Eccleston & Pulford Church of St Mary's – Mar 30th

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 30th Mar: Mothering Sunday Family Service	Eccleston Church 11.15 am
Sun 6th Apr: Lent 5 – HC	Pulford Church 9.45 am
Sun 13th Apr: Palm Sunday – HC	Eccleston Church 11.15 am
Thu 17th Apr: Maundy Thursday - HC	Eccleston Church 7.30 pm
Fri 18th Apr: Good Friday – Hour at the Cross	Pulford Church 2.00 pm
Sun 20th Apr: Easter Sunday – All Age HC	Eccleston 11.15 am
Fri 25th Apr: Wedding of Ellis & Donald	Eccleston Church 1.00 pm
Sun 27th 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

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 ponders Mothering Sunday
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/SIDESPERSON
Please go to the following URL to see the Church rota. Any changes, please email Hilary or me at admin@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org
Rota – 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.

Christian Art of the Week
A lovely painting this week by Mary Cassatt titled "The Boating Party" is used to illustrate Mark 12:28b-34;
Mark 12: 28b-34 (2025) | CHRISTIAN ART | Gospel Reading & Art Reflection

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 - (W3 lower right) – St Hieronymus – The Fiery Scholar of the Scriptures (34/74)

In the tempestuous world of late antiquity, one man stood as a blazing force of intellect, conviction, and unwavering passion—**St. Hieronymus**, known to history as **St. Jerome** (c. 347–420 AD). A man of both towering genius and searing wit, he was a scholar, a hermit, a translator, and an unrelenting voice in defense of Christian doctrine. His legacy would reshape the very foundations of the Church and its relationship with the Word of God.

A Restless Mind and a Passion for Learning

Born in the Roman province of Dalmatia (modern-day Croatia or Slovenia), Hieronymus was destined for greatness. Sent to Rome as a young man, he plunged into the depths of classical learning, mastering Latin, Greek, and eventually Hebrew—an achievement almost unheard of in his time. But his voracious intellect was matched by an equally turbulent spirit. The dazzling culture of Rome captivated him, but it also troubled his soul. He wrestled with the pleasures of the world, often torn between ambition and asceticism.

Then came a vision—one that would change his life forever. Struck by a feverish dream in which he stood before the judgment seat of Christ, he heard the divine condemnation: *"You are not a Christian, but a Ciceronian!"* The words burned into

his heart. With newfound fervor, he turned away from the world's vanities and devoted himself entirely to God and Scripture.



The Desert Years: Fire and Temptation

Seeking solitude and purification, Hieronymus withdrew to the Syrian desert, embracing the life of a hermit. There, in the blistering heat, among scorpions and shifting sands, he waged an inner war against temptation. He disciplined his body with fasting, prayer, and self-denial, but his true battle was against his own restless mind. To tame it, he undertook a monumental task—he learned Hebrew, immersing himself in the language of the Old Testament. Few scholars of his time had dared such an endeavor.

The Master Translator: A Legacy for the Ages

His brilliance could not remain hidden. Drawn back into the heart of Christian intellectual circles, Hieronymus became a trusted advisor to Pope Damasus I. Recognizing his unparalleled linguistic skill, the Pope entrusted him with a mission that would define his legacy: translating the Bible into Latin.

With relentless energy, Hieronymus poured over ancient texts, consulting Hebrew, Greek, and Latin sources. The result? The **Vulgate**, a translation that would become the standard Bible of the Western Church for over a thousand years. It was no mere linguistic exercise—it was a work of spiritual devotion, crafted with an uncompromising commitment to accuracy and truth.

The Fiery Controversialist

Hieronymus was not a man to mince words. He was a warrior of the pen, as sharp in debate as he was in translation. He clashed with heretics, battled theological opponents, and even criticized lax bishops and wayward monks. His letters and polemics sizzled with wit, sarcasm, and righteous fury. But beneath the sharp-tongued rebukes lay a heart consumed by love for Christ and the Church.

Final Years and Eternal Influence

In his later years, Hieronymus retreated to Bethlehem, where he established a monastic community and continued his scholarly work. Surrounded by scrolls and manuscripts, he lived in the presence of the sacred texts he so dearly loved. In 420 AD, after a life of tireless devotion, he passed into eternity.

But his influence did not end with his death. The **Vulgate** shaped Christian thought, doctrine, and worship for centuries. His commentaries, letters, and fierce defenses of orthodoxy became foundational texts of Christian theology. His restless spirit, his unyielding pursuit of truth, and his passionate love for Scripture make him one of the greatest minds in Church history.

Saint and Scholar: A Legacy That Endures

St. Hieronymus was no meek, gentle saint—he was a firebrand, a force of nature, a man who lived and breathed the Word of God with an intensity few could match. His words still resonate today:

"Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ."

Even now, his legacy challenges us: to seek truth, to embrace the power of the Word, and to pursue holiness with every ounce of our being.

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

The Last Word – Beware Anxiety (1)

Charles Haddon Spurgeon was an English Baptist preacher who became a pastor at the age of just seventeen. He also founded the charity organisation now known as Spurgeon's, which works worldwide with families and children. His sermons were translated into many languages in his lifetime and are still read and quoted from today by Christians of all denominations.

"Anxiety does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow – only today of its strength."
Charles Haddon Spurgeon (1834 – 1892)

Gathered in God's Granary (1)

Bread and fishes feature in a number of Gospel stories, notably the feeding of the multitudes and the breakfast on the lake shore after Jesus' resurrection. In this Irish prayer we are reminded that both bread and fish are the Lord's.

"The seed is Christ's,
The granary is Christ's;
In the granary of God
May we be gathered.
The sea is Christ's,
The fishes are Christ's;
In the nets of God
May we all meet."

Newsletter #94 – Please email Prayer Intentions and News Items suitable for publication in the Parish News to Stephen Hutchinson at admin@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org

(1) From Colins best loved prayers & words of wisdom