



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 March 2011.

Kind Regards

Stephen Hutchinson (admin@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org)

Contents

Eccleston & Pulford Parish Contact Information	3
Church Service Dates Times and Locations.....	4
Important News and Reminders	5
Bring and Share Picnic.	5
Vacancies	5
Food Bank	6
Katie Prescott moving on.....	6
Rob Hughes Homily – Some final thoughts about thoughts.....	7
Eccleston Church History by Peter Jackson – Part 3	10
Adverts.	13
Pulford Podiatrist / Foot Care Clinic at Pulford Village Hall	13
Pulford and Poulton Local History Group Talks (Held at Pulford Village Hall)	14
Pulford Church App.....	14
Cemetery Map	14
Reader/Intercessor/Sidesperson Rota	15
Foxhills Events	15
Christian Art.....	15
Rob Hughes - Silent Church	16
Official Facebook pages for Eccleston Church and Pulford Church:.....	16

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
Vergers	Julie Rowland & Sue Payne	
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	
Organist	Derek Whatling	
Director of Music	Maureen Richards	mothemusic@gmail.com
Tower Captains	vacancies	
PCC Secretary	Jeanette Howe	
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 4 th Aug.	9.45am Pulford HC	Exodus 16:2-	Paul	Sue.	Jeanette	n/a
Sun 11 th Aug.	11.15am Eccleston HC	1 Kings 19:4-8	Penny	Nayland	Rev Steve	Hutch
Sun 18 th Aug.	9.45am Pulford HC	Proverbs 9:1-6	Helen	Jeanette	Rev Steve	n/a
Sun 18 th Aug.	Summer Bring and Share Picnic at Eccleston Church 12 noon – 2pm (Bouncy Castle and Activities for Children)					
Sun 25 th Aug.	11.15am Eccleston Trad HC	Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18	Garth	Hutch	Rev Attwater	Hutch
Sun 1 st Sep.	9.45am Pulford HC	Deut. 4:1-2, 6- 9	Sue	Paul	Rev Ian D.	n/a
Sun 8 th Sep.	11.15am Eccleston HC	Isaiah 35:4-7a	Anne B.	Hutch	Rev Steve	Hutch
Sun 15 th Sep.	9.45am Pulford HC	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Paul	Jeanette	Rev Steve	n/a
Sun 15 th Sep.	10.45 am Harvest Messy Church Eccleston					



For up-to-date service times, please refer to the website by scanning the QR code on the left.

Important News and Reminders

Bring and Share Picnic.



Vacancies

We are looking for **tower captains** for both Eccleston and Pulford Churches. 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

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]

Katie Prescott moving on.

Katie Prescott, the former head mistress at Eccleston Church of England Primary School is moving on, and we would like to thank Katie for her 14 years of hard work, devotion to teaching and her dedication to the school and pupils

Those wishing to contribute towards a leaving gift for Katie can do so using either of the following options:

1 - through the treasurer (Bridget Marsden),

2 – or directly through the Eccleston Church of St Mary's bank account (remembering to add a suitable reference e.g. 'Katie Prescott gift'):

The Eccleston Church of St Mary's bank details are as follows:

Account Name: Eccleston & Pulford PCC

Sort Code: 60-40-08

Account Number: 79937926

Rob Hughes Homily – Some final thoughts about thoughts.

Thinking back to the general theme of Biblical quotes about ‘the mind’ and ‘thoughts, may I push my luck here and attempt to set this in the context of setting some time aside solely for God... quality time for simply be-ing, rather than 'constantly do-ing’.

With an apology to those who might think this a ‘bit Zen-ish’! But I’ve certainly found it to be true for me that when I come across the phrase ‘releasing the power of the mind’, that can be a double-edged sword!

- On the one hand, we need our God-given minds in order to ‘live’: the thinking mind’s necessary to help us: communicate with each other; when planning and preparing for a whole host of things, from choosing what to eat later on, to choosing a career, and even to who we share our lives with; for enjoying ourselves; for protecting our families’ and our own wellbeing (which includes fight-or-flight decisions when danger looms).
- On the other hand, over time, our egos have over-evolved to the extent that we tend to over-think too much stuff. And when we do that, our minds take on a sometime dangerous power of their own - a power that make us fruitlessly worry about things that are totally beyond our control, and to instantly react to situations inappropriately!

