

# Welcome to Pudsey Parish Church

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2026 – The Second Sunday Before Lent (Sexagesima)

## This Sunday

9.00 am Service with Holy Communion

10.30 am Service with Holy Communion

6.30 pm Evening Service

**Readings** Genesis 1: 1-2: 3 & Matthew 6: 25-end

## Collect

Almighty God,  
give us reverence for all creation  
and respect for every person,  
that we may mirror your likeness  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**Flowers** remembering Tom, from mum.  
Ann Dalton.

## Diary for the week

### Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February

9.30 am – 11.15 am ABC baby & toddler group  
7.00 pm Bible Course

### Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February

9.30 am – 11.15 am ABC baby & toddler group  
6.00 pm Beavers  
7.00 pm PCC Meeting

### Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February

10.00 am Midweek Communion  
12 pm-2.30 pm Esther Connect Group  
6.00 pm Vicars Hour *by appointment*  
6.00 pm Cubs  
7.30 pm Scouts

### Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February

11.30 am-1.30 pm Connect  
*Free light lunch served, open to all the community.*  
8.00 pm – 9.00 pm Parenting for Faith  
*Please note this is not in church – please ask for details.*

### Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February

6.00 pm-8.30 pm Valentine Quiz

## Next Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2026

9.00 am Service with Holy Communion

10.30 am Worship Service

6.30 pm Evening Service

**Readings** Exodus 24: 12-end & Matthew 17: 1-9

## Notices

### Notice Reflection

Could you write a reflection for the notices? Let us know.

### Connect Lunch: every Thursday 11.30am-1.30pm

Our Connect Lunch is going from strength to strength and proving popular with church members and the wider community alike. To build on its success alongside the usual lunch, plans are underway to offer a side of new activities. Think book swap, craft workshops, board games, jigsaw swap, reflective service and more! Watch this space!

### Valentine Quiz: Sat 14<sup>th</sup> Feb, 6-8.30pm

Free tickets are still available, sign-up via ChurchSuite or on the sign-up sheet in church. If you are able, please bring a dish to share (on a plate or in a container ready to go straight onto the table). Label your containers or plates with your name and don't forget your drink of choice!

### Church Cleaning: Sat 21<sup>st</sup> Feb, 9am

Volunteers needed! Meeting at 9am, we'll be doing a deep clean & filling a skip. Breakfast will be served. If you can spare a bit of time, we'd love your help. You can sign up via ChurchSuite or let Sally know. Thanks!

### Schools in Church

In the run up to Easter, we will be hosting the local primary schools in church, so they can learn more about the Easter story. If you'd like to get involved welcoming the children, supporting the activities & maybe dressing up please speak to Elizabeth Emmett or email Sally.

### Concerts in Church

Our church building will be the venue for several musical events organised by visiting groups.

- **Sat 7<sup>th</sup> Mar, 3pm**

*Masterworks Chorale Concert & Cake*

- **Sat 21<sup>st</sup> Mar, 7.30 pm**

*Leeds Male Voice Choir Chorale Concert*

All are welcome, please see the visiting groups' own websites, for ticket information. (info on posters in church)

### Dates for your diaries

Wed 18<sup>th</sup> Feb: 10 am & 6.30 pm

Ash Wednesday Services

Tue 3<sup>rd</sup> March: 2-4 pm

Mothers Union AGM & Lent Talk

Sat 28<sup>th</sup> March: 2-5 pm

Pudsey Gardeners Spring Show

Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> April: am tbc

Churches Together in Pudsey Walk of Witness

## Shirley's Reflection

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***Everyone has sinned ... But by the free gift of God's grace all are put right with Him through Christ Jesus. God offered Him, so that by His death He should be the means by which people's sins are forgiven through their faith in Him. (Romans 3 from 23-26)***

***For sin pays its wage - death; but God's free gift is eternal life in union with Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6 : 23)***

***For it is by God's grace that you have been saved through faith. It is not the result of your own efforts, but God's gift so that no one can boast about it. (Ephesians 2: 8 & 9)***

It goes against human pride to accept the fact that we can do nothing to make God accept us - keeping religious rules or habits or being nice to everyone. We can't be like that always, and usually have mixed motives, or pride in what we've done. Our perfect, holy God cannot accept anything tinged by sin, but He meets us with His grace. That lovely word 'grace' means undeserved favour, unconditional love and free forgiveness - free to us because it is 'paid for' by the death of Jesus (perfect God and perfect man) on the cross. The torture experienced through crucifixion was even more acute for Jesus, as He was cut off from His Father's presence, for the only time in all eternity, while bearing our sin. That means that we are never are cut off from God. That was the cost of God's grace! And if there had been any other way to make us sinful human beings acceptable to God, He surely would have found it.

Faith in Jesus' death in our place is not just a matter of believing it is true; it only becomes real for us when we apply it to ourselves. If you were on Leeds station, waiting for a train to London, and a train came in announced as going to London Kings Cross, you can believe what it says but will only get to London by getting on the train and committing yourself to trust in the driver and other railway employees to get you there. In the same way, we can only know God's grace in forgiveness by committing ourselves in faith to Jesus so that He becomes the One in charge of our journey through life. When we fail and mess up, as we all do, we can come to God in confession and know His forgiveness, and what's more He gives us His Holy Spirit to go on with Him in our life on earth and be with Him in His eternal kingdom after death.

Some people think it's boastful, arrogant or presumptuous to say that we shall be with Jesus when we die, as if we think we are more holy than they are. The opposite is true; we've accepted that we can do nothing to earn that place with Him and believe Him when He offers us life with Him here and now and in eternity. The quotation above from Ephesians goes on to say, "God has made us what we are, and in our union with Christ Jesus, He has created us for a life of good deeds, which He has already prepared for us to do."

Those good deeds may well include 'being nice to everyone,' but there's a huge difference between 'doing good' in a desperate attempt to make someone love us and wanting to do what pleases them because we know that they love us. That is especially true in our relationship with God, as we know that He loves us, and want to thank Him by doing what pleases Him. And His Holy Spirit living in us will guide us and enable us to please Him and help us to become more like Jesus, through the experiences we go through in our life's journey with Him.