



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/rota/>

Please feel free to email suggestions for future newsletter articles.

Thank you to Rob Hughes for his contribution this week.

Kind Regards

Stephen Hutchinson (admin@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 and Bridget Marsden	
Contact:	PulfordChurchWarden@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org	
Eccleston	John Richards (assistants Julie Rowland & Steve Hutchinson)	
Contact:	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/Pulford		
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PCC Secretary

Pulford/Eccleston	Andrew Wilkinson	
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Newsletter/Website

Pulford/Eccleston	Stephen Hutchinson	admin@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org
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Village Hall Hire

Pulford	Pete Gosmore	Petergosmore@gmail.com
Eccleston	Jeff Brett Roberts	jeffbrettroberts@hotmail.co.uk

Church Service Dates Times and Locations.

PLEASE REFER TO WEBSITE FOR LAST MINUTE UPDATES

<https://ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org/rota>

All services will be led by the **Reverend Dr Stephen Torr**.

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

Date	When and Where	Reading	Reader	Prayers	Sides-person
Sunday 14/4/24	11.15 Eccleston	Acts 3:12 - 19	Anne B.	Nayland	Nayland
Sunday 21/4/24	9.45am Pulford	Acts 4:5-12	Paul	Jane Y	n/a
Sunday 21/4/24	Eccleston Village Hall - Messy Church	?	Clare	Hilary	Hilary
Sunday 28/4/24	11.15am Eccleston	Acts 8:26-40	Penny	Hutch	Hutch
Sunday 5/5/24	9.45am Pulford	Acts 10:44-48	Hilary	Rob	n/a
Thursday 9/5/24	7pm Pulford		Jane	Paul	n/a
Sunday 12/05/24	11.15am Eccleston	Acts 1:15-17 & Acts 1:21-26	Garth	Helen	Garth
Sunday 19/5/24	9.45am Pulford	John 15:26-27 + 16:4b-15	Rob	Margaret	n/a



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 – Opening Locked Doors.

Here in the 21st Century, we know the Easter Morning story well... maybe even take it for granted. But 2000 years ago, it had yet to unfold! Jesus was dead. The disciples were in complete disarray.



On that first “Easter Sunday”, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb, and even she was surprised to find the ‘door’ open, and the tomb empty. She ran and told Simon Peter and ‘the other disciple’. A little while later, the risen Jesus appeared to - her but even then, Mary mistook him for the gardener... at first. Yet she eventually recognized him when He called her by name, and it was only then that Mary believed; and that vision opened the door for her to do what the Lord asked her to do: “*...tell the other disciples*”.



She had honest doubts, at first, didn't she? After all, when she went to the tomb, she was expecting to see, and tend to, His dead body! By no means was Thomas on his own in harbouring doubts and needing proof.

In last Sunday's Gospel (*John 20/19*), we picked the story as the disciples had gathered and locked the door of the room in fear; they'd locked their faith and belief away, too. They didn't celebrate the good news that Jesus was alive again; they didn't proclaim the miracle to anyone else - but they huddled together in a locked room, fearful about what would happen to **them** next.... They still harbored lots of doubts, too, and had locked the door to joyful action. And in human terms, who could blame them?

It seems that Thomas, the only one branded as a doubter, wasn't even in the room on this first occasion; they told him later....But in all honesty, the others didn't believe the truths behind what had happened, either. Or, they probably believed that their friend and mentor, Jesus, might well have risen, as he'd promised... but they neither trusted nor understood what it meant for their futures, let alone their ministry.

So, their initial reaction was fear. Would we have reacted differently, under the same circumstances?

In human terms, it wouldn't be unreasonable for us to expect that when Jesus turned up, He might have been a bit miffed by now. After **all** of his teaching; after **all** of that time spent together; after being murdered on the cross; after being raised from the dead; after revealing his identity to Mary, who told the others... All that his disciples could do was to lock themselves away in fear.

Even so, He came to them with a blessing – *Peace be with you*. It was only then that the disciples could see Jesus for themselves, and allow themselves to believe (and hope) 'again'... they could actually see the facts - the wounds - and at last, they could unlock and open their hearts to rejoice! They 'got it' that they could now go out into the world to live and share His gospel, as had always been His intention.

Jesus's death on the cross seemed to have slammed and locked the door shut on any sort of future for the disciples; evidence of the resurrection had at least unlocked it!