St Paul has this to say in his letter to the Church in Rome!

*“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

In writing this, Paul urges followers to live a life that’s pleasing to God - to look to standards of loving behaviour set by Jesus, not to the standards or expectations that are accepted by modern-day society as ‘the norm’ (unless, of course, they are the same.) He cautions readers not to simply conform to the way things are, or how we are usually expected be, but to explore how lives can be transformed by following Christ. The message for us, here today, is no different: we mustn’t let ourselves be ‘controlled’ or shaped by ‘the world’ - a world that seems to place more value on generating wealth, material ownership or selfish ambition.

We need faith and courage to be guided by the Holy Spirit, in every situation. And in later verses (12: 4-80), St Paul reminds us that we’re all one body in Christ, and our spiritual gifts are to be used in doing whatever God needs us to do with them. In his letter to the Philippians, Paul offers advice about how to discern God’s will, and how to interpret the standards set by Jesus Himself:

*“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

Wow! How’s that for an advert for ‘filling our minds’ with things that we should be thinking about - and in doing so, displace unnecessary, useless and self-centered thoughts that hold us back.

Here’s the blueprint of how we should behave towards each other! And all too often, that’s a function of how we feel, and what we think, at that time! And in this complex and dangerous world, there’s much to be concerned about - of course - but not if we find ourselves constantly overwhelmed by worry or frustration, or anger, or over-thinking...

To think-through difficult or tricky situations is what our minds have to do, as a matter of routine, every waking hour. But to take decision-making as one example...once a decision is made (which is probably the best available under the prevailing circumstances), worrying about whether or not the decision is right (or not) is plain daft (...that is, of course, until something changes - and it’s only then that we can usefully take stock again, and re-evaluate if we need to...)!

The worst thing we can do when inappropriate, worrying or ‘nasty’ thoughts spring into mind is try to stop them! It simply doesn’t work, and more often than not, resisting them makes the clutter worse!

We can’t control what pops into our minds, but we **absolutely can control** what we wish to think about! And St Paul’s solution actually works! When we make time, or create an environment where we can simply ‘be still with the silence of our hearts’, it’s then we might remember to think about these things:

“Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—whatever is excellent or praiseworthy” ... think on these things.

In daily living, if ever we're uncertain how to respond to a situation, it's often helpful to think in terms of what Jesus would have done in the same circumstances - and the quote above's telling us how Jesus would see things, and how He wants us to see them before we respond...

I mentioned last time in a homily:

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

That's certainly true when we make, or take, time to look at things in 'the right way'
- God's way...



..... and someone else's!!!

[Rob Hughes – July 2024]

Eccleston Church History by Peter Jackson – Part 3

This article written by Peter Jackson originally appeared in the March 2011 Parish Church Newsletter.

We now come to the Church, situated in the old churchyard, which was demolished, by Porden in the first decade of the 19th Century in order to make way for the building, his short-lived Gothic structure which was the subject of Part 2.

As we peer back, through time, it becomes increasingly difficult to establish facts about previous structures. One of the glories of the present day is the maintenance of records at state and local level and these will provide invaluable information to the historians of the future.

As to the church we are now researching, it is said (in the current-day Eccleston Church Guide) to have been a dilapidated Church which dated back to the 14th Century building.



Figure 1 Eccleston Church 1800

A 14th Century Church would be somewhat decrepit! Age (some 450 years) alone, would account for some of the disrepair, but it is necessary to contemplate the centuries through which the Church survived:

The 14th Century was the century of the Black Death (1349), a pandemic which struck on a global scale and changed forever, not only England, but Europe and the then known world.

The next century, the 15th, saw the War of the Roses, an internecine strife which lasted 40 years and disrupted England.

The 16th Century was the century of the Reformation, with the “roller coaster ride” of successive Tudor monarchs who operated between Protestantism and Catholicism.

The effect of the divergence, however, may not have been keenly felt at Eccleston. The 17th Century, however, saw the emergence of the Puritan faction, and its consequent depredations in the Civil War. The Parliamentary forces used Churches as stabling, ammunition dumps and so forth, and there is no reason to believe that Eccleston Church escaped such treatment.

