



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

[Eccleston and Pulford Churches](#)

Email:

[rector@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org](mailto:rector@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org)

[EcclestonChurchWarden@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org](mailto:EcclestonChurchWarden@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org)

[PulfordChurchWarden@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org](mailto: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 Helen Allison, Rob Hughes and Penny Brett Roberts for their contributions this week.

Kind Regards

Stephen Hutchinson ( [admin@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org](mailto:admin@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org) )

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## Parish Contact Information

### Rector:

Pulford/Eccleston	Revd. Dr Stephen Torr	<a href="mailto:Rector@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org">Rector@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org</a>
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### Church Wardens:

Pulford	Sue Payne and Bridget Marsden	
Contact:	<a href="mailto:PulfordChurchWarden@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org">PulfordChurchWarden@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org</a>	
Eccleston	John Richards (assistants Julie Rowland & Steve Hutchinson)	
Contact:	<a href="mailto:EcclestonChurchWarden@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org">EcclestonChurchWarden@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org</a>	

### Licensed Lay Minister

Pulford/Eccleston	Jeanette Howe	<a href="mailto:Jeanette@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org">Jeanette@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org</a>
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### Planned Giving Officer / Treasurer

Pulford/Eccleston	Bridget Marsden	<a href="mailto:Treasurer@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org">Treasurer@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org</a>
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### Safeguarding Officers

Pulford/Eccleston	Jeanette Howe/ Hilary Garard	<a href="mailto:Safeguarding@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org">Safeguarding@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org</a>
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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	<a href="mailto:mothemusic@gmail.com">mothemusic@gmail.com</a>
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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	<a href="mailto:admin@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org">admin@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org</a>
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### Village Hall Hire

Pulford	Pete Gosmore	<a href="mailto:PulfordVillageHall@gmail.com">PulfordVillageHall@gmail.com</a>
Eccleston	Jeff Brett Roberts	<a href="mailto:JeffBrettRoberts@hotmail.co.uk">JeffBrettRoberts@hotmail.co.uk</a>

### Messy Church

Pulford/Eccleston	Revd. Holly Torr	<a href="mailto:messychurch@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org">messychurch@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org</a>
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## 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 28/4/24	11.15am HC Eccleston	Acts 8:26-40	Penny	Hutch	Hutch
Sunday 5/5/24	9.45am HC Pulford	Acts 10:44-48	Hilary	Rob	n/a
Thursday 9/5/24	7pm HC Pulford		Jane	Paul	n/a
Sunday 12/05/24	11.15am HC Eccleston	Acts 1:15-17 & Acts 1:21-26	Garth	Helen	Garth
Sunday 19/5/24	9.45am HC Pulford	John 15:26-27 + 16:4b-15	Rob	Margaret	n/a
Sunday 19/5/24	10.45am <b>Messy Church</b> Eccleston Village Hall	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sunday 26/5/24	11.15am HC Eccleston	Isaiah 6:1-8	Terry	Mo	Hutch
Sunday 2/6/24	9.45am HC Pulford	Deuteronomy 5:12-15	tbc	tbc	n/a
Sunday 9/6/24	11.15am HC Eccleston	Genesis 3:8-15	Nayland	Jeanette	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

### Messy Church

A black poster with yellow and blue decorative shapes. The text is in white and yellow. It features a 'Messy Church' logo in the top right corner. The main text reads 'You are invited to... Messy Church!'. Below this, it describes the church as an informal type with crafts, games, and fun for all ages, meeting in village halls and then moving to the church for worship. It lists the dates and locations: 10.45am every 3rd Sunday of the month at Eccleston Village Hall and Pulford Village Hall. Two boxes at the bottom provide 'Save the dates' and 'Run by the Parish of Eccleston and Pulford' with contact information.

**You are invited to...**

# Messy Church!



Messy Church is an informal type of Church with crafts, games, and fun for all ages together - meeting in the village halls then moving over to the Church for informal worship.

**When?** 10.45am every 3rd Sunday of the month  
**Where?** Eccleston Village Hall & Pulford Village Hall  
(See dates below)

**Save the dates:**  
21st April at Eccleston Village Hall  
19th May at Eccleston Village Hall  
16th June at Pulford Village Hall  
21st July at Pulford Village Hall

**Run by the Parish of Eccleston and Pulford.**  
Find us on facebook or email:  
messychurch@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org

### Eccleston / Pulford Churches Annual Parish Council Meeting.

The Parish Churches AGM will take place on **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm** in **Pulford Village Hall**. This event is open to everyone, not just PCC members.