Fast-forwarding to a week later, we can read about the second appearance of Jesus to the disciples (this time Thomas was there) - but we're told that the door was **shut**, but **not locked**! Maybe we're witnessing at least one step in the right direction - maybe belief was revived in the eleven, and a bit more courage, too... And Jesus gave Thomas the same blessing *Peace be with you* but goes even further than before by showing Thomas that he is real. He invites Thomas to touch him, to place his finger on his body. **Seeing** was all that Thomas needed. He 'got it'; he declared, unequivocally, *My Lord and my God*. He became the first of the disciples to openly declare, 100% grasp, a belief in the divinity of Jesus! The door to their wholehearted ministry's now wide open!



Jesus has basically shown, it's OK to doubt, or for our faith to be challenged - provided we ultimately trust Him to get us back on track. I guess that if we search deep within ourselves, many of us may have had, may still experience, wobbles at times, at some level.

But we can take heart. Because there can be no doubt about the change that the resurrection brought to the disciples, was profound. The Book of the Acts of the Apostles testifies how they became absolutely driven to wholeheartedly pursue their ministry. The door was now open for them to go out with great conviction and great courage, to do God's work.

And like all the disciples, we, too, can be confident and courageous in our beliefs, in our faith, and in our discipleship. Surely, we've seen Jesus at work in our own lives and in the lives of others, and we're definitely called upon to now help others see Jesus in their **lives**, and in the world around them.

Gracious God, your Son Jesus Christ, stands among us, and we have seen the marks of your saving love. Breathe on us with the power of your Holy Spirit; open the door to send us out to share the peace of Christ with all who may cross our paths in the weeks, months, and years ahead.

[Rob Hughes – April 2024]

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

Night Church Chester

Night Church Chester has been operating out of St Peter's Church, Chester, since December 2010.

Night Church is a sacred space where, regardless of people's views or beliefs, all are offered a warm welcome. The peaceful, relaxed atmosphere gives people space to take time out in the busy city centre. Each night that we are open we welcome around 100 visitors.

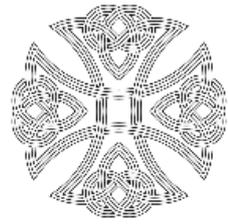
In the past we opened two Saturdays each month with a good sized, generous volunteer base. Since Covid our volunteer base has reduced, along with many churches and volunteer organizations. For the last two years we have only been able to open one night each month. We are now looking to recruit new members and have produced a short video that introduces and gives some insight to what we do in Night Church.

Below is a link to our website where people are able to download and view the video.

<https://www.nightchurchchester.org/support>

If you are interested in getting in touch with us, you can do so through the 'Contact' section of our website:

<https://www.nightchurchchester.org/contact>



night
church

Rectors of Eccleston part 9 (George Robins 1880-1906)

This fascinating article by Peter Jackson originally appeared in the February 2010 edition of the Parish News. Thank you to Helen Allison for allowing me to republish.

George Augustus Robins, to give him his full name, became Rector of Eccleston in 1880. Born in 1882 and educated at Marlborough, he was the elder of the sons of George Henry Robins. His younger brother, Arthur, became Rector of Holy Trinity, Windsor and an Honorary Chaplain to Queen Victoria. He was also known as “the Soldiers’ Bishop”, presumably in regard to his duties as Garrison Chaplain, Windsor.

George Robins’ arrival at Eccleston in the year before the Census of 1881 means that we have an almost immediate view of the Rectory family at that time. They lived then at the Rectory built by Charles Mytton in the 18th Century and referred in a Gazetteer of 1860 as a “Commodious dwelling”. “Commodious” it must certainly have been, as the Census shows the occupants as the Rector, aged 48, his wife Harriet, aged 40, and his daughters, Catherine and Monica aged 14 and 10, together with the resident domestic staff which included a Governess, a Nurse, a Cook, and two Housemaids. A total of nine occupants! The Rector also had two sons Albert (born 1865) and William (born 1868), but they were away at school.

On further daughter, Irene, was born at Eccleston in 1886.

Robins was the first occupant of this splendid building, redolent of the Georgian and Victorian surge of such buildings, but clearly one which required domestic servants and involved a high maintenance and heating costs. But labour and maintenance costs were increasing and although George Robins was a man of financial affluence, it would seem that the high watermark of such

properties and the ability of the parochial clergy to meet these costs were fast approaching.

[Peter Jackson, February 2010]



Figure 1 Eccleston Church circa 1888

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 “Iron Mad Jack - Brymbo” by Brian Gresty at Pulford Village Hall (CH4 9ES) on **Wednesday 17th April** 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 Ecclestone 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)