We do know that the Rector, The Revd. Bispham, was evicted from his living because he had, as was his duty, supplied an armed horseman to the Royalist forces. He was restored after the war.

Ormerod (Volume1) mentions the Revd. Bispham as follows:

“Bispham was of a gentleman’s family in Lancashire, and rector of Brindle in that county. He was also rector of Eccleston, and of one of the moieties of Lymme, and having attained the great age of 88, after suffering much from the civil disturbances, died Jan 26, 1685, and was buried in St. Mary’s Chapel, behind the altar screen of the choir, where a monument remains in his memory.”

Another casualty of the 17th Century was The Revd. Ralph Lowndes, evicted for refusing to take the oath of allegiance to William. He was never restored.

The 18th Century was comparatively benign in contrast. There is a late 18th Century print in the Vestry at Eccleston (see previous page) which shows a half-timbered structure. Eccleston Church was half-timbered until 1808.

Contributions to “Cheshire Sheaf” in 1882 refer to “the old timber Church of Eccleston”.

An additional cause of disrepair may well lie in the financing of repairs. Pre-Reformation moneys were raised by the Churchwardens by way of the brewing and sale of Church Ales. This was stopped in the reign of Edward VI, possible as it was seen to be connected with the pre-Reformation Catholic administrator. The Churchwardens were, however, empowered to levy a local tax.

There are few references to the administration of this Church. But in 1547, shortly before his death, Henry VIII instructed his Sheriff to carry out a visitation to all Churches and to report on three issues, namely, the Communion plate, the Clergy Vestments, and the bells. Eccleston fared well, but other local parishes were found to have “lost” their plate and vestments, usually because these had been taken, by members of the laity, in satisfaction of debt.

Eccleston is shown as having a peal of 5 bells, which argues a tower. In 1549, in the will of Richard Grosvenor, includes an item “to the making of the roof and slating of the North part of Eccleston Church uniform with the South side”.

The final view of this Church must be a half-timbered Church building with a stone tower and from 1549, a slated roof. This however is part speculation!

Oddly enough, more seems to be known about the Church interior than its exterior. The wall monuments are described in Ormerod, A “History of Eccleston”, written in 1770 by the Revd. Thomas Crane, Senior Classics Master at the King’s School. This volume is lost but it may be that it comprised little more than a listing of the monuments.

[Peter Jackson – March 2011]

Eccleston circa 1870 (from 1870-72, John Marius Wilson's *Imperial Gazetteer of England and Wales* described **Eccleston** thus:

“ECCLESTON, a village, a township, and a parish in Great Boughton district, Cheshire. The village stands on the river Dee, near the Chester and Shrewsbury railway, 2¾ miles S of Chester; is a pretty place; borrows beauty from the Marquis of Westminster's neighbouring seat of Eaton Hall; and has a post office under Chester.

The township includes the village. Real property, £2, 112. Pop., 267. Houses, 49. The parish contains also the township of Eaton. Acres, 2, 402. Real property, £4, 186. Pop., 349. Houses, 64. The manor belongs to the Marquis of Westminster. Eccleston hill commands a fine prospect. The parish is traversed by Watling-street. The living is a rectory in the diocese of Chester. Value, £403. Patron, the Marquis of Westminster. The church was built, in 1808, by Earl Grosvenor, after designs by Pordon; is a handsome structure, with lofty pinnacled tower; and contains the family tombs of the Grosvenors. Charities, £14.”*

Ref: GB Historical GIS / University of Portsmouth, History of Eccleston, in Chester and Cheshire | Map and description, A Vision of Britain through Time.

URL: <https://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/place/2517>

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

It is interesting to note, that the name Eccleston actually means "Church Town". In 1929, an excavation at the church, revealed 20 bodies which are believed to date from 390 AD. They are the earliest known burials in Cheshire. Part of the churchyard is unusual in that it is circular in shape, which indicates pagan origins.

Please contact me if there are any errors or omissions in the cemetery map.

<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 Ecclestone 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.org.uk/)

Rob Hughes - Silent Church

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.

Pattern of Silent Church:

- Tuesday August 13th, 7pm Pulford Church.
- Wednesday August 28th, 7pm Eccleston Church.
- Tuesday September 10th, 7pm Pulford Church.
- Wednesday September 25th, 7pm Eccleston Church.

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

SilentChurch@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org

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