Eccleston & Pulford Churches of St Mary's

Sunday 8th November
Remembrance Sunday



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.

Please refer to the website for latest locations and times.

Your prayers are asked for those who are sick and all the sick of the Parish. We remember our beloved dead, particularly those who have died recently and those whose anniversaries occur about this time.

Parish Contacts: https://www.ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org/contacts/

Sunday 8th Nov: Remembrance Sunday 10:45 am: Eccleston Church: Remembrance Sunday Service
Reading: Amos 5:18-24; Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

Sunday 15th Nov: 2nd 9:45 am: Eccleston Church: Said Service - Before Advent:
Reading: Zephaniah 1:7,12-end; Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

Sunday 15th Nov 10:45am: Eccleston Village Hall: Messy Church

Sunday 22nd Nov 10:30 am: Eccleston Church: HC - **Christ the King**:
Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Gospel: Matthew 25:31-end

Sunday 29th November 10:30am: Eccleston Church: HC - Advent 1:
Reading: Isaiah 63:18-64:9 Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

Sunday 6th December 10:30 am Pulford Village Hall: HC - Advent 2:
Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5a; Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

Sunday 13th December 9:45am Eccleston Church: Said HC - Advent 3:
Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11; Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

Sunday 13th December 3 pm: Eccleston Village Hall: Messy Christingle

Sunday 20th December: Advent 4:
Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-9, 11,16; Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

Thursday 24th December 4:00 pm: Eccleston Church: Christmas Eve Crib Service
Reading: Isaiah 9:2,6,7; Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

Church Vacancies: ***Is anyone interested in becoming a Church Warden? Sue Payne would like help setting up for the service at the Village Hall (due to the Church not being used over the Winter) once a month. This will be the first Sunday of every month. Other duties include setting up the table for Communion, cleaning, putting up notices etc. Training will be provided.***

Bob Hughes Homily: Rob's homilies can be downloaded and read from the Church website: https://www.ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org/category/homilies/

Messy Church Dates and Locations 2026
All Messy Churches will be in Eccleston Village Hall at 10.45 am on the 3rd Sunday of the month (unless otherwise indicated). Please see Holly's poster for details: **https://www.ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org/messy-church/**

Reader/Intercessor Rota: The Church reader/intercessor rota can be found at the following URL: **https://www.ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org/timetable/** If you would like to be a reader or make changes to your reading times, please email Hilary or me at **admin@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org**

Pulford & Poulton Local History Group. The next History Group event can be found on their website. To book tickets or simply to find out more about these talks visit the Pulford and Poulton Local History Group at https://pplhg.org.uk or email James at info@pplhg.org.uk

Cleaning 4 St Mary's. We have a team of dedicated volunteers that help to clean Eccleston Church on the 4th Saturday of every month from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. If anyone would like to volunteer to help Sue keep Pulford Church clean, or join the Eccleston team, we would be extremely grateful.

Chester Diocese News News (List) | Chester Diocese

We desperately need volunteers to act as **Tower Captain** for Eccleston Church, **Readers, Intercessors, Welcomers and Cleaners for Pulford Church and Eccleston Church.** Please email: admin@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org

Remembrance, Watchfulness and the Promise of Peace As we remember those who gave their lives in war, we must ask ourselves an uncomfortable question: have we truly learnt the lessons of their sacrifice?

In our reading from Amos, God reminds us that religious observance and beautiful words mean little if they are not accompanied by justice and compassion. His words are a powerful challenge: "Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream." In Matthew's parable of the ten bridesmaids, Jesus similarly reminds us to remain watchful and prepared. Both readings ask something of us: that our faith must be more than words; it must be reflected in how we live and what we are prepared to do. And surely there can be no greater test of our faith and humanity than how we respond to war. We honour those who died defending freedom and protecting others. *But perhaps the greatest tribute we can pay them is not simply to remember the wars they fought, but to work tirelessly to prevent the wars yet to come.*

There is something profoundly tragic about a world in which the deaths of thousands of innocent people can become opportunities for governments, arms manufacturers and investors to profit. Weapons may generate wealth for some, but they never create lasting peace. *Every missile fired represents another opportunity for diplomacy lost; every life taken is a reminder of humanity's failure to find a better way.* It is easy to feel powerless when governments, politicians and sections of the media seem to present military force as the inevitable answer to conflict. But we are not powerless. We can refuse to accept hatred as normal, challenge injustice, support those working for reconciliation, demand accountability from our leaders and, above all, keep praying for peace.

Prayer is not an escape from the world's problems. It is an act of faith, a refusal to surrender to despair, and a commitment to becoming part of the answer. When we pray for peace, we open our hearts to God's purpose and ask for the courage to make that purpose real in our own lives. Peace is not an impossible dream. It begins with individuals who choose compassion over hatred, forgiveness over revenge, and understanding over fear. *It grows when ordinary people refuse to believe that war is inevitable.*

This Remembrance, let us heed the warnings of Amos and Jesus. Let us not be people whose faith is expressed only in words, or who wait until it is too late to act. Let us honour the fallen not only with silence, wreaths and memories, but with a promise: that we will never stop working and praying for a world in which future generations will not have to make the same sacrifices.

For the greatest memorial to those who died in war would be a world that finally learns to live in peace.

Please note the times and locations of the Church Services are published in our fortnightly newsletter and on our website at: https://ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org/rota

Newsletter items - *Please email newsletter items* to: *admin@ecclestonandpulfordchurches.org*

Newsletter #152 created by Stephen Hutchinson (Church Warden).
For websites, apps, art and computer support please contact https://stevehutch.co.uk