

Friday 7th June to Friday 21st June 2024



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 Jeanette Howe and Rob Hughes for their contributions this week, and to Helen Allison for allowing me to republish Peter Jackson's article.

Kind Regards

Stephen Hutchinson (admin@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org)

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Eccleston & Pulford Parish Contact Information

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

Church Service Dates Times and Locations.

PLEASE REFER TO WEBSITE FOR LAST MINUTE UPDATES

<https://ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org/rota>

Date	When and Where	Reading	Reader	Prayers	Preacher	Sides-person
Sunday 9/6/24	11.15am HC Eccleston	Genesis 3:8-15	Nayland	Jeanette	ST	Nayland
Sunday 16/6/24	9.45am (Father's Day) HC Pulford	Ezekiel 17:22- 24	tbc	Margaret	ST	n/a
Sunday 16/6/24	10.45am Messy Church (Father's Day) Pulford Village Hall					
Sunday 23/6/24	11.15 am HC Eccleston	Job 38:1-11	Hutch	Mo	ST	Hutch
Sunday 30/6/24	11.15 am HC Eccleston*	Lament . 3:22-33	Anne B	Jeanette	HT	tbc
Sunday 7/7/24	9.45am * HC Pulford	Ezekiel 2.1-5	tbc	tbc	JH	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

A black poster with yellow and blue decorative shapes. The text is in white and yellow. It includes the title 'You are invited to... Messy Church!', a description of the church, dates and locations, and 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

[Revd. Holly Torr]

Funeral for Jane Yeoward – Tuesday 11th June 2pm.

There will be a memorial service for Jane Yeoward at *Pulford Church* at 2pm which is open to everyone not just immediate family.

Jane's family are encouraging everyone to be tastefully colourful in their attire rather than wearing black.

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

Rob Hughes – Silent Church.



In place of a homily this week, I wanted to introduce you to “Silent Church”, and to provide some information about how this approach to group-worship-in-silence can help us to:

- grow in faith ourselves
- help others, and each other, to do so
- enjoy a communal experience of reflection whilst waiting on God, in the name of His Son.

May I first explain that Roger introduced opportunities for silent church in the past (as soon as the Covid restrictions had been sufficiently relaxed). At that time, just a small group of ‘regulars’ met together to support each other’s reflections “in stillness” (rather than in words). In reintroducing new opportunities, we would hope to encourage others to take ‘about an hour’ or so, once a fortnight, to simply be with each other, and, more to the point, to simply wait on God together.

It’s difficult to explain, in words, what’s meant by silent church - and what to expect. Because as soon as we try to define the experience of ‘being still’, or allocate time-slots in a ‘formatted service’, we can defeat the object. Any attempt to describe ‘how it works’, or raise expectations about what to expect (or what not to expect) limits the potential. Silent Church is simply an environment that enables our mind activity (thinking too much) to take a break, enabling us to enjoy a quiet time of simply be-ing with God. Then to let the Holy Spirit-within reveal Himself in silence, rather than in song or prayer.

In encouraging you to support Silent Church, I’d simply say this: I, and others who have already experienced it in the past, have felt huge benefits from (frankly) **making** time to supplement and complement the ‘formalities’ of corporate worship per se, and learning how ‘chill out’ by focusing only on God, for a few moments every day - not just at Silent Church.

In a complex world-full of things to be concerned about, and because of our busy-ness doing what we have to do for ourselves, our families and friends, it's really difficult to practice 'stillness' in the sense of letting thoughts to float on by for a little while. It's a practice that takes patience, and a willingness to indulge ourselves in self-care 'more often'.

Awareness and Christ-centred-ness develop (with a bit of self-discipline and enhanced self-awareness) in stillness, as well as in private prayer. Silent Church contributes to both... and I'd hope that you'll find that private 'stillness' at home (having experienced Silent Church, becomes more refreshing and more Christ-centred.

