

# Welcome to Pudsey Parish Church

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2026 – The First Sunday of Lent

## This Sunday

9.00 am Service with Holy Communion

10.30 am Service with Holy Communion

6.30 pm Praise Service

**Readings** Genesis 2: 15-17; 3: 1-7  
Matthew 4: 1-11

## Collect

Heavenly Father,  
your Son battled with the powers of darkness,  
and grew closer to you in the desert: help us to  
use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer  
that we may witness to your saving love  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Flowers** in memory of Albert & Violetta Nelson.  
From Elizabeth Emmett.

## Diary for the week

### Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February

9.30 am – 11.15 am ABC baby & toddler group

7.00 pm Bible Course

### Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February

9.30 am – 11.15 am ABC baby & toddler group

6.00 pm Beavers

### Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February

10 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 26<sup>th</sup> February

11.30 am-1.30 pm Connect

*Free light lunch served, open to all the community.*

## Next Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2026

9.00 am Service with Holy Communion

10.30 am Morning Worship

6.00 pm Confirmation Service at Christ Church

Upper Armley you are welcome to attend this service and support those from Pudsey getting confirmed.

**Readings** Genesis 12: 1-4a & John 3: 1-17

## Notices

### Are you on the parish electoral roll?

If you're 16 or over, live in the parish, or have been worshipping with us regularly for at least six months, you're eligible to join. Being on the roll helps you take a fuller part in the life of the church, including voting at the Annual Meeting. If you're not sure whether you're already on it, just let us know, we're happy to check. You can complete an application on our website or on paper. More info is available from the back of church or speak to one of the wardens.

### Flowers

If you would like to donate towards the flower display in Church for Mothering Sunday, please speak to Jenny Crossland.

### Mothers Union

On Tue 3<sup>rd</sup> Mar the MU have their AGM and Lent talk by Rev Gareth Howles. Starting at 2pm in church, all are welcome. Light refreshments will be served afterwards.

Then on Fri 6<sup>th</sup> Mar at 2pm, there is a special prayer service being held at St. Andrews Methodist Church for the World Day of Prayer. This is an international, women-led, ecumenical movement that shares the hopes, concerns & prayers of women from around the globe, with the focus this year on Nigeria.

### Male Voice Choir Concert – Sat 21<sup>st</sup> March

If anybody would like to help serve refreshments at the concert, please contact Sally. Thank you.

### Night Shelter

From the 2-9<sup>th</sup> March our church will be hosting a night shelter for the homeless. This is with support from the council & local charities. If you would like to lend a hand, please add your name to the list in church or email the office. Further information will follow. Please keep this outreach in your prayers as we begin to prepare.

## Dates for your diaries

Tue 3<sup>rd</sup> Mar: 2-4 pm Mothers Union AGM & Lent Talk

Sat 7<sup>th</sup> Mar: 3 pm Masterworks Choral Concert & Cake

Sun 15<sup>th</sup> Mar: Mothering Sunday

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

Notices for this sheet to be sent by Wednesday 11am to [office@pudseyparish.org.uk](mailto:office@pudseyparish.org.uk) 0113 2577843

[www.pudseyparish.org.uk](http://www.pudseyparish.org.uk)

## Shirley's Reflection

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***Dear friends, God is good. So I beg you to offer your bodies to Him as a living sacrifice, pure and pleasing. That is the most sensible way to serve God. Don't be like the people of this world, but let God change the way you think. Then you will know how to do everything that is good and pleasing to Him. (Romans 12: 1 & 2).***

Elsewhere Paul speaks of the church as 'the body of Christ', together revealing Him to the world, but here he is speaking to individual Christians. Many people today are very concerned about their body image, going to great lengths and expense to 'improve' it. Others illtreat their body by various addictions or over-indulgence. As Christians, we are reminded that it matters to God how we treat it. As Paul says, in 1 Corinthians 6: 19 & 20 "*Don't you know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and who was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourselves but to God; He bought you for a price. So, use your bodies for God's glory.*"

It's interesting to see how many sportspeople seek to honour God in their sport and, when asked, speak openly to thank God for their gift and give Him the glory of their success. But what does it mean for us ordinary mortals? The Message version says, "*Take your everyday, ordinary life - your sleeping, eating, going to work and walking around life - and place it before God as an offering,*" and I'm sure many of us do begin each day by committing it to God in prayer, trusting in the guidance and enabling of the Holy Spirit. That's fine when we are together in church, but when we are in the nitty-gritty of everyday life it can be challenging.

One version of verse 2 says, "*Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mould, but let God remould your lives from within.*" That's where the discernment, given by the Holy Spirit, is needed. The older ones among us will probably remember when it first became common for young people to live together before marriage. Christian parents, at the time, asked them not to do so in their house. That led to their never seeing their sons or daughters, and they had to decide which was the more important reaction. Now Christians tend to be surprised if their young people don't live together before marriage.

Some people might be unhappy with some of the practices they are aware of in their place of work, and have to decide whether to complain, and risk being dismissed, or leave and perhaps raise the issue with people in authority, or keep quiet and try to avoid the practice they know to be wrong in God's eyes. We are seeing very public examples of wrong practices by well-known people coming to public scrutiny at the moment and see the trouble it causes for large numbers of people. Some Christians are called to raise awareness of social evils in many areas of life, and others of us may be led to support them. Again, it's a matter of discernment.

In church we rely very much on volunteers for our outreach events, as well as our regular church ones. Some of the older members have been volunteering for many years and are very willing to do so now but are gradually finding that they lack the stamina to cater, steward or furniture-move for so many events. Apparently, there are sometimes not enough people on the welcome teams, so it would be good to see more people involved in that or any of the other events and roles; as the saying goes 'Many hands make light work.' May we all seek God's guidance to be reliable in supporting each other in church, and to discern His will in the challenges we face in this troubled world.