



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

[Eccleston and Pulford Churches](#)

Email:

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[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 Rob Hughes for the homily, and to Helen Allison for allowing me to republish Peter Jackson's article.

We were all very sorry to hear about the sudden death of Jane Yeoward, who was one of our regular readers. Our thoughts and prayers are with members of Jane's family at this time of sadness. We will all miss her.

Kind Regards

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

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## Eccleston & Pulford Parish Contact Information

|                             |                                   |                                                                                                                                  |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Rector</b>               | <b>Revd. Dr Stephen Torr</b>      | <a href="mailto:Rector@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org">Rector@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org</a>                               |
| Pulford Wardens             | Sue Payne & Bridget Marsden       | <a href="mailto:PulfordChurchWarden@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org">PulfordChurchWarden@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org</a>     |
| Eccleston Wardens           | Steve Hutchinson & <b>vacancy</b> | <a href="mailto:EcclestonChurchWarden@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org">EcclestonChurchWarden@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org</a> |
| Verger                      | Julie Rowland                     |                                                                                                                                  |
| Messy Church                | Revd. Holly Torr                  | <a href="mailto:messychurch@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org">messychurch@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org</a>                     |
| Home Worship                | Rob Hughes                        |                                                                                                                                  |
| Licensed Lay Minister       | Jeanette Howe                     | <a href="mailto:Jeanette@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org">Jeanette@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org</a>                           |
| Treasurer                   | Bridget Marsden                   | <a href="mailto:Treasurer@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org">Treasurer@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org</a>                         |
| Safeguarding Officers       | Hilary & Jeanette                 | <a href="mailto:Safeguarding@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org">Safeguarding@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org</a>                   |
| Electoral Roll Officer      | <b>vacancy</b>                    |                                                                                                                                  |
| Organists                   | Derek Whatling or Denis Jones     |                                                                                                                                  |
| Director of Music           | Maureen Richards                  | <a href="mailto:mothemusic@gmail.com">mothemusic@gmail.com</a>                                                                   |
| Tower Captains              | <b>vacancy</b>                    |                                                                                                                                  |
| PCC Secretary               | <b>vacancy</b>                    |                                                                                                                                  |
| Newsletter/ Website / Admin | Stephen Hutchinson                | <a href="mailto:admin@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org">admin@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org</a>                                 |
| Facebook Admin              | <b>vacancy</b>                    |                                                                                                                                  |
| Pulford Village Hall Hire   | Pete Gosmore                      | <a href="mailto:PulfordVillageHall@gmail.com">PulfordVillageHall@gmail.com</a>                                                   |
| Eccleston Village Hall Hire | Jeff Brett Roberts                | <a href="mailto:JeffBrettRoberts@hotmail.co.uk">JeffBrettRoberts@hotmail.co.uk</a>                                               |
| Sidesperson                 | <b>vacancies</b>                  |                                                                                                                                  |

## 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<br>26/5/24  | 11.15am<br>HC Eccleston                                         | Isaiah 6:1-8        | Terry   | Mo       | Hutch        |
| Sunday<br>2/6/24   | 9.45am<br>HC Pulford *                                          | Deut.<br>5:12-15    | tbc     | tbc      | n/a          |
| Sunday<br>9/6/24   | 11.15am<br>HC Eccleston                                         | Genesis<br>3:8-15   | Nayland | Jeanette | Nayland      |
| Sunday<br>16/6/24  | 9.45am (Father's<br>Day) HC Pulford                             | Ezekiel<br>17:22-24 | tbc     | Margaret | n/a          |
| Sunday<br>16/6/24  | 10.45am <b>Messy Church (Father's Day)</b> Pulford Village Hall |                     |         |          |              |
| Sunday<br>23/6/24  | 11.15am<br>HC Eccleston                                         | Job<br>38:1-11      | Hutch   | Mo       | Hutch        |
| Sunday<br>30/06/24 | 9.45am<br>HC Pulford (tbc)                                      | Lament.<br>3:22-33  | Anne B  | Jeanette | 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



### Messy Church

**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

[Revd. Holly Torr]

## 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 **tower captains** for both Eccleston and Pulford Churches.

We are also looking for a **PCC Secretary** to chair PCC meetings and an **Electoral Roll Officer**.