St Paul sums it up like this: ***"We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."*** 2 Corinthians 10:5

Even during Silent Church, thoughts (of pretty-much anything) can still infiltrate our minds - and trying to 'get rid of them' makes things worse. In a very real sense, Paul is saying to us let the thoughts come - take them captive (don't push them away) - but only focus on the ones that take us closer to God and His Son! **Silent Church is just one opportunity to experience and practice this.**

Here's what the Bible has to say about self-awareness, self-care and focusing our thoughts:

"Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it." - Proverbs 4:23

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." - Romans 12:2

"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things." - Philippians 4:8

More details about dates, times and venues will be published in the Newsletters. In the meantime, here are some initial thoughts for short texts (see above) that may, if helpful, be used to incorporate into the first Silent Church gatherings:

- Theme 1: *2 Corinthians 10:5*
- Theme 2: *Proverbs 4:23*
- Theme 3: *Romans 12:2*
- Theme 4 *Philippians 4:8*

[Rob Hughes – June 2024]

Art by Jeanette Howe.



These paintings were created by Jeanette Howe. The 2nd painting was used for the new Archdeacon of Macclesfield, Revd. Jane Proudfoot’s welcome service, based on Philippians 4:2-9

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

Rectors of Eccleston – Richard Massie (1832 to 1854)

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

Richard Massie, son of Thomas and Elizabeth Massie of Coddington, was born on the 12th January 1771. A Cambridge graduate, he was ordained in 1795 and held curacies at Weaverham, Tarvin and Coddington. He became Rector of St Bridget's, Chester and Rector of Aldford in 1811, becoming Rector of Eccleston in 1832.

He married, in 1776, Hester Lee of Wincham Hall, Cheshire and they had no fewer than 22 children, 18 of whom lived to maturity! That so many should have survived in the 19th Century, an age marked by high levels of both maternal and infant mortality, is in itself remarkable. Maternal mortality from child bed fever was very much higher in hospital confinements than those at home until this fact was noted by the redoubtable Dr Semmelweiss, a hospital doctor who held that the fever was transmitted from patient to patient in hospitals by the doctors themselves. He was much reviled by his colleagues but, let it be said, in the days before Lister, antiseptics and the germ theory, they seem to have been remarkably insanitary.

They came round to his views, however, and hospital death rates began to show a very marked decrease. The question must arise as to how this large family was accommodated and we have no real evidence about this. The Massies were an affluent family, however and there may have been a continuous exodus to private schools as a tender age. This was the habit of the time.

The 1851 Census shows Richard and Hester aged 80 and 75 respectively, Richard, their eldest son, a widower, aged 50 and Sidney, their fourth daughter, unmarried and aged 49. Sidney (1802-1891) was a notable artist in her time.

([Liverpool from Bidston by Sidney Massie on artnet](#))

There was also a staff of five (butler, ladies' maid, cook, housemaid and dairymaid). All were living at the Rectory, which presumably was that built by the Reverend Mytton, senior in the previous century. Massie died in office in 1854. Hester (and Sidney) moved to Pulford and lived on to a very great age.

The great ages achieved by Massie and his wife compelled me to look into the ages achieved by those Rectors of Eccleston who died in office between 1701 and 1906. Richard Massie was the doyen at 83 closely followed by Thomas Aubrey at 81. The average of the eight Rectors of the period was 67. This, though low by modern standards, was greatly in excess of the national average.

In this, we have to consider the differing life styles and modes of employment. Rural populations consisted very largely of people employed in agriculture which, in the early 19th Century scarcely differed from the mediaeval period.

Mechanisation was in its early infancy and the work was back-breaking, manual and haphazard in results. Oddly, in the early 19th Century agricultural employees began to exchange the country for the 'dark satanic mills' where their prospects and living standards fell. The appalling conditions of the time need no comment.

Massie lived in a different non-manual world, was reasonably fed (the tithe system contributed) and this may account for his longevity. Some researchers have seen a relationship between a spiritual vocation and longevity whilst more recent research suggests great age may lie in the genes!

