



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 homily this week, and to Helen Allison for allowing me to republish Peter Jackson's interesting article from July 2010.

Kind Regards

Stephen Hutchinson (admin@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org)

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Eccleston & Pulford Parish Contact Information

Rector	Revd. Dr Stephen Torr	Rector@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org
Associate Minister	Revd. Holly Torr	messychurch@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 & Silent Church	Rob Hughes	SilentChurch@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org
Licensed Lay Minister	Jeanette Howe	Jeanette@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org
Treasurer	Bridget Marsden	Treasurer@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org
Safeguarding Officers	Hilary & Jeanette	Safeguarding@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org
Electoral Roll Officer	Clare Willan	
Organists	Derek Whatling	
Director of Music	Maureen Richards	mothemusic@gmail.com
Tower Captains	vacancy	
PCC Secretary	vacancy	
Newsletter/ Website / Admin	Stephen Hutchinson	admin@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org
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 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	Hutch
Sunday 7/7/24	9.45am * HC Pulford	Ezekiel 2.1-5	tbc	tbc	ST	n/a
Sunday 14 th July	11.15am HC Eccleston	Amos 7.7-15	tbc	tbc	ST	Hutch
Sunday 21 st July	9.45am HC Pulford	Jerem. 23.1-6	tbc	tbc	ST	n/a
Sunday 21 st July	10.45am Messy Church - location tbc.					
Sunday 28 th July	11.15am HC Eccleston	2 Kings 4.42-44	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc

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



The poster features a black background with yellow and blue decorative shapes. At the top, it says 'You are invited to...' in white, followed by 'Messy Church!' in large blue letters. To the right is a red and white logo with the words 'Messy Church'. Below this, a white text box explains that Messy Church is an informal church with crafts, games, and fun for all ages, meeting in village halls and moving to the church for worship. It lists the dates and locations: 10.45am every 3rd Sunday of the month at Eccleston and Pulford Village Halls. Two colored boxes at the bottom provide contact information: a yellow box with dates and a blue box with the parish name and contact details.

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]

Associate Minister - NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT

We wish to congratulate and welcome Holly on her appointment of Assistant Curate to Eccleston & Pulford.

The Bishop of Chester has appointed the Reverend Holly Gwynneth Torr to be Assistant Curate, to be known as Associate Minister of the benefice of Eccleston and Pulford in the Deanery of Chester. Holly will remain as Chaplain at Chester Hospitals. The Bishop of Birkenhead will license Holly at a service on Monday, 22nd July 2024 at 9.30am in the Chapel at Foxhill, Tarvin Road, Frodsham, WA6 6XB.

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.

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 – “Taking our Minds Captive”



I have written in the past about “the mind’ and how thinking (especially over-thinking) is by far and away the most addictive of any the others we might mention! Because nearly everyone on the planet is potentially susceptible, and it becomes an unnoticed habit. Any kind of meditation, or practicing ‘stillness’ (which isn’t necessarily the same thing!) can’t completely eradicate thoughts, even for a short time. But it is entirely possible to decide what we choose to think about when we notice un-called-for thoughts drift into our minds. The experience of stillness can be defined in terms of when our thoughts no longer take us away from who we really are, and what we **choose** to think about (in that stillness).

We can’t help thoughts intruding into our times of stillness, but we certainly can let them float by when we choose to re-focus our ‘purpose’ (priorities) at any particular time. In the context of Silent Church, our purpose is to simply wait on God, and discern what His Holy Spirit wants to ‘say’ to us - individually or corporately - and we leave that up to Him.

The first meeting of Silent Church will be held in St Mary’s Eccleston on Wednesday, July 3rd. We’ll be gathering from 6.50 pm or so to start at 7.00pm.

There’s nothing to prepare, or to bring with you, except a willingness to sit in silence for a few moments (typically half-an-hour, to forty minutes), with the intention of simply **being** together - **with** God, and **solely for** God.

In order to introduce the first session, I’ll be inviting participants to consider a short passage from Paul’s Second Letter to the church in Corinth - Chapter 10 - in which he says 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.”***

What he means is this - that for as long as the world seems to be ever-more-obsessed with information, evidence and proof (it was the same in Paul's day!), unbelieving minds cling to what they might consider to be absolutely logical and provable. This leaves little room for "the spiritual", personal experience and intuition. We need to look at the world in the same way as Christ would have done in the same circumstances.

He isn't visible, nor 'provable' in the usual sense of the term. But He is (and always will be) with us, in the Person of the Holy Spirit within. Through corporate and private prayer, and making time to let God have His way (in stillness), we can more readily discern and understand God's will for us, and how we should live our lives as our Lord demonstrated twenty centuries ago (and ever since) through His disciples throughout the ages.