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

We are also looking for a **social media admin** (i.e. someone to be in charge of updating the Facebook pages for Eccleston and Pulford Church).

If anyone wishes to volunteer for any of these roles, please contact either the Rector, any of the Churchwardens at [admin@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org](mailto:admin@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org)

## Christian Aid Week.

The church raised £77.50 for Christian Aid Week. Thank you to all who donated.

<https://fundraise.christianaid.org.uk/envelope-2024/eccleston-and-pulford-churches-christian-aid-2024>

## Rob Hughes Homily – Seeing is Believing?



There were two people lost in the blazing desert sun, and close to collapse through thirst... then suddenly, one of them noticed their possible salvation! *“Is that a mirage, or are my eyes deceiving me?”*

This isn't as daft as it sounds! If we were to ask this question to a sample

group of people, many would say that a mirage isn't real. In fact, however, the image perceived by the eye is **entirely** real! They actually see-what-they-see - a blue, shimmering in the distance, which does indeed, look like water. It's the interpretation of an optical illusion made by the brain that's inaccurate... What the viewer makes of the mirage is just refraction of the blue sky, reflected off the sand... but it's certainly not water.

The Stoic philosopher, Marcus Aurelius Antonius, was the last of the Five “good emperors of Rome” (he reigned from 161 to 180 AD). He had a profound knowledge of “the human mind” - and about reality, thoughts and over-thinking, and said this: *“Everything we hear is an opinion, not a fact. Everything we see is a perspective, not the truth.”*

Wow! According to Marcus Aurelius, everything we see is no more, no less, than our own perspective - which need not always be a perspective shared by others. And what we hear is just someone else's, or our own, opinion - not necessarily ‘absolute truth’.

We have just celebrated the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost - a time in the Christian calendar that might prompt believers to say “WOW”, and more likely prompt non-believers, or waverers, to ask “HOW”. The Biblical account in the Book of the Acts of the Apostles says this:



*“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them”.*

Most certainly the New Testament account tells us about the facts as perceived by the apostles. Their perspective may well be the subject of academic debate forever, but the profound effect it had on them is beyond any doubt whatsoever (I'd encourage you to read Acts 2 in full, but it states this: “Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles”).

Having been emboldened by the fact of the resurrection of Jesus, the disciples became totally courageous in exercising their mission As Apostles, they were no longer followers of Jesus, the man, but (and to quote the dictionary): ***‘vigorous and pioneering advocates and supporters of a particular policy, idea, or cause’***.

They had now become absolutely committed, and absolutely fearless, in their subsequent ministries. Jesus was no longer with them in body, but they now drew strength and purpose from His presence, in the person of The Holy Spirit-within. In a way, Christ's Ascension had been a necessary event before believers could have ever fully depended upon the support of the Holy Spirit ***within them*** (and within us all).

Before, since and throughout my volunteer ministry, I've had numerous discussions with non-believers and waverers who claimed to still be seeking to find (having, so they say, failed to find) God. The truth is difficult to explain to people who find this truth a bit too much to take: that although God is everywhere, and every-when, we don't have to seek Him out, we have to 'let Him out'.

By that I mean allow ourselves quiet times to simply 'be' with Him; dedicated to him; be available to Him; and so, become sensitive to His presence. That's incredibly difficult in a world and society subject to a constant avalanche of information over social media and the TV! Much of it is opinion, speculation and downright mischief...



Going back to Marcus Aurelius quote' - what we hear is just opinion (all-too-often someone else's)! And what we see and perceive is subject to our immediate interpretation - and not necessarily the only interpretation.

That's why it's important for us to 'weigh things up' before reacting to what appears to be happening around us at any given time. Immediate, knee-jerk reactions (except to an immediate threat to life or safety) can so easily be based on mis-interpretation of what we think we're seeing or hearing about. What has happened has happened (nothing we can say, or do, or worry about can alter that); what 'is now', is the only thing we can move on from, and **how** we move on is totally under our control guided by the Holy Spirit.

The Apostles took the fact of the Ascension at face value; they couldn't explain it - they didn't feel a need to understand 'how', but simply rejoice at the wow. As it was the culmination of so many other miracles, they had been party-to, they simply accepted 'the Holy Spirit within' as a fact, and that enabled them to move on.

