

Eccleston & Pulford Church of St Mary's – Apr 6th



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 6th Apr: Lent 5 - HC

Sun 13th Apr: Palm Sunday - HC

Thu 17th Apr: Maundy Thursday - HC

Fri 18th Apr: Good Friday - Hour at the Cross

Sun 20th Apr: Easter Sunday - All Age HC

Fri 25th Apr: Wedding of Ellis & Donald

Sun 27th Apr: Easter 2 - HC

Pulford Church 9.45 am

Eccleston Church 11.15 am

Eccleston Church 7.30 pm

Pulford Church 2.00 pm

Eccleston 11.15 am

Eccleston Church 1.00 pm

Pulford Church 9.45 am

PARISH INFORMATION AND CONTACTS

Rector: Rev Dr Stephen Torr: rector@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org

MessyChurch: Rev Holly Torr: messychurch@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org

Treasurer: treasurer@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org

Admin/Website/Newsletter: admin@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org

Eccleston Church Warden: ecclestonchurchwarden@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org

Pulford Church Warden: pulfordchurchwarden@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org

Choir Director: choir@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org

Safeguarding: safeguarding@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org

Licensed Lay Minister: jeanette@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org

Pulford Village Hall Hire: PulfordVillageHall@gmail.com

Eccleston Village Hall Hire: MiddlehurstJanet62@gmail.com

Electoral Roll Officer: clwillan@hotmail.com

Readings for Sunday 6th April

Isaiah 43:16-21

Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings forth chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: "Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild beasts will honour me, the jackals and the ostriches, for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself that they might declare my praise.

John 12:1-8 Mary Anoints Jesus at Bethany



Figure 1- Stained Glass Windows at Pulford Church showing the scene from John 12:1-8 – Note Judas with his money bag with the numerals 30 printed on the side.

Six days before the Passover, Jesus therefore came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. So, they gave a dinner for him there. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him at table. Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put

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into it. Jesus said, “Leave her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of my burial. For the poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me.”

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We pray for those known to us who are poorly, those who have died recently, and those whose anniversaries occur about this time.

HOMILY (by Rob Hughes) - In the last of his homilies on the theme of repentance, Rob ponders the barriers to repentance.

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

The Bible with Nicky and Pippa Gumbel

An extremely good source of daily commentaries based on Bible readings from both the New and Old Testament can be found on The Bible website and app (formerly known as Bible in One Year). <https://bible.alpha.org/en/>

2025 READER/INTERCESSOR/SIDESPERSION for April/May/June

Please visit the following URL for the Church rota. Any changes, please email Hilary or me at admin@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org

[Rota - ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org](https://www.ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org)

(If reading the rota on your phone, remember to rotate your phone by 90 degrees to view horizontally to see all columns)

Foodbank

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

NEWS

Messy Church Dates and Locations 2025

Details of the 2025 Messy Church Services can be found in the link below. Messy Church will start in the Village Hall followed by a short service in the Church afterwards.

<https://www.ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org/messy-church/>

STAINED GLASS WINDOW - (E2 second row extreme left) - St Peter - The Rock Who Rose from the Waves.

No man started lower and rose higher than **Simon Peter**, the rugged fisherman from Galilee who became the unshakable Rock of the Church. Born into the sweat and salt of a working man's world, Peter wasn't a scholar or a saint—he was loud, impulsive, brave to a fault, and prone to failure. But when Jesus Christ looked into his eyes and said, “*Follow me*,” Peter dropped his nets and stepped into a destiny that would change the world.



From the moment he left the shore, Peter's life became a storm of miracles, mistakes, and massive faith. He was the first to declare Jesus as the Messiah, the first to step out of the boat and walk on water—and the first to sink when fear overtook faith. He promised to stand by Christ forever... and yet denied Him three times on the night of His arrest. But Peter's story didn't end in shame. It exploded into redemption.

After the resurrection, Jesus didn't cast Peter aside. He restored him with love, calling him not by his failures but by his future: *"You are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my Church."* And from that moment, Peter stood tall—not as a flawless hero, but as a bold believer fueled by grace.

When the Holy Spirit blazed down at Pentecost, it was Peter who stood up and preached with such fire that 3,000 people were baptized in a single day. The fisherman had become a fisher of men.

He healed the sick, faced down hostile crowds, escaped prison by angelic intervention, and led the early Church with wisdom, courage, and fierce devotion. His words still ring through Scripture, full of grit and glory: *"Always be ready to give an answer for the hope that is in you."*

Peter wasn't perfect, but that's what makes him powerful. He shows us that failure is not the end, and weakness is not disqualification. Through Peter, we see the stunning truth: God builds His greatest works not on perfection, but on willing hearts.

Peter's journey ended in Rome, where, tradition tells us, he faced crucifixion under Emperor Nero. But even in death, he stood firm. Humble to the last, he asked to be crucified upside down, not feeling worthy to die in the same way as his Lord.

Saint Peter—the flawed, fiery, fearless founder—reminds us that no matter where you start, you can finish strong. From nets to nations, from denial to destiny, his life shouts one resounding truth: **With faith, failure is never final.**

Thank you to Robin Glaze for allowing me to use this photo of the stained-glass window at Eccleston. Pulford Church stained-glass window photos taken by editor.

Newsletter #95 - Please email Prayer Intentions and News Items suitable for publication in the Parish News to Stephen Hutchinson at admin@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org