Any 'thoughts' we may have about controlling or diverting what we think about, routinely, are an illusion. Trying to drive thoughts away is almost always counter-productive! But we **can** recognise them, even embrace them (all of them!) - and 'take them captive' just long enough to put them into the context that God wants us to see, not what an unbelieving world might expect.

When we think 'from the heart', we're more likely to think positively - even in the midst of so many worrisome circumstances. If we think positively, it's much more likely we'll act more positively - and that's surely what God requires of us all... in all circumstances.

In conclusion, I'd encourage you to come along to a meeting of Silent Church, and to experience, first-hand, a quiet and mutually-supportive environment.

And to simply 'be' - rather than 'do'.

Footnote.

Whilst it isn't necessary to "book in" in advance, I would be pleased to hear from people who might be interested to support Silent Church in these early stages - so please email me at:

SilentChurch@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org

[Rob Hughes – June 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>

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

The Book of Common Prayer

This article written by Peter Jackson originally appeared in the July/August 2010 Parish Church Newsletter.

We certainly owe a debt to those who rendered not only the Book of Common Prayer, but also the Bible, into English. In 1580, the majority of the population of the UK could neither read nor write English, much less understand Latin. Historians have suggested that even the clergy, in many cases, had no Latin and merely parroted the words!

The Book of Common Prayer brings to mind Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury (1533-1553). It was he who did much of the work of preparation and he left behind him not just a Prayer Book but a work of unsurpassed beauty.

Churchgoing declined during the second half of the 20th century and come attributed this to a failure on the part of churchgoers to understand the 17th Century English of the Liturgy. My own view is that the lack of understanding owed more to the decline in RE teaching in Primary Schools. My recollection in my Primary Years (1927-1932) was of a short RE lesson each day based on the Book of Common Prayer. The haunting beauty of the prose has been a lifelong joy. The Book has permeated and still permeates the English language. There are said to be 649 references to the Book of Common Prayer in the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations!

I always think of Evensong when I contemplate Cranmer. This service was, apparently, created by him from the seven-fold cycle of prayers, the two offices of Vespers and Compline. It radiates calm, and although one should not have favourites, I declare this service to be mine. Unfortunately, Evensong is, paradoxically, at the wrong end of the day in modern England, where Sundays feature wall-to-wall sport, television and so forth. My solution has been to take in the BBC Radio 3 Choral Evensong programme each Wednesday or Sunday at 3pm. The services are broadcast from Cathedrals, Churches and Colleges, and I recommend them wholeheartedly.

As to poor Cranmer, it was his fate to be a Protestant Archbishop at the accession of the appalling Queen Mary I ("Bloody Mary"). He was arrested imprisoned and convicted of heresy. For this there could only be one penalty, burning at the stake.

At this point, we should consider an act passed in 1401 and named “The Statute of De Heretico Comburendo” which decreed that the penalty for heresy was to be burning at the stake. Heresy was seen, from the 12th Century onwards, as “treason against God” and the worse crime, and once burnt, the heretics remains must be removed from the earth and consigned to flowing water. The Church took no part in the burning, but handed the victim to the secular power on the grounds that “the Church does not shed blood”. This to me seems to hover between hypocrisy and moral cowardice but it is difficult to penetrate the mind and logic of mediaeval world!

We must also remember, with Cranmer, those who laboured to translate, publish and issue the Bible in English. There were several such authors. There had been partial translations of aspects of the Bible since 11th Century but the main effort came in 15th Century with Wycliffe, a former Master of Balliol, Rector of Lutterworth, and spiritual leader of the Lollard movement. Although he was pursued, he died, unusually, in his bed. The secular Lollard leader, Sir John Oldcastle, was not so fortunate, being captured, convicted of heresy and burnt at the stake in 1417.

Wycliffe had died in 1384, but 44 years later, a papal edict required that he was to be exhumed and burnt at the stake. This was carried out with due solemnity and in accordance with the statute. But the lamp of translation glowed too brightly and it was not extinguished. It was taken up in the following century by William Tyndale whose heroic efforts were eventually crowned by success with the publication, by Coverdale, in 1535, of the first English Bible.

Tyndale seems to have spent his life on the continent, dodging the agents of Sir Thomas More whose mind-set revolved upon the burning of heretics. Tyndale was eventually captured and convicted and went to the stake.

It is important that we remember Cranmer, Wycliffe and Tyndale who were martyred, but provided us with readable texts. Tyndale’s work resounds in the authorized version (The King James Bible of 1611) and remains, with a revision in the 19th Century as the only English Bible. As was said in 1535, “now the plough - boy hath his Bible!”.

[original article by Peter Jackson – July/August 2010]

Stained Glass Window of the week from Pulford Church.

Another beautiful stained glass window from Pulford Church. The attention to detail by the artist who designed and implemented these windows is breathtaking.



