

Welcome to Pudsey Parish Church

Sunday 8th March 2026 – The Third Sunday in Lent

This Sunday

9.00 am Service with Holy Communion

10.30 am Service with Holy Communion

Readings Romans 5:1-11 & John 4:5-42

6.00 pm Holy Communion with anointing

Readings Psalm 40 & John 2: 13-22

Collect

Eternal God,
give us insight to discern your will for us,
to give up what harms us,
and to seek the perfection we are promised
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Flowers for anniversaries, Kerry Stewart.

Diary for the week

Monday 9th March

6.00 am – 8.00 am Night Shelter (breakfast)
8.00 am – 9.00 am Clear & clean up
9.30 am – 11.15 am ABC baby & toddler group
7.00 pm Bible Course

Tuesday 10th March

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

Wednesday 11th March

! No Midweek Communion!
11.00 am Funeral Service
12 pm - 2.30 pm Esther Connect Group
6.00 pm Vicars Hour *by appointment*
6.00 pm Cubs
7.30 pm Scouts

Thursday 12th March

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
Held elsewhere, please ask if you are interested.

Friday 13th March

1.30 pm School visit
7.00 pm Choir rehearsal

Saturday 14th March

10.00 am MU Flower prep
9.00 am Musical Play Together

Next Sunday 15th March 2026 *Mothering Sunday*

9.00 am Service with Holy Communion

10.30 am All Age Service

Readings 2 Corinthians 1:3-7
John 19:25b-27

6.30 pm Evening Prayer Service

Readings Psalm 31:1-16 & John 3:14-21

Notices

Night Shelter

Tonight is the final night of the night shelter. Thank you to all the volunteers who stepped up at short notice to make it possible.

On Monday morning, after breakfast, we'll need to clean and reset the church for ABC. If you can spare an hour from 8am, your help would be appreciated.

Music Play Together – Sat 14th March, 9-11.30am

Musicians wanted! See the sign-up sheet in church.

Parishioners & Annual Parochial Church Meeting

You are welcome to attend the 2026 Parishioners meeting and APCM on Sunday 22nd March shortly after the 10:30 am Service. More information is available on our website. [The Annual Meeting](#)

Contacts

Clergy

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Parish Administrator

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Church Wardens

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Pastoral Care Team

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Notices for this sheet to be sent by Wednesday 11am to office@pudseyparish.org.uk 0113 2577843

www.pudseyparish.org.uk

Shirley's Reflection

Jesus teaches His disciples about the Holy Spirit

*My children, I will be with you only a little longer. ... Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in Me. ... If you love Me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counsellor to be with you for ever - the Spirit of truth. ... You know Him, for He lives **with** you and will be **in** you. ... The Holy Spirit will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. I give you peace, the kind of peace only I can give....so don't be worried or afraid. (John 13: 38; 14: 1, 15-17, 26-2).*

It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counsellor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. (John 16: 7).

During Lent, I thought it would be good to hear what Jesus said in the last 24 hours of His time on earth, beginning with His teaching to His disciples in the Upper Room after their Passover meal. Jesus had tried several times to help them to understand that He was going to suffer and die but rise again on the third day, and knew they hadn't 'got it.' Now that the time was nearly here, He was seeking to give them hope and reassurance that it was all planned and would be for their benefit and that of all His followers.

He had given a new meaning to that Passover meal, using it to give them a means of remembering Him and His suffering and death for our forgiveness, for ever, as we do in our Holy Communion Service. Judas had now left to betray Him, and He had taught the other eleven to love and serve each other; and now He explains that He is soon to leave them but will come back to them, so not to be anxious but to trust His Father and Him that it was all in God's hands. We know that He would be back with them for a short time in His resurrection body, but that the long-term plan was for the Holy Spirit to come in His place, and if they trusted Him through it all they would know His peace.

They would perhaps remember that the prophets of old had been given the Holy Spirit to tell God's message to His people, but otherwise only a few people had received Him, for God's special purposes; so this was also something they would find hard to understand. The Greek word translated in this version as 'Counsellor' means 'One called alongside to help', and Jesus goes on to tell His disciples how the Holy Spirit would do that. He would teach them, and remind them of Jesus' teaching, and minister His peace to them. As Jesus was with them and He was guided in all He did and said by the Holy Spirit **in** Him, so when the Holy Spirit came to them He would also be **in** them. They could not understand that then, but certainly would understand when the Holy Spirit came to each of them visibly and powerfully on the Day of Pentecost a little later that year! Jesus could only be in one place at a time, but the Holy Spirit would be with and in all His people at all times.

We receive the same Holy Spirit to be with and **in** us when we accept Jesus as our Saviour and Lord, and He wants to help and teach us too. He calls some people to a leading, teaching, preaching and pastoral ministry "so that His people would learn to serve and His body [the church] would grow strong" (Ephesians 4: 11&12). Every one of us has a part in that, whether it's active and noticeable, or in the background - making the church clean and prepared for services, keeping us informed, listening, praying, comforting, counselling, encouraging

A very wise elderly Christian passed on to us what He considered to be the Holy Spirit's main task, that is to make us more like Jesus, and that would mean His growing in us the fruit of the Spirit - "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." (Galatians 5: 22 - 23). Let's pray that He uses this Lent to help us move a little further in our growth in Christlikeness, as He leads, guides, teaches and enables us in our service of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.