

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> August to Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2024



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

[Eccleston and Pulford Churches](#)

Email:

[rector@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org](mailto:rector@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org)

[EcclestonChurchWarden@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org](mailto:EcclestonChurchWarden@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org)

[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 his homily this week, and to Helen Allison for allowing me to republish Peter Jackson's interesting article from April 2011.

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>
<b>Associate Minister</b>	<b>Revd. Holly Torr</b>	<a href="mailto:messychurch@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org">messychurch@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>
Vergers	Julie Rowland & Sue Payne	
Messy Church	Revd. Holly Torr	<a href="mailto:messychurch@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org">messychurch@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org</a>
Home Worship & Silent Church	Rob Hughes	<a href="mailto:SilentChurch@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org">SilentChurch@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org</a>
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	Clare Willan	
Organist	Derek Whatling	
Director of Music	Maureen Richards	<a href="mailto:mothemusic@gmail.com">mothemusic@gmail.com</a>
Tower Captains	<b>vacancies</b>	
PCC Secretary	Jeanette Howe	
Newsletter/ Website / Admin	Stephen Hutchinson	<a href="mailto:admin@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org">admin@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org</a>
Pulford Village Hall Hire and <b>Pulford Church Keyholder</b>	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>	<a href="mailto:HilaryGarrard@btinternet.com">HilaryGarrard@btinternet.com</a>

## 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
Sun 18 <sup>th</sup> Aug.	9.45am Pulford HC	Proverbs 9:1-6	Helen	Jeanette	Rev Steve	n/a
Sun 18 <sup>th</sup> Aug.	Summer Bring and Share Picnic at Eccleston Church 12 noon – 2pm (Bouncy Castle and Activities for Children)					
Sun 25 <sup>th</sup> Aug.	11.15am Eccleston Trad HC	Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18	Garth	Hutch	Rev Attwater	Hutch
Sun 1 <sup>st</sup> Sep.	9.45am Pulford HC	Deut. 4:1-2, 6- 9	Sue	Paul	Rev Ian D.	n/a
Sun 8 <sup>th</sup> Sep.	11.15am Eccleston HC	Isaiah 35:4-7a	Anne B.	Hutch	Rev Steve	Hutch
Sun 15 <sup>th</sup> Sep.	9.45am Pulford HC	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Paul	Jeanette	Rev Steve	n/a
Sun 15 <sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 – Directly through the Eccleston Church of St Mary's bank account (remembering to add a suitable reference e.g. 'For K. Prescott'):

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**

- 3 – Or by putting money in the collection box at the back of the church in the box labelled "For Katie Prescott".

## Rob Hughes Homily – Shhhhh - Silence!

Having entitled my previous homily as ‘final thoughts about thoughts’, I came across something the other day that I wanted to share with you - this time not entirely in the context of Silent Church. This is about what the Bible has to say, specifically, about silence and stillness:

From the Old Testament: **“Be still, and know that I am God”** - (Psalm 46.10)

- Basically, the psalmist was saying (and the message to us) is that no matter what happens, God will always be there to guide, and protect, and support. So, we can wait on him even during chaotic times.

From the New Testament: Jesus Himself is quoted as saying: **“Peace, be still”** (Mark 4.39) - We know the story well - Jesus awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, **‘Peace! Be still!’**. After which the wind ceased, “and there was a great calm.

It’s interesting to note that most Bible translations not only use the word ‘rebuke’ (or equivalent), they also include an exclamation mark... Jesus clearly commanded the storm to cease.

One school of thought says that this account is a metaphor for His power to bring peace into turbulent lives. I guess we’d all appreciate that these days!! Another possibility has been put forward that He was a bit miffed that the disciples were so afraid, in spite of His presence with them, and promises to them. Maybe He was a tad disappointed at their lack of faith (given that the literal translation of “Be Still”, taken from the Greek, is: Hush! In modern terms: Shut Up!).

But in all honesty, how often do we ask God for something but don’t stop to listen to Him in response? We have excuses to hand, don’t we? Our busy-ness; our genuinely anxious thoughts (some understandable; others not so much), there is, in fact, little time to spare in this complex, often-dangerous, always changing, and understandably distracting world.

It certainly isn’t easy to find ‘stillness’ - but we'd do well to remember that in the boat, in the storm, Jesus was probably exhausted, maybe even overwhelmed, by the crowds prior to getting away for some peace and quiet (and sleep) in the boat. Maybe we’d do well to wonder if He’d been a bit grumpy with the disciples for waking Him up through their continuing lack of faith.

It would seem reasonable to conclude that there's a message - a command - to us "be quiet" - be still - for Him. In saying this, believe it or not, it isn't 'yet another advert' for Silent Church.

It's a sincere attempt to offer this challenge: the next time you have fearful and anxious thoughts, that are bouncing around like a violent storm, do as Jesus did. Silence those thoughts by saying, "Peace, be still."

One thing's for certain: whenever we might need encouragement, support or inner strength in order to cope our daily living, we can surely rest in God, wherever we are, - at home, at work, at play. He will be there to be heard.

It's up to us whether or not we choose to listen.

**[Rob Hughes – August 16<sup>th</sup> 2024]**

### **St Mary's Eccleston - Saint #1 - St Cecilia**

Looking up at the stained-glass windows of Eccleston Church, the North wall features a window dedicated to St Cecilia. It shows St Cecilia playing a portative organ.



*Figure 1 St Cecilia*



St Cecilia is the patron saint of music and musicians after allegedly “singing her heart to the Lord” as the musicians played at her wedding.

