



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 Helen Allison, Rob Hughes and the Rev Holly Torr and the Rev Steve Torr for their contributions this week.

Kind Regards

Stephen Hutchinson (admin@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org)

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Parish Contact 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	Steve Hutchinson & John Richards	
Contact:	EcclestonChurchWarden@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org	

Messy Church

Pulford/Eccleston	Revd. Holly Torr	messychurch@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org
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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	<i>vacancy</i>	
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PCC Secretary

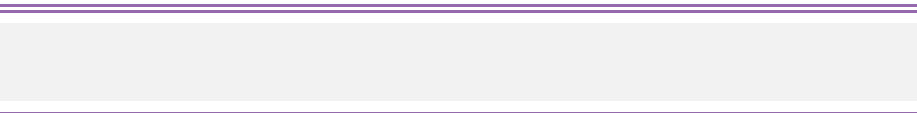
Pulford/Eccleston	<i>vacancy</i>	
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Newsletter/Website Author/Admin.

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

Pulford	Pete Gosmore	PulfordVillageHall@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 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 Messy Church 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! 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)'. There are two boxes at the bottom: a yellow one with dates and a blue one 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

[Rev Holly Torr – May 2024]

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.

We are also looking for a **PCC Secretary** to chair PCC meetings.

There is also a vacancy for an additional **church warden** at Eccleston Church.

Eccleston / Pulford Churches Annual Parish Council Meeting.

Thank you to everyone who attended the Annual Parish Council Meeting on the 7th May. The reports presented during the APCM can be viewed here...

Rectors Report...

[APCM Rectors Report 2024 – ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org](https://ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org)

Eccleston Warden's Report...

[APCM Eccleston Church Warden's Report – ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org](https://ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org)

Pulford Warden's Report...

[APCM Pulford Church Warden's Report – ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org](https://ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org)

Treasurer's Financial Statement Report...

[APCM Treasurer's Report – ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org](https://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>

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]

Churchwardens

(A fascinating article by Peter Jackson that originally appeared in the April 2010 edition of the parish news).

The office of churchwarden was apparently created by the Council of London in 1129, when it was decreed that two Churchwardens (male or female) be elected annually in each parish. Thus, pre- and post-Reformation, and with the possible exception of the Civil War years, there have been over 800 such annual elections.

The duties of Churchwardens were, from the outset, onerous and compulsory. They were made responsible for the fabric of the Church, its security, the maintenance of the liturgy, the financial responsibility including the maintenance of the Church accounts, for the relief of the poor, the repair of roads and bridges, and for the reporting of the morals within the Parish(!).

They were also empowered to raise monies in furtherance of their duties. This last function was, until the reign of King Edward VI, raised by the brewing and sale of Church Ales. (*Sounds like a great idea to me. Eccleston Ale has a certain ring to it – Steve*). Several churches still have brew-houses, though these are not now used for the same purpose! Later they were also required to record christenings and burials and, to this end, they had to obtain a Parish Chest for security. Those Parish Registers which have survived provide a wealth of information for historians and genealogists. It has been suggested that these duties made the Churchwardens “officers of state” and a forerunner of the Registrars.

It is remarkable to note how many of the original duties heaped upon the Churchwardens remain their responsibility in 2010. The reporting upon of morals, seemingly unachievable over the centuries, largely passed to the civil powers in 1689. The raising and control of church monies remains a responsibility through Treasurers, where available, are now appointed. Oddly, if no-one can be found to take on the Treasurer-ship, then the Churchwardens become responsible for accounting, recording and control. The proper performance of Churchwardens' duties is subject to Canon Law and monitored by Visitations (which have some similarity to the OFSTED inspection in education) made by a Bishop or Archdeacon, and their reports, over the centuries, make interesting reading. We find that a Bishop's Visitation in 1557 resulted in the Eccleston Churchwardens being excommunicated! The reason given was that “they lacked the books and other necessaries”.

The visitation imposed punishments (usually penance before other members

of the congregation).

Thus, many of the original duties remain firmly in place. It is still an important office upon which the well-being of the Church greatly depends.

As a former Churchwarden myself (albeit over 40 years ago), I found myself as the Rector's Warden as opposed to my fellow warden who was known as the People's Warden. It was a distinction without a difference and one which was eventually dispensed with. Parishioners made their complaints to either. I found it to be an office, purely voluntary, requiring diplomacy, tact and sympathy as much now as nearly 900 years ago.

