

Friday 12th July to Friday 26th July 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 Rob Hughes for his homily this week, and to Helen Allison for allowing me to republish Peter Jackson's interesting article from December 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 and Pulford Church Keyholder	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 14 th July	11.15am HC Eccleston	Amos 7.7-15	Terry	Jeanette	Rev Steve	Hutch
Sunday 21 st July	9.45am HC Pulford	Jerem. 23.1-6	Rob	Margaret Walker	Rev Steve	n/a
Sunday 21 st July	10.45am Messy Church – Pulford Village Hall					
Sunday 28 th July	11.15am HC Eccleston	2 Kings 4.42-44	Ann S.	Mo	Rev Steve	tbc
Sunday 4 th Aug.	9.45am Pulford	Exodus 16.2-4, 9-15	Paul	Sue.	Jeanette	n/a
Sun 11 th Aug.	11.15am Eccleston	1 Kings 19:4-8	Penny	Nayland	Rev Steve	
Sun 18 th Aug.	9.45am Pulford	Proverbs 9:1-6	Helen	Jeanette	Rev Steve	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



The poster features a black background with yellow and blue decorative shapes. The text is in white and yellow. A logo for 'Messy Church' is in the top right corner.

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 Homily – July 2024.

*“Above all else, guard your heart,
for everything you do flows from it.”*

Proverbs 4:23



The Book of Proverbs was written by King Solomon - King David's son, and generally considered (at least in the Bible) as the wisest of men. You may remember from recent Lectionary readings that when asked by God what he wanted most, Solomon asked for wisdom... specifically in order to rule his people wisely and well.

Clearly, this doesn't specifically refer to the mind, but most certainly alludes to it. In human terms, I'd say the tendency is to let our minds rule our hearts - especially when it comes to seeking the material things in life, and in the quest for power to rule or to dominate.

So where does this fit in terms of Silent Church? Well in western societies, we tend to regard the words ***Mindfulness*** and ***Meditation*** as synonymous. They are not!

- On the one hand, *mindfulness* here speaks about being mindful ***OF*** your thoughts, rather than filling your mind up with more! Un-necessary thinking is what needs to be 'noticed' and allowed to drift on by.
- On the other hand, in Eastern traditions (and in this context), no distinction is made between heart and mind. So, what we have interpreted as mind-full-ness can be more accurately interpreted as heart-full-ness!

Don't get me wrong - I've been grateful for 'mindfulness meditation' as an effective introduction to 'calming the mind down a bit' - decluttering the mind in order to better understand the implications and benefits of 'heartfelt stillness' (the words presence and awareness also fit here).

During Silent Church, I hope you might experience this sense of allowing intrusive thoughts from the mind to float on by - and simply allow them to be displaced by thoughts from the heart - and letting God have His say. When everything we think and do 'comes from the heart' surely, we're doing what Jesus consistently demonstrated throughout his life, and requires of all who chose to follow him ever since.

Heartfulness (or lack of it!!) can influence what we say and how we behave.... We can, sometimes unwittingly, have powerful influence over others as a result of what we say, and how we behave. We're called to take care of others heart-fully; we can best accomplish that when we look after our own hearts (i.e. ourselves), too!!

To my 'mind', King Solomon summed this up quite succinctly: ***“Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.”***

[Rob Hughes – July 10th 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

Eccleston Church History by Peter Jackson – Part 1

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

Eccleston, as a village, is something of an enigma. Many Parish Churches are evolutionary. Many were built in the 16th and 17th Centuries, perhaps even earlier, and over the succeeding centuries they have been altered, reconstructed and regrettably in the 18th Century, neglected. In Eccleston, it has been different, rather than repair and extend, Churches have been demolished and replaced. It is as a result of this that the present Church is one of the most recent structures in the village. The present building is our starting point in a quest to determine how many such buildings have existed.

The present Church is reputed to be the third to have been built. The earliest reference however, is in 1188 which argues for five or six possible churches, since the advent of Christianity. ***The name Eccleston has been defined as meaning “church-town”.***

In an effort to unravel this, I have looked at such evidence starting with the present and have endeavored to work backwards to the origins of the Church building, or even a “worship site” in the village. Thus, we pass from the factual present, via the recorded past, and eventually into conjecture and surmise. But the effort is worthwhile.

The present, and quite magnificent, Church was designed by G F Bodley at the behest of the 1st Duke of Westminster and, if a memorial to the Duke was needed, it would be this building. He is reputed to have asked for a small cathedral but Bodley achieved something closely akin.

The tower gives the impression of a massive proportion, but on entering the Church, one cannot help but be struck by its modest proportions. I use “modest” solely in reference to dimension, but the same term could not be applied to the interior furnishing, design and finish. It is easy to see why the cost of building was £40,000 (equivalent to over £3 million in today's terms), and this was at a time during the second half of the 19th century, when average Church building costs were between £7,000 and £10,000. The Church remains very much as originally built and Bodley's design shows a shrewdly designed balance between ancient and modern.



Eccleston Church History – Part 2

We now look at the previous church which was situated in the old Churchyard and which was demolished (except for a fragment which now backs the Grosvenor family graves) at the end of the 19th Century.

Just as the present Church is one of the most recently built in the Diocese, its predecessor must have surely been the shortest lived in the diocese, surviving from construction to demolition in 1899, for less than 100 years! It replaced a medieval structure (14th Century) which had become decrepit.

