

# Welcome to Pudsey Parish Church

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2026 – Palm Sunday

## This Sunday

**9.00 am Service with Holy Communion**

**10.30 am Service with Holy Communion**

*Come and 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

## Collect

True and humble king,  
hailed by the crowd as Messiah:  
grant us the faith to know you and love you,  
that we may be found beside you  
on the way of the cross,  
which is the path of glory. Amen.

**Flowers** in memory of John & Eva Parry,  
from Gwyneth Phillott.

## Diary for the week – Holy Week

### Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March

9.30 am – 11.15 am ABC baby & toddler group.

6.30 pm Night Prayer

### Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March

9.30 am – 11.15 am ABC baby & toddler group.

6.00 pm Beavers

6.30 pm Night Prayer

### Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April

10:00 am Midweek Communion

12 pm - 2.00 pm Esther Connect Group

6.00 pm Cubs

6.30 pm Night Prayer

7.30 pm Scouts

### Maundy Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April

11.30 am-1.30 pm Connect Lunch

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

6.30 pm Holy Communion Service

### Good Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April

10.30 am All-Age Service

12.00 pm Walk of Witness

*Meet at the Baptist church.*

2.00 pm An Hour at the Cross

### Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April

9.00 am – 11.00 am Choir Rehearsal

## Next Week - Easter Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2026

**6.00 am Dawn Service** *Followed by breakfast.*

**Readings** Genesis 1:1-2:4a, Exodus 14:10-31,  
Isaiah 55:1-11, Ezekiel 37:1-14,  
Romans 6:3-11 & Matthew 28:1-10.

**9.00 am Service with Holy Communion**

**10.30 am Service with Holy Communion**

**Readings** Acts 10:34-43 & John 20:1-18

## Notices

### ABC & Comic Relief

Thank you to everyone who brought along their old toys to sell and picked up something 'new-to-you' in support of Comic Relief. Together you raised a fantastic £110! A big thank you to all who contributed and made the event such a success.

### Mothers Union

This year the MU celebrates it's 150-year anniversary. If you would like to read more about their history, what they do or how you can join, take a look at [www.mothersunion.org](http://www.mothersunion.org).

### Flowers

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

### 80's Quiz – Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> May 6 – 8.30pm

Tickets are 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.

### Community Events

There are a couple of community events coming up in the next few months and we'd love for our church to have a presence. The first is Pudsey Carnival on Sat 16<sup>th</sup> May and then The Great Get Together on Sat 20<sup>th</sup> June. But to make it happen, we'll need some volunteers. Would you be interested in getting involved and helping us show up in our community?

## Contacts

### Clergy

Rev Gareth Howles - 07795 268997

[vicar@pudseyparish.org.uk](mailto:vicar@pudseyparish.org.uk)

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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### Jesus' words from the cross

*Father, forgive these people! They don't know what they are doing. (Luke 23: 34)*

*Dear woman, here is your son. .... Here is your mother. (John 19: 26 & 27)*

*I promise that today you will be with Me in paradise. (Luke 23: 43)*

*My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? (Matthew 27: 46)*

*I'm thirsty. (John 19: 28)*

*It is finished. (John 19: 30)*

*Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit. (Luke 23: 46)*

It may seem surprising that different writers record different things that Jesus said from the cross, but there would be a lot of other noise making Him difficult to hear. At least one of the crucified thieves would no doubt be cursing, and the watching crowds were shouting out insults and mockery to Jesus, tempting Him to come down, and taunting him that He couldn't. No doubt the 2 thieves were also jeered and cursed. Then would any of Jesus' followers be able to stand there for 6 hours to watch His suffering?

Jesus' first comment was to ask forgiveness for those hammering in the nails; they may not have understood His words but would certainly be surprised that He was so quiet, not like the usual screaming and cursing. Of course they did know what they were doing physically, but not that this was an innocent man, deliberately accepting their actions. Mary, Jesus' mother, and John, His most discerning disciple, were standing near the cross and Jesus' next words were to make sure she was looked after by John, and to spare her from being there to see the worst of his suffering. We learn (27) that John took her to his home at that point.

The 2 thieves showed different attitudes to Jesus, one of them asking why He didn't save Himself and them, the other admitting that they deserved to die but Jesus didn't, and asking Jesus to remember him when He came into His kingdom. Jesus' reply assured him of a place with Him in paradise that very day. This is a most encouraging promise that no matter how late in their life, those loved ones we've prayed for admit their need of God and His forgiveness, it is assured by Jesus Himself.

The hours of darkness between midday and 3 p.m. were the worst part of Jesus suffering, with the natural world, which He made, reacting because it was then that Jesus was separated from His Father God for the only time in all eternity. This means that all who believe in Him need never know such separation. At the end of that time, the human Jesus expressed the horror of it, as He began to sense God's presence again, but distantly, the only time He called Him 'My God' and not 'My Father.' His words are the opening verse of Psalm 22, much of which foreshadows Jesus' sufferings.

John had returned to hear the very important 'loud cry' referred to by Matthew (v 50) and Mark (37). Jesus needed to moisten His mouth so that He could announce loudly enough to be heard, 'It is finished,' meaning 'accomplished, 'paid in full'; He had completed what He came to earth for - to give access to all believers to His Father God. We read in Mark (v. 38) and Luke (45), that the huge curtain in the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. That curtain hid the symbolic place of God's presence from view, except for one day in the year when the High Priest alone was allowed to enter to atone for all God's people's sin. Now that restriction had gone for ever! All have access to God in prayer at any time. After that Jesus committed Himself to His Father's care with the usual good night prayer of God's people and 'gave up His spirit'.

This is the way our loving Saviour willingly died in agony for our forgiveness, salvation from present sin and acceptance by our Father God into His family for all eternity. Hallelujah! What a Saviour!