[Peter Jackson – April 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

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 an AGM followed by a talk on the “Colours of Heraldry” by Tony Bostock at Pulford Village Hall (CH4 9ES) on **Wednesday 15th May at 7pm**. 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

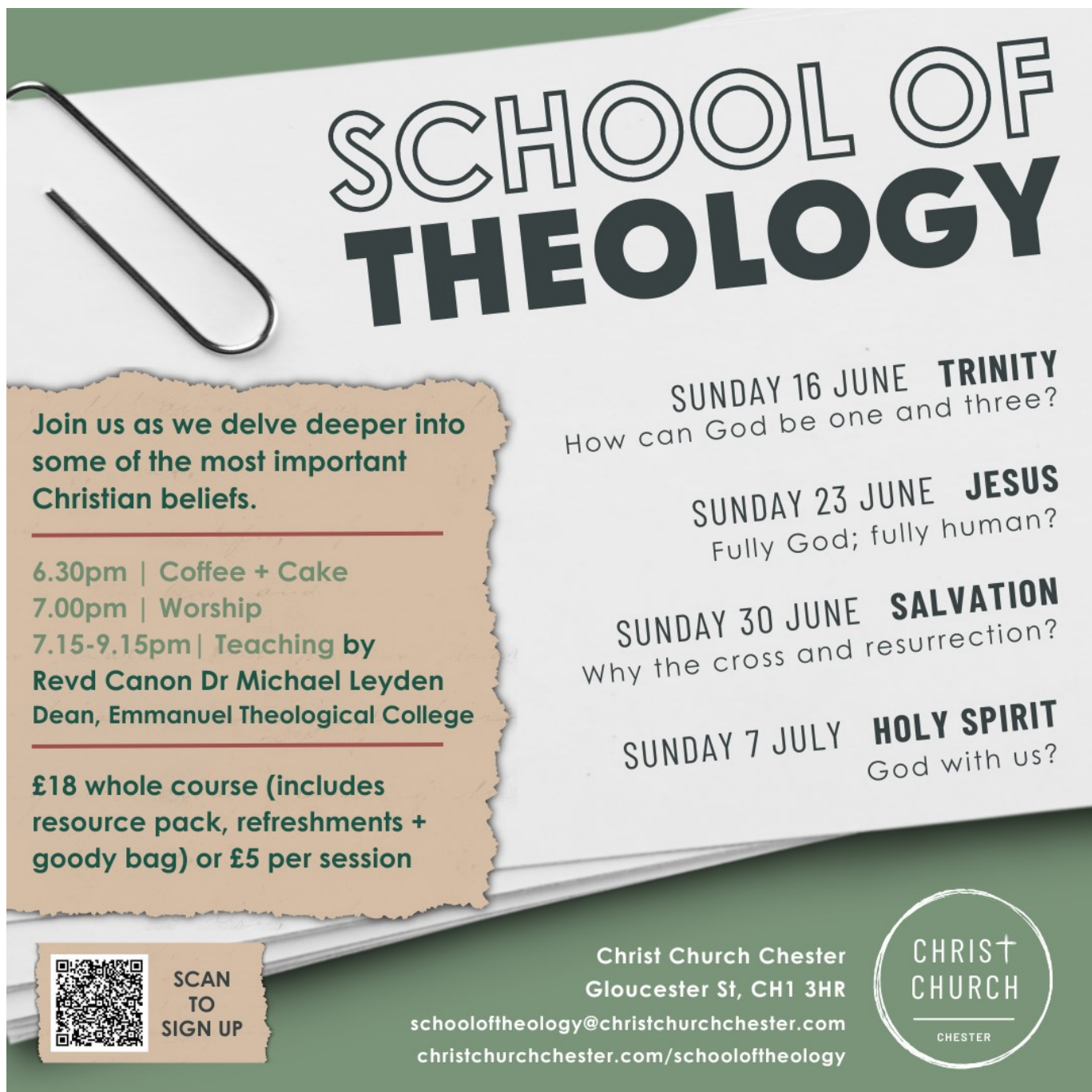
by emailing me at admin@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org

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)



SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Join us as we delve deeper into some of the most important Christian beliefs.

6.30pm | Coffee + Cake
7.00pm | Worship
7.15-9.15pm | Teaching by
Revd Canon Dr Michael Leyden
Dean, Emmanuel Theological College

£18 whole course (includes resource pack, refreshments + goody bag) or £5 per session

SUNDAY 16 JUNE TRINITY
How can God be one and three?

SUNDAY 23 JUNE JESUS
Fully God; fully human?

