

Welcome to Pudsey Parish Church

Sunday 22nd March 2026 – The Fifth Sunday in Lent (Passiontide begins)

This Sunday

9.00 am Service with Holy Communion

10.30 am Service with Holy Communion

12.30 pm APCM

Readings Romans 8:6-11 & John 11:1-45

6.00 pm Prayer & Praise Service

Readings Psalm 30 & Matthew 20:17-34

Collect

Gracious Father,
you gave up your Son
out of love for the world:
lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion,
that we may know eternal peace
through the shedding of our Saviour's blood,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Flowers for our parents & grandparents.
George, Sue & sarah Fowler.

Diary for the week

Monday 23rd March

9.30 am – 11.15 am ABC baby & toddler group.

Tuesday 24th March

9.30 am – 11.15 am ABC baby & toddler group.

6.00 pm Beavers

Wednesday 25th March

! No Midweek Communion

9.30 am – 11.00 am Schools Easter Workshop

12 pm - 2.00 pm Esther Connect Group

6.00 pm Vicars Hour *by appointment*

6.00 pm Cubs

7.30 pm Scouts

Thursday 26th March

11.30 am-1.30 pm Connect Lunch

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.

Saturday 28th March

9.00 am - 11.00 am Choir Rehearsal

Next Sunday 29th March 2026

9.00 am Holy Communion

10.30 am Holy Communion

come & meet the donkeys!

Readings Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Matthew 21:1-11

6.30 pm Evening Prayer Service

Readings Psalm 80 & Matthew 21:33-46

Notices

Parishioners & Annual Parochial Church Meeting

You are welcome to attend the 2026 Parishioners meeting and APCM after the 10.30am service today.

Holy Week & Easter Services

Holy Week & Easter Service flyers are available in church; please feel free to pass one on or invite someone to join you.

Flowers

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

80's Quiz – Sat 2nd May 6 – 8.30pm

The next quiz is in the planning, think big hair, bold questions, it's going to be totally 80's! Tickets available via ChurchSuite or the parish office. If you are able, please sign up to bring something for the buffet, the sheet is available in church.

Dates for your diaries

Holy Week Mon 30th, Tue 31st Mar & Wed 1st April

6.30pm Night Prayer

Maundy Thursday 2nd April

6.30pm Holy Communion

Good Friday Service 3rd April

10.30am All Age Service

12pm Walk of Witness

2.00pm An Hour at the Cross

Easter Sunday 5th April

6.00am Dawn Service

9.00am Holy Communion

10.30am Holy Communion

Contacts

Clergy

Rev Gareth Howles - 07795 268997

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Parish Administrator

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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' Prayer Struggle in Gethsemane

(To His 3 closest disciples) Sit here while I go over there and pray. My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with Me.

(To God) My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from Me. Yet not as I will, but as You will.

(To His disciples) Couldn't you keep watch with Me for one hour? Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.

(To God) My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, Your will be done.

(To His disciples) Are you still sleeping and resting? Look the hour is near, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us go! Here comes My betrayer!

Jesus knows that 'the hour,' to which His whole life has been moving, has arrived, but the very human Jesus feels the need of His friends' support. Having planned this event with His Father, before the creation of the world, He very naturally shrinks from it, when it comes, so goes to pray to His Father, perhaps hoping that He has found another way of dealing with the human sin which separates us from God. The 'cup' referred to in His prayers, is often mentioned in Scripture as the bitter suffering experienced as a result of God's wrath against sin. Doctor Luke tells us that Jesus' sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground (Luke 22: 44), such was the struggle His human nature was dealing with.

He found that His three prayer-helpers had not been able to stay awake and support Him, but finds an excuse for them, rather than blame them. His second (and third v. 44) prayer show He is a little more willing to obey His Father but still struggling. However, when He finally returns to the three sleepers His tone is very different. Through prayer, Jesus has been given the strength and courage to go and meet His betrayer and from then onwards, although He is the victim, we see (verses 50-56) that in one sense He is really in charge.

Most of us struggle with prayer at times; even to get down to it, or, in a busy life, finding a suitable time and place, although one very busy Christian in years gone by, found that the busier he was, the more he needed to pray! Then we may struggle with wandering thoughts or, if you are like me, little sleeps. Prayer has been described as something like a stream, and the wandering thoughts are stuff floating on the surface, which we need to park and then get back to prayer.

Sometimes we don't know how to pray, especially in difficult times in our life or that of a loved one or, in times like these, about international situations, which seem to become more and more chaotic. Romans 8: 26 assures us that, at these times, the Holy Spirit intercedes for us in our weakness. Then we may wonder whether it's right to keep on praying for someone or something when nothing seems to happen, and the answer to that is normally 'Yes', especially if it's for a loved one who doesn't share our faith.

But probably the most difficult thing to pray about is something we are pretty sure we need or ought to do but tend to shrink from; someone once put it 'Lord, please make me willing to be willing.' We may be able to ask one or more friends to pray for us, hoping they are more reliable than those 3 disciples! Several people in our church have said, when in such a situation, it's as if the Lord kept giving them messages to assure them of His help if they went ahead in obedience. Certainly, they speak of a sense of peace when they 'give in' and are given the wisdom, strength, and courage to face the task in hand. May the Lord keep us all learning and persisting in prayer, trusting Him to answer in the time and way which He chooses.