The architect on this occasion was William Porden (1755-1822), who had been appointed estate surveyor by the 1st Earl Grosvenor in 1784, with responsibility for the Estate in Mayfair. In the early 19th Century, he was appointed to reconstruct Eaton Hall which had been built to a design by Vanburgh. The result of Porden's work was, in Ormerod's terms, a "sort of church gothic". To the uninitiated, it might seem (from contemporary illustrations), to have been somewhat eccentric and one line of criticism being based on an excessive use of ironwork!

The 18th Century, however, was the age of iron which was the material of the age but which did not always chime, particularly in Gothic buildings, with stonework. Porden's other work included parts of the Brighton Pavilion for the Prince Regent. Again, to some, this style was somewhat eccentric although technically impressive.

Whatever the criticisms, however, it did not prevent Earl Grosvenor appointing Porden to design the new Church. This he did in red sandstone with a western tower and the result was pleasing. Ormerod almost waxed lyrical about it, but he did mention the ill-effect of ironwork employed in the stone mullions in the windows!

During its short existence, the Church was subjected to many revisions and reconstructions. A chancel was added in 1853, whilst side galleries were removed in 1869. A new organ and brass eagle lectern were donated by the 1st Duke of Westminster in 1874. There had been a complete renovation of the Church in the 1850's. There was even a Caravaggio painting in the church.

It has to be remembered that the Grosvenor family were rising in eminence in the 18th /19th Centuries and they clearly wanted a Church which reflected their patronage. The 19th Century may be seen in this light. This which came to final fruition in 1899 with the building of the present Church at the behest of the 1st Duke. Additionally, we are looking at the Victorian passion for Church reconstruction. Much was necessary, of course, but in their zeal, the architects of the day sometimes failed to distinguish good from bad. In their defense, little had been done in the 17th and 18th Centuries which had, of course, seen the Civil War and the depredations of the Puritan movement.

[Peter Jackson - December 2010]

As a co-incidence, and interesting addition to Peter's original article I was trying to find some architectural drawings of the current church. I booked a session in the Chester Records Office to look at some architectural drawings of Eccleston Church, only to find that they were of the Porden designed church. I have included my photos of these drawings from 1809. The original drawings are available to view in the Chester Records office. [Steve]



Figure 1 William Porden Plans for Eccleston Church 1809



Figure 2 William Porden Plans for Eccleston Church 1809



Figure 3 William Porden Plans for Eccleston Church 1809

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 Podiatrist / Foot Care Clinic at Pulford Village Hall

Peter Gosmore (our Pulford Church keyholder) is trying to start a foot care clinic in Pulford. He has arranged for a fully qualified podiatrist to visit at the Village Hall.

- Prices are fair and reasonable
- Will start on Tuesday morning 6th August, initially once per month but it depends on numbers, can easily increase if there is a need
- Annie is fully qualified and insured.
- If anyone is interested, please send an email to pulfordvillagehall@gmail.com

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 ...

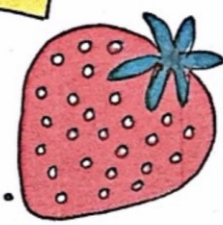
[St. Mary's Churchyard in Pulford, Cheshire – Find a Grave Cemetery](#)



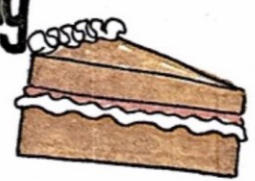
BRING YOUR OWN PICNIC



THERE'S A PARTY
IN THE PARK
WILL YOU COME?...



Sunday 21st July
12- 3pm



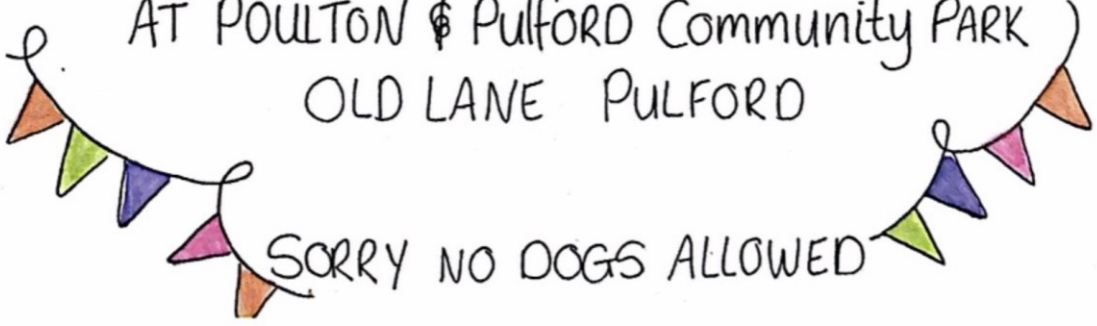
BAR/SOFT DRINKS



FAMILY GAMES

FREE ENTRY

AT POULTON & PULFORD COMMUNITY PARK
OLD LANE PULFORD



SORRY NO DOGS ALLOWED

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)

Christian Art.

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

[CHRISTIAN ART | Daily Gospel Reading & Art Reflection](https://www.christianart.com/)

Silent Church St Mary's Eccleston Wednesday, July 17th, 7.00pm

In reintroducing Silent Church, 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.

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.

For further information, don't hesitate to contact Rob. He can be emailed at:

SilentChurch@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org