It is expected to last 2 hours.

## 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]

## Vacancies

We are looking for a **tower captain** for Eccleston Church. If anyone wishes to volunteer for this role, please contact either the Rector or Churchwarden.

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## Rob Hughes Homily – Shepherds and Sheep.

Forgive me if you remember a story I've told before, about the time traffic had been stopped (on a local-ish North Wales country road) to allow a large flock of sheep to be rounded up for relocation from a very large field. They were to be walked down the road, a few hundred yards, to an open gate, into a slightly smaller field. There were, literally, 'many dozen' sheep, three shepherds, five dogs and a quad bike (with a driver who clearly had no idea what to do, except race around a bit, and make a lot of noise and pollution).

It was absolute mayhem, as you might expect. No sooner had there been some apparent success getting a single 'flock', than the still-bemused sheep split into two groups; then three; then four separate groups - scattering in unpredictable directions, but always ending up at the far corners of the immense field. All they needed (if you watch "One Man and his Dog" on the TV), was one experienced shepherd with two trained dogs, and someone to close the gate!

One of the readings for Easter 4 is the Parable of the Good Shepherd - and it occurred to me to mention how very different shepherding is in the Middle Eastern regions, where the role of the shepherd is to **lead** his or her flock - not to **drive** them. And in Palestinian villages 2000



years ago, it wasn't unusual to see sheep from different flocks simply wandering around the streets together. As darkness closed in, and danger increased, sheep (often from mixed flocks) just huddled together, or even wandered into any of the houses in which the ground floor was given over to sheltering the family's livestock... the people slept upstairs. In the mornings, the sheep would wander out-and-about again - until they heard the voice of their own shepherd - usually calling them in order to move on to pastures outside the village, maybe on the surrounding hillsides. They would then gather together again, as one flock, and off they'd go.

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Clearly, this, in itself, is a lesson in trust - the sheep accepting that their shepherd-leader would protect and care for them, and would never lead them astray or let them down.

Once they'd reached the new pasture, there would be even more danger at night, from bandits, poachers and 'big cats' (Arabian leopards, caracals, even cheetahs being native to the region - all extremely dangerous!). So overnight, the shepherd would typically find or build a 'communal sheep-fold' - where other shepherds and their flocks might also congregate to take temporary shelter. Maybe this is a lesson, in itself, about being able to seek, and even take for granted, the mutual cooperation between shepherds and their flocks...

But we hear in the Bible about 'the **Good Shepherd** laying down his life for the sheep'. This isn't only an allusion about Jesus dying for the sake of us all, it's also, literally, true of the shepherds themselves. On the one hand, any decent shepherd would vigorously drive away, at considerable risk, wild animals and poachers, often with slings (simple and effective weapons of choice), sticks, stones, ersatz spears and firebrands. On the other hand, it's also literally true that shepherds would lie across the entrance of the sheep folds (no five-barred gates in those days!!) to dissuade anyone or anything trying to steal or kill their sheep - they'd 'lay down their lives', routinely and repeatedly, to protect the animals in the shelter - their own and anyone else's.

Surely, this is an amazing parable in terms of the length and breadth of the message. We can perceive lessons in, for example:

- the reliability of our Good Shepherd in terms of leading the way to safety and plenty
- His willingness to get involved, lead us on the right path, and protect us on the journey and at the end of it
- in being identified by our own Good Shepherd, and being able to identify His voice when He calls - though we sometimes may not be as good as 'real sheep' at coming when He calls
- And even then, we're told about our Shepherd's willingness to seek us out when we stray away, and His equal delight in finding strays, as well as keeping the rest of the flock intact.

