridge had 7 arches. It dates back to the Domesday Book where one man from each “hide of land” in the country was summoned for the purpose of rebuilding the bridge. If the person summoned did not appear, his “lord” had to pay 40 shillings to the king and earl.

The city mills at the north end of the bridge were supplied with water by a current formed by a large dam, raised at an angle across the river Dee. This caused a fall of nearly 15 feet, which produced a considerable waterfall through the bridge. The mills with causeway, were founded by Hugh Lupus, and descended to his successors (earls of Chester, of the royal line). Edward the Black Prince granted them to sir Howel y-Fwyall, in reward for his bravery at the battle of Poitiers, where he took the French King prisoner. The revenue of the mills was at that time very considerable, as the inhabitants of Chester were restricted from grinding their corn at any other place. The print (above left) is from a vantage point on the southern side of the river showing the mills with a distant view of St John's church. (Taken from “The Antiquarian and Topographical Cabinet containing a series of elegant Views of the Most Interesting Objects of Curiosity in Great Britain” published in 1818).

Photos of Old Eccleston Church (taken from Riverside).



Figure 2 Photo Courtesy of Hugh Fearnell



Figure 3 Photo Courtesy of Hugh Fearnell

Rob Hughes' texts for Lent *

Prayer – Meditation, Based on 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

The Scriptures say “Love is patient.”

God, how can I be patient when I experience injustice?

God, teach me to patient without being silent or inactive.

The Scriptures say “Love is kind.”

God, how can I be kind as I confront what is evil?”

God, teach me to love my enemy.

The Scriptures say “Love is not jealous.”

God, how can I not be jealous

of those who have so much wealth or power or control?

God, teach me to keep my values straight.

The Scriptures say “Love is not pompous.”

God, how can I not be pompous when I am speaking truth
to those who seem so wrong?

God, teach me to know how to both speak and listen.

The Scriptures say “Love is not inflated.”

God, how can I not be inflated with righteousness in the cause of justice?

God, teach me to know my limits, that I make mistakes
and that I don't always see clearly.

The Scriptures say “Love is not rude.”

God, how can I be gracious but also committed to what is right?

God, teach me to respect all my sisters and brothers.

The Scriptures say “Love does not seek its own interests.”

God, how can I move beyond my own limits and desires and needs?

God, teach me to understand the needs and perspectives of others, especially
the poor.

The Scriptures say “Love is not quick-tempered.”
God, how can I learn from my anger?
God, teach me to learn from my strongest emotions.

The Scriptures say “Love does not brood over injury.”
God, how can I not get discouraged by all the hurts and injuries in our world?
God, teach me to move forward and get into action for what is right.

The Scriptures say “Love does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth.”
God, how can I stop thinking of what helps my side to win and the other side to lose?
God, teach me to practice a love that wants the truth to win for all people.

The Scriptures say “Love bears all things.”
God, how can I bear the stress of trying so hard to do what is right?
God, teach me to let go and to trust in your wisdom.

The Scriptures say “Love believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”
God, how can I possibly love? God, teach me that I don’t love alone,
But rather in community with you and with all my sisters and brothers.

The Scriptures say “love never fails.”
God, how is it that I sometimes feel failure? How can I believe?
God, teach me to love with a heart as big as the world, and to receive love and help with a big a heart.

Gaelic prayer for inner peace by Carmina Gadelica

*Each morning and each evening
let the peace of the Father, be ours.
Each day and each night
let the peace of the Son be ours.
Each dawn and each dusk
let the peace of the Spirit be ours.
Let the blessing of the three in one be ours;
both now and forever.
Amen*

St. Teresa of Ávila (attributed)

Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which He looks
Compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which He blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are His body.
Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
compassion on this world.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.
Amen.

*All text freely shared from “thisischurch.com”

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 the “Vikings in the Wirral” by Rob Philpot at Pulford Village Hall (CH4 9ES) on **Wednesday 20th March** 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/>

Pulford cemetery has been mapped by the public on the FindAGrave.com website ...

[St. Mary's Churchyard in Pulford, Cheshire – Find a Grave Cemetery](#)

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)