I'd suggest that it's pretty much impossible for believers to be fully aware of the presence of 'God within' all the time. But it's entirely possible to still our minds, for a few moments, a few times during most days, to simply 'be'. I'll leave you with a couple of challenges; ask yourselves or a loved one:

"Who am I?"

In responding, how many would answer with their name

"What am I "

How many would answer without mentioning, for example, being a mother, or father, or a <job title>?

The challenge is this - just try answering "**I am**" ... and leave it there. That's what I mean by simply 'being' - having no thoughts about anything in particular; no opinions about anything; no 'what-if-ing', no 'why', no 'how'. Simply be silent with God, and let Him respond from within. Taking it as a matter of fact and faith that He is within, and simply being grateful for that.

**[Rob Hughes – May 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>

## 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)

## Puritan “Outrage” at Eccleston / Who were the Puritans?

*This article written by Peter Jackson originally appeared in the May 2010 Parish Church Newsletter.*

The Puritans first came to prominence in the reign of Elizabeth I, and have been described as “advanced Protestants” who believed that the Reformation had not gone far enough in its separation from the Church of Rome. The viewpoint at that time was probably understandable, bearing in mind the “roller-coaster” attitudes of the Tudors and, more particularly the excesses of the reign of Mary I (“Bloody Mary”). Her marriage to Philip of Spain, the leading European Catholic, had meant that, should she have a son and heir who would succeed, then the reversion to Catholicism in England would be unavoidable. But it was not to be and Elizabeth I, on her accession, steadied the ship.

The Puritans, however still harboured fears when, in 1603, the Tudor dynasty was replaced by the Stuarts, whom they regarded as “covert Catholics”. There was some truth in this. Charles II’s death bed conversion, and his brother, James II’s subsequent exile after attempting, by stringent means, to restore Catholicism, add credence to the Puritan viewpoint.

The purer form of worship desired by the Puritans meant that they abhorred anything which reminded them of the Church of Rome. Hence idolatrous images, wall paintings, relics and *even stained-glass* were all anathema to them. One highly visible example was the crosses which had, since the medieval period, been a feature of the village scene. Such crosses, up to 25 feet high, were elaborately carved. Some had been set up on wayside sites, and others, usually more elaborately carved, in churchyards. The wayside crosses were used as public proclamation points, for trading, as signposts and in some cases as boundary markers.

An example of such a cross may now be seen at the junction of the A51 (Tarvin Road) and Hare Lane. This has been erected by the good offices of Littleton Parish Council to commemorate the Millennium and to replace the original wayside cross (Vicars Cross) which was vandalized, broken down and destroyed in 1613.

Who were the vandals? Ormerod's History refers to what might be termed a "Puritan cell" whose leader was alleged to be one of John Bruin of Stapleford, and whose members included his employees and acquaintances. This cell set out to destroy crosses throughout the Country and City. There were four wayside crosses (at Delamere Forest, Tarvin, Christleton and Eccleston). All were broken down and vandalized in 1613.

We know from the documents of the Court of Star Chamber the names of those allegedly responsible for the Eccleston outrages.



In evidence, a man named Dale admitted that he destroyed Eccleston Churchyard Cross "leaving the foundation as sufficient for any civil use" [A note is necessary regarding the Court of Star Chamber. Introduced in 1487, it dispensed with juries. It could punish by fines, imprisonment and mutilation, but not by death (odd, in such bloodthirsty times). It became tyrannical and was abolished in 1641.

Are there any traces left of the 2 Eccleston crosses? Any remnant of the cross, possibly situated where the Pump House now stands, may have disappeared during the extensive restoration of the village in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. If any reader has knowledge of any remnants of the crosses, I would be glad to know. Meanwhile, I am continuing to research the outcome of the star chamber trial.