If we look at the Massie family in light of the latter theory, we might see great ages achieved by the offspring of the Massies. This is incomplete, as yet, but of the eight that can be proved only two exceeded the age of 40 and only one of these survived the age of 50. This small sample is not statistically significant but the family presents an opportunity for a deeply researched thesis into clergy longevity.

[original article by Peter Jackson - May 2010]

Stained Glass Window of the week from Pulford Church.



Figure 1 Photo taken by Stephen Hutchinson

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 entitled “*Richard Jones Berwyn and his Welsh Settlement in Patagonia*” by Graham Edwards at Pulford Village Hall (CH4 9ES) on **Wednesday 19th 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

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

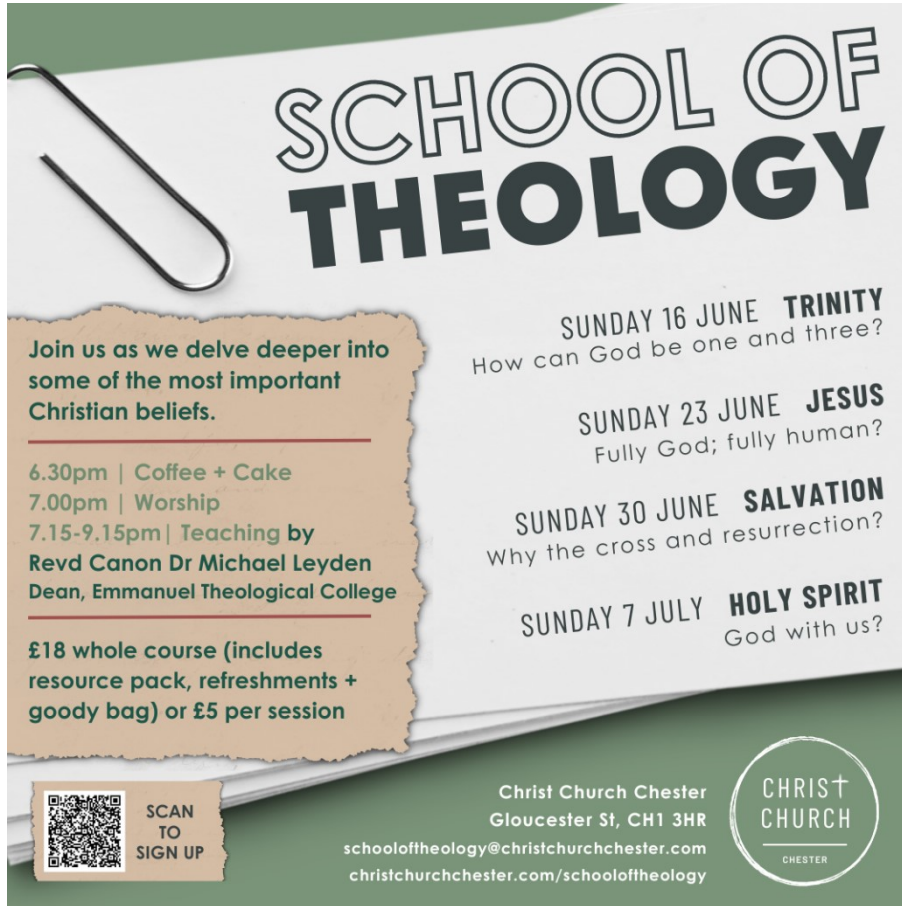
The Rota for readers/intercessors and sidespeople is accessible at:

<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



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>

Art Competition Results.

For lovers of Christian Art, the following website is worth subscribing to

[CHRISTIAN ART | Daily Gospel Reading & Art Reflection](#)

The website recently held a competition for artists to submit examples of their contemporary Christian art. Viewers are able to vote for their favourite art at

[Art Competition Finalists | CHRISTIAN ART | Daily Gospel Reading & Art Reflection](#)

My favourite is the simple drawing of Mary's view of the crucifixion.