Musical compositions are dedicated to her, and her feast on 22<sup>nd</sup> November is the occasion of concerts and musical festivals.

She was martyred in about 230, under the Emperor Alexander Severus. (There is also some evidence that instead she perished in Sicily under the Emperor Marcus Aurelius between 176 and 180).

The legend of Cecilia’s death due to her faith and refusal to worship idols, include being condemned to be suffocated in the baths. Since this attempt was unsuccessful, she was then struck three times on the neck with a sword. She continued to live for three days, asking the pope to convert her home into a church.



*Figure 2 Photograph of St Cecilia at the church of St. Cecilia, Trastevere, by Richard Stracke.*

The statue of St Cecilia in the church of St Cecilia in Trastevere, shows her extending three fingers with her right hand and one with her left, representing the Holy Trinity. The sculptor attested that this was how the Saint’s body looked when her tomb was opened in 1599.

**[Stephen Hutchinson. August 2024]**

## Eccleston Church History by Peter Jackson – Part 4

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

The earliest reference to a Church in Eccleston is dated 1188 and we may conjecture that this is the building demolished in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century to make way for that referred to in Part 3.

A much more difficult situation arises when we consider when the Church of 1188 was built. There was, it is true, a “rash” of Church building in the late 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> centuries, but it is necessary to go further back to attempt to establish a date.

The ancient villages of England set great store by the fact that their villages are included in the Domesday Survey. Such is the case with Eccleston, and the name Eccleston has been translated, by various authorities, as meaning “Church Town” or “place with a Church”.

How odd, therefore, that the entry in the Domesday Survey makes no mention of a Church. Various possibilities present themselves. We might ask whether the Surveyors omitted it in error, though this would seem unlikely. It may be that, in fact, there was no actual Church building in Eccleston at the date of the Domesday Survey (1087). A learned article, submitted in the “Cheshire Sheaf” at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century sought to balance and quantify the area of the Hundred. A discrepancy in the overall area has been suggested as relating (possibly) to Eccleston.

A much more sinister reason arises when the early history of the Norman invasion comes under the microscope. William is known to have mounted an offensive against the tribes on the Northern and Western limits of England. This occurred in 1069/1070, and has been referred to as “The Harrowing of the North”. As with all such expeditions before and since, it took the form of “scorched earth”. William is said to have apologized on his death-bed for the brutal aspects of his expedition. However, not much store should be laid on this: it has been the habit of all tyrants, before and since, to pray for redemption when facing death

It might be, therefore that Eccleston Church was a victim of William’s scorched earth policy.

Moran's excellent "Cheshire Churches" shows 3 churches in Chester, with only 9 churches in the rest of Cheshire in the Domesday Survey. It may be, of course, that "scorched earth" had accounted for others, but again, we have our favourite word, "conjecture"!

Prior to 1066, the Anglo-Saxon building, if it existed, would have been simple, little more than a cross and altar being the early manifestation of Christianity at the location.

I like to think that there have been 5 or 6 churches in Eccleston, and that with the sole exception of the present building, these all existed in what is now the Old Churchyard. Certainly, I believe that the first missionaries would have sited their cross and altar as near as possible to the old pagan meeting place, an early example of applied psychology, keeping the new faith as near as possible to their old "comfort zone".

The stones and timbers have not endured. What has endured, however, is the Christian faith, which shines as brightly now as it did some 1400 years ago when the missionaries first set up their cross and altar at Eccleston.

It is of course, the enduring nature of faith which overrides and is so much more important than the fabric of the successive Churches. We are bound to ask ourselves what it is that has made the faith so enduring despite foreign wars, civil wars and strife, epidemics and the Reformation? It is this enduring quality that characterizes Christianity.

**[Peter Jackson – April 2011]**

## A Collection for John Richards.

The Parish Church Council are organizing a collection for our former Church Warden – John Richards. I am sure you will agree with me when I say how much all appreciate the hard work and devotion to duty, John has undertaken in keeping Eccleston Church going the past twenty years. This role, entirely voluntary and unpaid, goes largely unacknowledged. The sheer number of tasks done by a church warden are countless. I am sure John will agree that people don't notice the jobs done, only the jobs not done. It really is a full-time job, which John has been tirelessly doing since he started as Church Warden in 2004 with Eric Gittins. It is testament to his dedication as Church Warden that the quinquennial reports read so glowingly about St Mary's Church Eccleston. From arranging fuel deliveries, boiler servicing, roof inspections, PAT testing, fire extinguisher testing, paying in the plate takings every month, reading and submitting water and electricity meters readings, contacting tour guides, acting as the first point of contact for wedding / funeral requests, repairing the church fabrics and fittings when in need of repair, organizing the cleaning of the church, updating of the rectors board, arranging cover for a Rector on holiday, just to name a few of the countless tasks of a church warden. John also used to act as a regular sidesperson inviting people to share in the Holy Communion or to receive a blessing. John continues to offer his assistance and share his knowledge with the new church warden, who is very grateful for his continuing help.

Those wishing to contribute towards a gift for John in gratitude for all his hard work, can do so using either of the following options:

- 1 - Through the treasurer (Bridget Marsden),
- 2 – Directly through the Eccleston Church of St Mary's bank account (remembering to add a suitable reference e.g. 'For John Richards'):

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**

- 3 – Or by putting money in the collection box at the back of the church in the box labelled "For John Richards".

## 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 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](mailto: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 18<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](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)

## 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:

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