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 “*Discoveries in Old English*” by James Harvey at Pulford Village Hall (CH4 9ES) on **Wednesday 18th September** 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

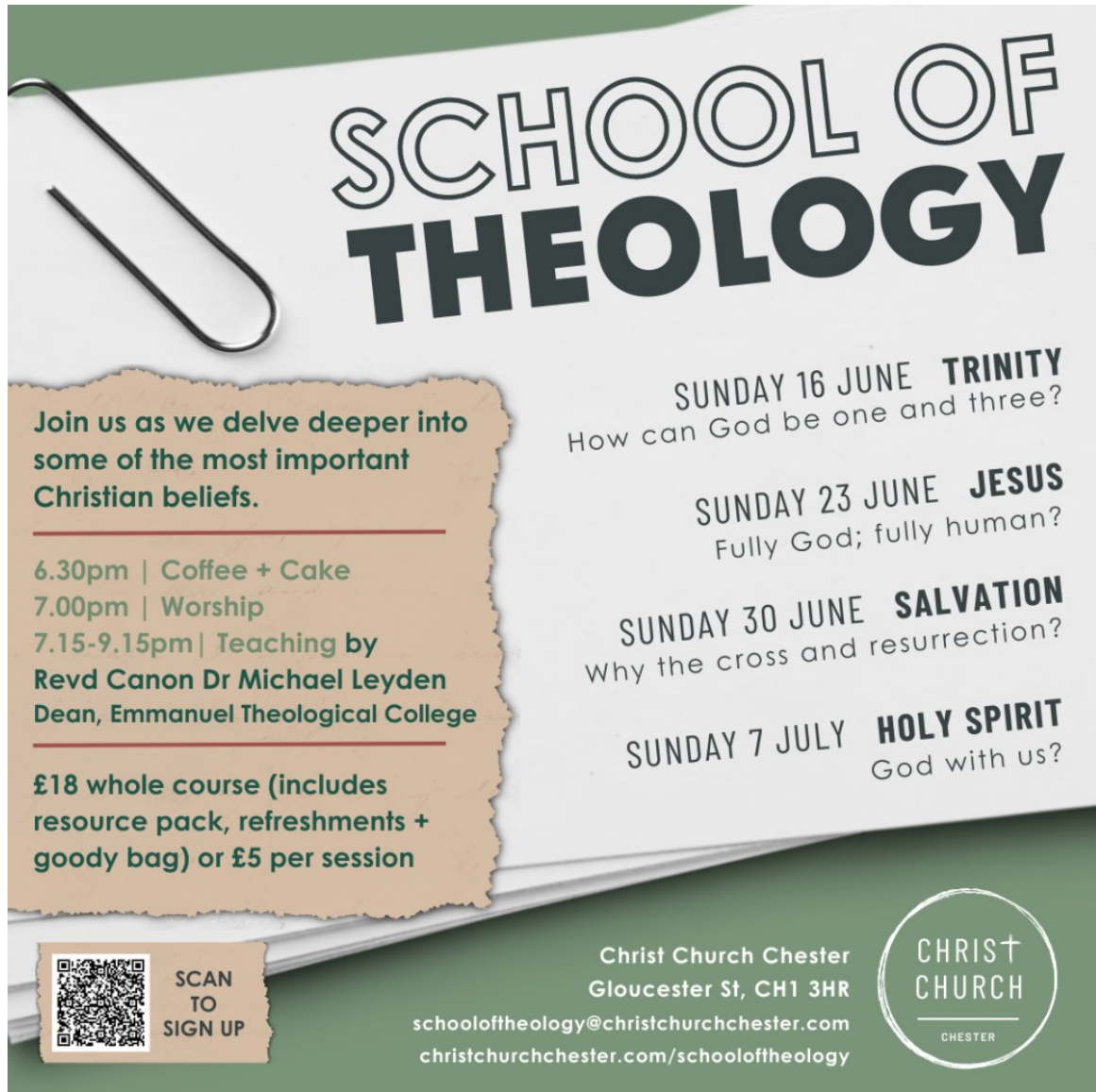
The Rota for readers/intercessors and sidespeople is accessible at:

<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

A flyer for the School of Theology, designed to look like a piece of paper pinned to a green background with a silver paperclip. The title 'SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY' is at the top in large, bold, black letters. Below it, four sessions are listed: '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?), and 'SUNDAY 7 JULY HOLY SPIRIT' (God with us?). A central text box with a torn edge contains details: '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', and '£18 whole course (includes resource pack, refreshments + goody bag) or £5 per session'. At the bottom left is a QR code with the text 'SCAN TO SIGN UP'. At the bottom right is the contact information for Christ Church Chester: 'Christ Church Chester, Gloucester St, CH1 3HR', 'schooloftheology@christchurchchester.com', and 'christchurchchester.com/schooloftheology'. The Christ Church Chester logo is also present.

For more information or to book tickets please visit:

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

Christian Art.

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

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