

Eccleston & Pulford Church of St Mary's – May 4th



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 4th May: Easter 3: HC

Pulford Church 9.45am

Sun 11th May: Easter 4: HC

Eccleston Church 11.15am

Sun 18th May: Easter 5: HC

Pulford Church 9.45 am

Sun 18th May: Easter 5: Messy Church

Eccleston Church 10.45 am

Sun 25th May: Easter 6: HC

Eccleston Church 11.15 am

Thu 29th May: Ascension HC

Eccleston Church 7.30 pm

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 Easter Sunday 4th May ⁽¹⁾

Acts 9:1-20 The Conversion of Saul

But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So, they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

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Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name." But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." So, Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; and taking food, he was strengthened. For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus. And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."

John 21:1-19.

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's Homily for this week can be found here...

<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.

Volunteers Needed.

We are still looking for volunteers for the role as Tower Captain, and help with cleaning duties at Eccleston Church.

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Flowers

We are so very grateful to our flower ladies who ensure there are always fresh flowers on display at Eccleston. They would dearly like someone to assist them and to continue this tradition. If any kind souls would like to offer their time to help with floral arrangements, please contact glenyswilson44@gmail.com

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/>

Poulton & Pulford Parish Council VE day Anniversary - Pulford Village Hall 12pm

As part of the Great British Food Festival to mark the VE day 80 commemoration, the Poulton & Pulford Parish Council are organising a village contribution lunch in Pulford Village Hall on Bank Holiday Monday May 5th between 12 noon and 3pm.

All residents and friends are most welcome. Please bring food to share and your own drinks. Tea/Coffee/Squash/Water will be available. No entrance fee - but tickets will be issued as space is limited. Please email the Parish Clerk at pulfordandpoultonpark@gmail.com to reserve your place. Appropriate games will be organised. Wearing of family service medals welcome. See poster for details.

[Poulton & Pulford Parish Council VE day Celebration -
ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org](https://www.ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org)

Eccleston VE day 80th Anniversary - Monday 5th May Eccleston Village Hall 2pm.

See poster for details. [Eccleston Village Hall 5th May 2pm - VE Day Anniversary -
ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org](https://www.ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org)

Archbishop of York's Statement following Death of Pope Francis.

The Archbishop of York has issued a statement following the news of the death of Pope Francis on the 21st April 2025.

[A statement following the death of Pope Francis | The Church of England](https://www.churchofengland.org/news/2025/april/21/a-statement-following-the-death-of-pope-francis)

STAINED GLASS WINDOW - Moses: The Relentless Liberator and Voice of Destiny (Eccleston Church East Window E2 - 3rd Row Extreme Left) ⁽²⁾

In the grand tapestry of human history, few figures burn as brightly as **Moses** – the man who dared to challenge an empire, the leader who shepherded a nation through the fires of slavery into the light of freedom, and the prophet whose voice still echoes across millennia.

Born at a time when Pharaoh's decree sought to silence the future of the Hebrew people, Moses' very life was an act of defiance. Rescued from the river's rush by a princess and raised in the splendor of Egypt's royal court, he was a prince by upbringing – but his heart remained with his enslaved kin. Deep within him stirred a storm of justice that could not be silenced.



At the burning bush, Moses encountered a force greater than the might of Egypt – **the voice of God** – calling him to a destiny he could scarcely imagine. Overcoming his fears and doubts, Moses stepped onto the world's stage not with a sword, but with a mission: to free his people. He stood fearless before Pharaoh, wielding not earthly power, but divine authority, unleashing plagues and wonders that shook the ancient world.

The exodus he led was no mere escape; it was a revolution of faith. Through parted seas and barren deserts, Moses became the architect of hope, forging a wandering band of ex-slaves into a covenantal nation. He climbed the smoking summit of Sinai and returned not just with stone tablets, but with a new blueprint for humanity – laws rooted in justice, mercy, and the sacred worth of every person.

Moses' life was no easy triumph. He wrestled with doubt, frustration, and the burden of leadership. He was a man who pleaded with God, fought for his people, and pressed onward even when the Promised Land lay just beyond his reach. His perseverance was legendary; his vision, unstoppable.

Today, Moses stands as a symbol of what one life, surrendered to a higher calling, can achieve. He reminds us that no empire is too great to challenge, no chain too strong to break, and no journey too long to undertake when led by faith, courage, and the fierce commitment to justice.

Moses was not born a hero – he became one. And his story challenges each of us to listen for the voice that calls us higher, to step into the impossible, and to become liberators in our own time.

Newsletter #99 - Please email Prayer Intentions and News Items suitable for publication in the Parish News to Stephen Hutchinson at admin@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org