**[original article by Peter Jackson - May 2010]**

*Further details of the Littleton Parish Council Millenium Cross can be found here...*

<https://howardwilliamsblog.wordpress.com/2018/04/07/a-millennium-cross-vicars-cross-littleton-chester/>

## 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 entitled “*Richard Jones Berwyn and his Welsh Settlement in Patagonia*” by Graham Edwards at Pulford Village Hall (CH4 9ES) on **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June** at 7.30pm. Tickets are £5 (non-members) and £3 for members. For details of up-and-coming lectures please refer to the following link:

<https://sites.google.com/view/pulford-poulton-lhg/programme>

## 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 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](mailto:admin@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org)

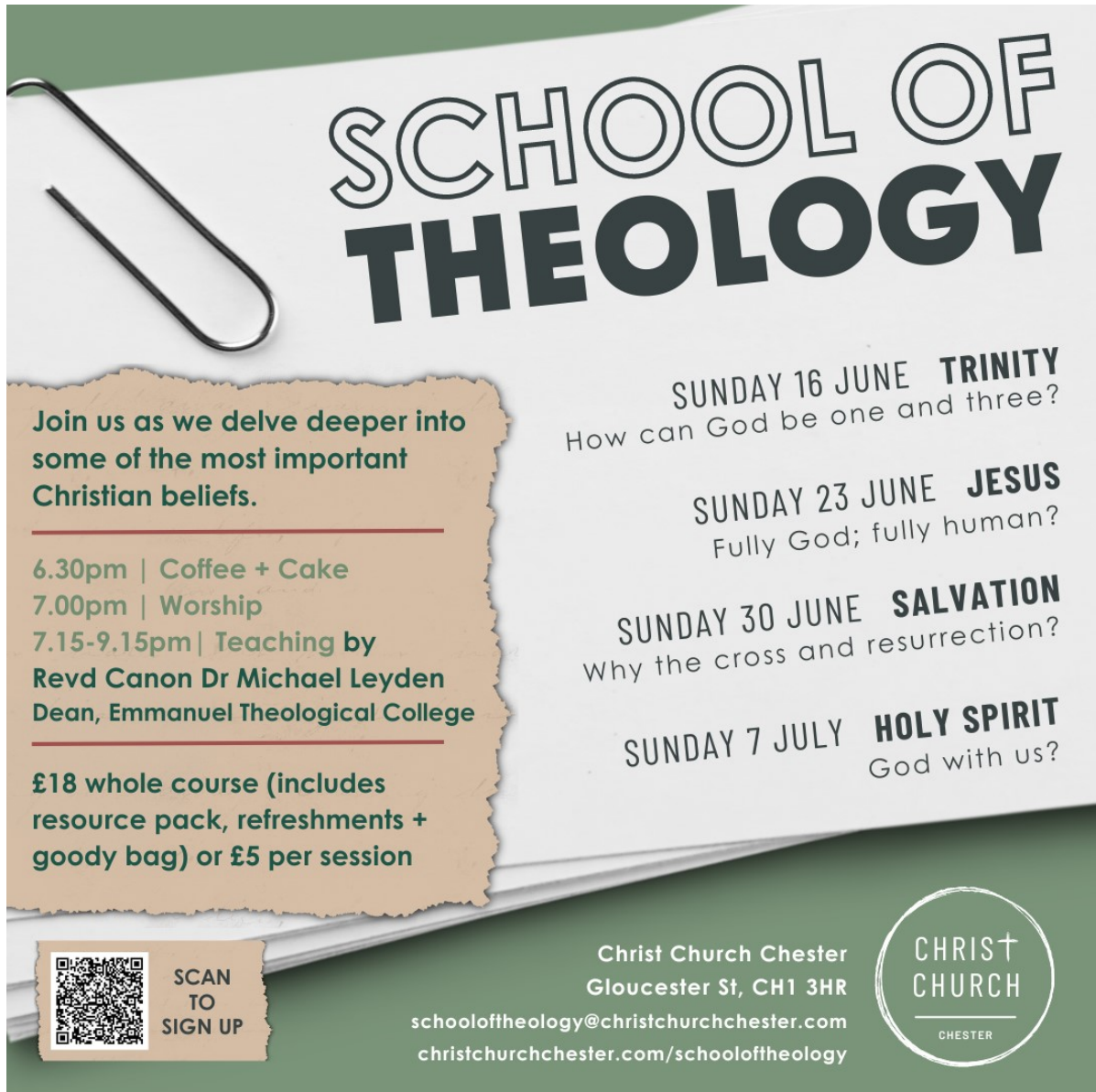
**The Rota for readers/intercessors and sidespeople is accessible at:**

<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)





# 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?

SCAN TO SIGN UP

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

CHRIST CHURCH  
CHESTER

For more information or to book tickets please visit:

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