But it also occurs to me that as members of Jesus' flock, we have responsibilities, too:



- To recognise our Good Shepherd, address Him by name, and to hear Him when He calls
- Make ourselves available to Him, and recognisable as members of His flock - privately and 'out there'
- Respond to His call - not so much in blind obedience, but in absolute trust that we are loved and will be protected and nurtured
- To expect Him to seek us out when we stray... but then it's up to us to return to Him and to each other
  - we have that choice!
- Cooperate with Him, and with others who speak and work in His name, And, as importantly, cooperate with, and support, members of other flocks who are similarly loved and nurtured

Whether or not we respond to Christ's call is up to us - we are not **driven** by our Good Shepherd, we're lovingly invited, encouraged, supported and protected - then **led** if we choose to follow. But with that free will we have awesome responsibility... As even as practicing Christians, we may well be severely distracted because of our business, and our concerns over our increasingly complex and dangerous world. It can be difficult to fully recognise when Jesus calls, and to then fully commit to being 'cooperative, trusting and trustworthy sheep'.

We have a choice on how we prioritise our time, and how we speak, and how we behave. Are we willing sheep, or do we expect to be driven?

Two collects from Common Worship:

*Merciful Father, you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the Good Shepherd, and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again: keep us always under his protection, and give us grace to follow in his steps; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Risen Christ, faithful Shepherd of your Father's sheep: teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command, that all your people may be gathered into one flock, to the glory of God the Father.*

[Bob Hughes – April 2024]

## 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>

## Rectors of Eccleston part 10 (Clement Eustace Marco Wilson - 1912 to 1921).



Figure 1 The Reverend Clem Wilson

The Reverend Clement Eustace Marco Wilson (15<sup>th</sup> May 1875 – 8<sup>th</sup> February 1944) was an English amateur first-class cricketer and Church of England clergyman.

He was born in Yorkshire and educated at Uppingham School where he was a phenomenon in batting. In 1893 he achieved consecutive scores of 117, 145 and 183 not out! He was a Cambridge Blue as a Freshman, and eventually captained the University side against Oxford in the annual varsity match where he made scores of 35, 89, 77 and 115 not out.

Clement Wilson was chosen to tour South Africa on a two-Test tour in 1898 (without singular success) and, after he was ordained in 1899, he abandoned cricket. He became a priest in 1903.

He was curate at

- Whitby, North Yorkshire 1901-1903.
- Dunchurch, Warwickshire 1903-1904.
- Rugby from 1904 to 1909.

He was vicar at Calverhill, Shropshire from 1910-1912 then Rector of Eccleston, Cheshire from 1912 to 1921 where he was also estate chaplain and librarian to the Duke of Westminster at Eaton Hall.

In 1921 he became Vicar of Sand Hutton, North Yorkshire. In 1925 he returned to Calverhall as Vicar, holding the living with that of neighbouring Ighfield from 1928 until his death. He was later also Prebendary of Lichfield Cathedral, in whose diocese the parishes lie.

The Rector married twice. His second marriage was in 1912, the year in which he came to Eccleston, when he married a daughter of Lord Hamilton of Dalzell. They had one son, David Clement, who was born in 1916 who also played first-class cricket.

[based on an original article by Peter Jackson - March 2010]

## 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>

Messy Church: [Eccleston / Pulford Messy Church Facebook](#)

***If there is anyone who would like to volunteer to be either the Pulford or Eccleston Church Facebook administrator, please email***

[admin@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org](mailto:admin@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.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](mailto: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 17<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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)



## Eccleston Church Pew Kneeler Cushions

Penny Brett Roberts has drawn my attention to the beautifully embroidered kneeler cushions in Eccleston Church. An awful lot of care and attention has been made in the needlework of these cushions. Please see below for some of the very talented needlework artists who created these cushions:



*Figure 2 - Owl by Janet Linn*





Figure 3 Tudor Rose by Margaret Fearnell



Figure 4 Cross Moline by Mrs C Talbot.  
Dedicated Annabel and Matts Wedding  
2002



Figure 5 Pattern by Jill Gittins. Dedicated to  
Kate Mc Morran (Nee Gittins)



Figure 6 Fish Symbol by Margaret Brown.  
Dedicated to Eccleston Church. 2001



Figure 7 By Mrs Ann Fair. Dedicated to her  
mother, Mrs Dolly Fearnell.



Figure 8 Dedicated to Ann Laing by the  
pupils of Eccleston School





*Figure 9 Dedicated to Ann Laing by the pupils of Eccleston School*



*Figure 10 Dedicated to Ann Laing by the pupils of Eccleston School*



*Figure 11 Dedicated to Ann Laing by the pupils of Eccleston School*