



St Mary's Church Eccleston, Church Rd, Eccleston, CH4 9HT

St Mary's Church Pulford, Wrexham Rd, Pulford, CH4 9DG

<https://ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org>

admin@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org

Rector: Rev Dr Stephen Torr.

Associate Minister: Rev Holly Torr.

SERVICE TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Sun 5 th Jan: Epiphany - HC	Pulford Church 9.45am
Sun 12 th Jan: Baptism of Christ - HC	Eccleston Church 11.15am
Sun 19 th Jan: Epiphany 2 - HC	Pulford Church 9.45am
Sun 19 th Jan: Messy Church	TBC

PARISH INFORMATION AND CONTACTS

Rector: Rev Dr Stephen Torr:	rector@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org
MessyChurch: Rev Holly Torr:	messychurch@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org
Admin/Website/Newsletter:	admin@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org
Eccleston Church Warden:	ecclestonchurchwarden@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org
Pulford Church Warden:	pulfordchurchwarden@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org
Silent Church:	silentchurch@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org
Choir Director:	choir@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org
Safeguarding:	safeguarding@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org
Lay Reader:	jeanette@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org
Pulford Village Hall Hire:	PulfordVillageHall@gmail.com
Eccleston Village Hall Hire:	JeffBrettRoberts@hotmail.co.uk
Electoral Roll Officer:	clwillan@hotmail.com

READINGS FOR SUNDAY 5th JANUARY - Epiphany

Isaiah 60:1-6 - The Glory of Zion

“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

“Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the hip. Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come. Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah. And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the LORD.

Matthew 2.1-12 - The Magi Visit the Messiah

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

When King Herod heard this, he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

“But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people, Israel.”

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We pray for those known to us who are ill or recovering from surgery; those who have died recently; and those whose anniversaries occur about this time.

HOMILY (by Rob Hughes)

Rob’s homily this week focuses on a New Year with new beginnings.

<https://www.ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org/homilies-by-rob-hughes>

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

A special thank you to Rev Dr Stephen Torr, the readers, the choir, the soloists Seth & Seb, our organist Derek Whatling, and last but by no means least, Maureen Richards for leading the choir with such enthusiasm, at our Christmas Carol Service. From feedback received, the service seems to have been very well received. Thank you to Bridget and everyone else who helped provide and serve the mince pies and mulled wine afterwards. A great success indeed.

STAINED GLASS WINDOW - St Kentigern. The Apostle of Strathclyde. Eccleston St Mary's Church (S4b)



Saint Andreas, often celebrated as the "First-Called," was a man of unshakable faith, fiery zeal, and fearless devotion. Born in Bethsaida, a humble fishing village by the Sea of Galilee, Andreas grew up alongside his brother Simon Peter. Their days were spent casting nets and braving the waves, but Andreas harbored a profound longing for spiritual truth.

His life changed forever when he encountered John the Baptist. Captivated by John's fiery proclamations of the coming Messiah, Andreas became one of his devoted disciples. It was under John's guidance that Andreas first met Jesus, a moment that ignited a transformative journey. Without hesitation, Andreas recognized Jesus as the Lamb of God and hurried to bring his brother Simon to Him, earning his eternal title as the "First-Called" Apostle.

Andreas's faith propelled him to the far corners of the known world. According to tradition, he preached the Gospel with unrelenting vigor across Asia Minor, Scythia, and Greece, even venturing to the rugged lands of the Black Sea. His words carried the power to heal, inspire, and unite, drawing both peasants and rulers into the fold of Christianity. Saint Andreas's unwavering courage shone brightly during his final days. In the city of Patras, Greece, he faced persecution under the Roman proconsul

Aegeas. Refusing to renounce his faith, Andreas was sentenced to die on an X-shaped cross, a form of crucifixion that has since become his emblem. For two days, he hung upon the cross, tirelessly preaching to onlookers until his final breath. His martyrdom transformed the instrument of his death into a symbol of hope and redemption.

Today, Saint Andreas is venerated as a patron of many nations, including Scotland, Russia, and Greece. His legacy endures not only in his miraculous deeds and teachings but also in his ceaseless spirit of adventure, resilience, and devotion to the Gospel. Saint Andreas remains an enduring beacon of what it means to answer the call of faith with courage and conviction.

Thank you to Robin Glaze for allowing me to use his photo of this stained-glass window at Eccleston.

NEWS

2025 READER/INTERCESSOR/SIDESPERSION/CLEANER ROTA

The new 2025 (Jan to March) reader/intercessor/sides-person/cleaner rota is now available. This can be viewed from the church website at the following URL: [Rota - ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org](http://ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org) . Should you wish to make changes or volunteer for any of these roles, please contact Hilary Garrard at hilarygarrard@btinternet.com

Tower Captain Needed for Eccleston Church

We are *desperately* seeking a tower captain for Eccleston Church. Anyone wishing to volunteer for this role, please email me at admin@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org

Foodbank

Thank you to everyone who has left food items at the back of Eccleston and Pulford Churches for the foodbank.

Pulford & Poulton Local History Group

The next History Group event will be at Pulford Village Hall on Wednesday 15th January at 7.30pm. This is a Quiz and Buffet event, by ticket only (£8) purchased in advance. To purchase a ticket please email James Harvey at pplhg.info@gmail.com. As there is only enough seating capacity for 40, tickets are limited.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2025 Service - Sunday 19th January 3pm

You are warmly invited to a 'Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service' with Andy Flannagan on Sunday 19th January 2025 at Hoole United Reformed Church, Hoole Road, Hoole CH2 3NT. The Service will take place at 3pm and will be followed by some refreshments. All are welcome! To find out more about Andy Flanagan please follow this link <https://andyflan.com/>"

Additional Church Warden at Eccleston Church

We are desperately seeking an additional Church Warden for Eccleston Church, to help with the Messy Church and School services held in the Church.

Newsletter #82 - Please email Prayer Intentions and News Items suitable for publication in the Parish News to Stephen Hutchinson at admin@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org