Welcome to Pudsey Parish Church

Sunday 25th October 2026 – The Last Sunday After Trinity

This Sunday

9.00 am **Service with Holy Communion**
10.30 am **Service with Holy Communion and Baptism**
Readings 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
Matthew 22:34-46
6.30 pm **Evening Service**

Collect

God, our light and our salvation:
illuminate our lives, that we may see your goodness in the land of the living,
and looking on your beauty may be changed into the likeness of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Flowers For Joe Stewart. From Kerry Stewart.

Diary for the week

Wednesday 28th October

10.00 am Midweek Communion
6.00 pm Vicars Hour

Thursday 29th October

11.30 am - 1.30 pm Connect Lunch
Free light lunch served, open to all the community
7.00 pm – 8.30 pm Alpha – week 6

Next Week Sunday 1st November

9.00 am **Service with Holy Communion**
10.30 am **Service of the Word**
Readings Revelation 7: 9-end
Matthew 5: 1-12
6.30 pm **Evening Service**

Notices

A warm welcome to Theodore Stewart and his family as we celebrate Theodore's baptism today. We are delighted to share this special day and pray God's blessing upon them all.

Mothers Union: Tue 3 Nov, 2.00pm
Our next meeting will take place in church and is titled "16 Days: Standing Together for Dignity & Safety." We will be exploring ways to raise awareness of domestic abuse and support the wider campaign. Everyone is welcome.

Bonfire Without Bangs: Sun 8 Nov, 4.30pm
We're looking for volunteers to help on the night supervising, welcoming visitors & generally ensuring everything runs smoothly. This is a great community gathering and well attended, and your support makes a real difference. If you can lend a hand, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in church or contact the church office.

Connect Lunch - Soup Makers & Bakers Needed
As we move into the winter season, we need a few more volunteers to help with our soup lunches from the beginning of November. We're looking for soup makers and bakers to join a once-a-month rota. We need at least 16 soup makers, and it would also be helpful to know if our current bakers are happy to continue and if any new bakers would like to join. Soup can be made and frozen in advance, provided it is clearly labelled and dated. If you can help, please speak to Bev or Sally. Thank you!

Teddy Tombola
Do you have any spare teddies looking for a new home? We'd love them for our Teddy Tombola. Please leave donations in the labelled box.

Dates for your diaries

Tue 3rd Nov 2.00 pm 7.30 pm	 Mothers Union Meeting C and Y Team Meeting
Sun 8th Nov 10.00 am 4.30 pm	Remembrance Sunday Service *Afterwards gathering at the cenotaph for commemorations, followed by refreshments in church.* Bonfire without bangs
Sat 14th Nov 10.00 am	Baptism preparation morning
Sat 28th Nov 6.00 pm	Christmas Quiz *Free tickets are available on ChurchSuite or email the office.*
Sat 5th Dec 10 am-4 pm	Christmas Fair with Santa Experience *See Santa, tickets are £5 per child and available via ChurchSuite or you can scan the QR code on the poster in church.*

Want to keep up to date with church news and events? Join us on ChurchSuite by scanning the QR code and get our weekly newsletter delivered every week.

Reflection – The "I ams" of Christ – I am the light of the World (John 8: 12)

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.". (John 8: 12)

This bold statement of Jesus builds on His previous statement that He is the sustainer of life through whom we have life in all its fullness (see last week's reflection). He has just shown his compassion and wisdom in deflecting the intolerance and hypocrisy of the religious leaders. The Jews thought they were special but had interpreted this to mean that they were better and had rights to God that excluded Gentiles and all sinners who were not as good as them. They had wanted Jesus to side with them in condemning a woman they declared worthy of death. (John 8:1-11)

Jesus demonstrated His authority and patience in correcting the religious leaders. His divine understanding of the Old Testament recognised that no human has a right to exercise judgement as this belongs to God, and that the Pharisees and Scribes were misinterpreting scripture and leading the people astray. The lust for power, wealth and status had led them down dark paths of selfishness, greed, arrogance and pride. They had chosen a darker path instead of walking in the light (Psalm 27:1)

Light dispels the darkness, and Jesus offers hope and guidance to all of us. Jesus declared that He was the source of illumination, for Jew and Gentile alike (Isaiah 42: 6). All of us can experience the light of Christ in our lives, as we read the bible, pray and get to know our Lord Jesus more closely.

In our evening sermons on the Fruit of the Spirit, we have seen that there are many distractions and attractions of the darkness (Galatians 5: 19-21) all of which lead to sin and separation from God. Following Jesus means actively listening and living according to the teachings of Jesus. We are called to reflect His light and not keep the good news to ourselves. In living generously, forgiving others, and caring for all who are trapped in darkness, we can make His truth visible to others.

In the first chapter of John, we are introduced to Jesus with the words ***"In him was life, and that life was the light for all mankind."*** (1: 4). John the Baptist knew that he was only a witness to the light. Repentance means turning from despair to hope, from darkness to light, and asking Jesus to fill our lives with His presence.

As we reflect on this coming week, our prayer is that we reflect Jesus' light to others: ***"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."*** (Matthew 5:14-16)