SUNDAY 30 JUNE SALVATION
Why the cross and resurrection?

SUNDAY 7 JULY HOLY SPIRIT
God with us?

Christ Church Chester
Gloucester St, CH1 3HR
schooloftheology@christchurchchester.com
christchurchchester.com/schooloftheology

CHRIST CHURCH
CHESTER

SCAN TO SIGN UP

For more information or to book tickets please visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/school-of-theology-tickets-894352240627?aff=oddtcreator>

[Rev Steve Torr – May 2024]

Messy Church Review by Hilary Garrard

Messy church was re-launched on April 21st 2024

Messy Church has 3 core values: Celebration, Creativity and Hospitality or in other wordsFaith, Food, Fellowship and FUN

The aim is to create a welcome time and place, with drinks and snacks and a creative focus on a Bible story or theme. Children and adults spend time together exploring the theme through the activities.

In Eccleston and Pulford this will be followed by a short service in church led by Rev Holly Torr.

SO

I volunteered, with some trepidation to help with the re-launch of Messy Church. To boldly go where I had never been before! I opted to organise a quiet area for colouring, reading and writing prayers. A peaceful place to withdraw from the 'hurly burly' of the activities. It was very peaceful – there was only me there! The 'hurly burly' of activities was all very engaging and exciting. The theme was 'Creation', there were several activities all well planned, well organised, well- resourced and well manned ...well womanned actually. The morning began with a team get together and an opportunist coffee.

SO

The doors opened at 10.45am to a queue of people keen to start. The A team: Clare and Jude (Willan) and Seth (Torr) were prepped and ready with big smiles and sparkling eyes to welcome everyone, sign them in and hand out the craft bags to take home their offerings. Further encouragement for 'meet & greet' was graciously given by Sue (Willan) our discreet floor walker who pointed out the activities where our Messy Church missionaries waited with bated breath to begin.

The older boys were immediately drawn to the Lego Table to make guns – hmm Creation – did God create guns? An interesting theological point there which Sue attempted to explore – the boys simply added a flower to the guns. Shades of the Prague Spring.

Planting Sunflowers – much more ‘Creation’ linked. This was very popular with parents and children. Soil, seeds, pots and pansies (for instant creation) with Anne (Bodsworth) who herself exuded enthusiasm.

Then there was ‘light’, definitely in the Creation story. This was symbolised in making clay type candle holders. There were some thoughtful and elegant designs crafted and helped by an elegant and able Angela (Newbould).

Rainbows on Rings – keyrings to be precise. I can’t recall a rainbow in the Creation story but then I guess God needed one for a later story. Isla (Torr), a skilled jeweller, led this activity with gentle persuasion and patience trying to keep to the correct colour sequence – but a rainbow is a rainbow if you’re only 2 years old what do the colours matter. Feed the Birds - with Jane (Yeoward) making bird feeders by threading Cheerios on to strings. “one for the birds one for me” Definitely a fun activity although I suspect Jane would probably prefer milk with her Cheerios.

Coffee, Cake and Cookies (and juice) available throughout organised and served with aplomb by Rachel, the queen of refreshment. Ably assisted by Penny (Brett Roberts) an experienced and distinguished dinner lady in a previous life. There were some all too tempting homemade cakes from our own ‘cake-off’ master baker Julie (Rowland).

The re-launch was master-minded by the inestimable, invaluable, inexhaustible, inexorable, inspiring, incredibly talented and deeply committed Holly (Torr)!

Thank you, Holly.

SO

What is Messy Church really about? It is a way of being, the church where everyone is welcome; families and others. It is Christ-centred for all ages; it is found all over the world. It is another facet of ministry. In Eccleston and Pulford it combines beautifully the modernism of All Age service with the traditional service of songs, stories and prayer.

SO

Volunteering – we need more volunteers.

Messy Church is not for the faint- hearted, the wimps or the grumps BUT if you are fun-loving, young at heart (18 to 80+), kind, patient, able to multi task, enjoy cake and smile ...

SO

If you can keep your head when all about you is creative chaos ...

If you can see beauty in children's excitement and achievement...

If you can find joy in sharing simple skills...

If you can share the love of Jesus with others...

Then you can be a volunteer my friend.

[Hilary Garrard - May 2024]

PS Forthcoming attractions – wind, fire, flames and babble!

The theme is Pentecost.

SO

We will be making windmills, tongues of fire headbands, flaming cup-cakes, blow paintings and prayer doves. Plus of course the coffee, cakes and cookies (& juice & Tea)