

Eccleston & Pulford Church of St Mary's – Apr 13th



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 13th Apr: Palm Sunday - HC	Eccleston Church 11.15 am
Thu 17 th Apr: Maundy Thursday - HC	Eccleston Church 7.30 pm
Fri 18th Apr: Good Friday - Hour at the Cross	Pulford Church 2.00 pm
Sun 20 th Apr: Easter Sunday - All Age HC	Eccleston 11.15 am
Fri 25 th Apr: Wedding of Ellis & Donald	Eccleston Church 1.00 pm
Sun 27 th Apr: Easter 2 - HC	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 Palm Sunday 13th April

Isaiah 50:4-9a

The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary. Morning by morning he awakens; he awakens my ear to hear as those who are taught. The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I turned not backward. I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting. But the Lord GOD helps me; therefore, I have not been disgraced; therefore, I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame. He who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who is my adversary? Let him come near to me. Behold, the Lord GOD helps me; who will declare me guilty? Behold, all of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

Eccleston & Pulford Church of St Mary's – Apr 13th

Luke 19:28-40 The Triumphal Entry

And when he had said these things, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples, saying, "Go into the village in front of you, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' you shall say this: 'The Lord has need of it.'" So those who were sent went away and found it just as he had told them. And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying the colt?" And they said, "The Lord has need of it." And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. And as he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. As he was drawing near—already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out."

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) - Rob asks the question what kind of leader should we follow?

<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.

Annual Parish Council Meeting - Wednesday 21st May 7.00 pm

The Eccleston and Pulford Church of St Mary's APCM will be held at Eccleston Church on May 21st at 7.00 pm. This is open to *all* members of the Congregation, and is an opportunity to ask questions and raise any concerns.

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 left of middle) - St Paul - The Relentless Flame



From fiery persecutor to fearless preacher, **St. Paul** is one of history's most dramatic stories of transformation, courage, and purpose. Born as **Saul of Tarsus**, this man wasn't always a champion of Christianity—in fact, he was its most feared enemy. But what began on the dusty roads of Damascus became a mission that would shake empires and ignite hearts for centuries to come.

The Hunter Becomes the Herald

Saul was a rising star among the Pharisees. Brilliant, intense, zealous—he had a reputation for rooting out the early followers of Jesus with ruthless passion. But everything changed in a single, blinding moment. On his way to arrest Christians in Damascus, Saul was knocked to the ground by a heavenly light. He heard the voice of Jesus: "**Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?**"

What followed wasn't just a conversion—it was a rebirth. The hunter became the herald. Saul became **Paul**, and he was never the same.

Driven by Fire

Paul didn't ease into his mission. He launched into it like a wildfire. Facing beatings, shipwrecks, stoning, prison, rejection—nothing stopped him. Why? Because he believed with every cell in his body that Jesus was alive and had changed everything.

Eccleston & Pulford Church of St Mary's – Apr 13th

He traveled over **10,000 miles** across the ancient world—by foot, by sea, through deserts and cities—to preach the Gospel. He built communities, mentored leaders, and challenged kings. He debated scholars on Mars Hill, sang hymns in prison, and wrote letters that would become the backbone of the New Testament.

A Voice That Still Echoes

Paul wasn't just a preacher—he was a **visionary**, a **strategist**, a **poet of the divine**. His words in Romans, Corinthians, Galatians, and others aren't dusty theology—they're raw, real, and alive. They speak of grace that breaks chains, love that never fails, and a God who chooses the unlikely to do the unimaginable.

Even in the face of death, Paul remained unshakable. In a Roman prison, awaiting execution, he wrote with calm joy:

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

Legacy of a Lionhearted Apostle

Paul's legacy is unmatched. He shaped Christianity more than anyone besides Jesus Himself. He showed that **no past is too broken**, **no person too far gone**, and that **a single life on fire for God can change the world**.

St. Paul's story isn't just ancient history—it's a **call to action**. A challenge to live boldly, to speak truth courageously, and to never underestimate what God can do through an ordinary life surrendered to an extraordinary mission.

--o--

The Last Word - Steer by The Bible

Henry Ward Beecher was the brother of Harriet Beecher Stow, the author of Uncle Tom's Cabin. A prominent American Congregational clergyman and speaker in the mid- to late nineteenth century, he was pastor of a large church in Brooklyn.

"The Bible is God's chart for you to steer by, to keep you from the bottom of the sea, and to show you where the harbour is, and how to reach it without running on rocks and bars."

Henry Ward Beecher (1813-1887)

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

Newsletter #96 - Please email Prayer Intentions and News Items suitable for publication in the Parish News to Stephen Hutchinson at admin@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org