

Welcome to Pudsey Parish Church

Sunday 5th April 2026 – Easter Sunday

This Sunday

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

Collect

Grant, Lord,
that we who are baptized into the death of
your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
may continually put to death our evil desires
and be buried with him
and that through the grave and gate of death
we may pass to our joyful resurrection
through his merits,
who died and was buried and rose again for us,
your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Diary for the week –

Tuesday 7th April

2.00 pm – 4.00 pm Mothers union Meeting

Wednesday 8th April

10:00 am Midweek Communion

Thursday 9th April

11.30 am-1.30 pm Connect Lunch

Free light lunch served, open to all the community.

Friday 10th April

12.00 pm Wedding – Private event

Next Week – 2nd Sunday of Easter 12th April

9.00 am Service with Holy Communion

10.30 am Service with Holy Communion

Readings Acts 2: 14a, 22-32 & John 20: 19-31

6.30 pm Evening Prayer

Readings Psalm 30: 1-5 & Mark 15: 46-16:8

Notices

80's Quiz – Sat 2nd 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.

Mothers Union – Tues 7th April 2pm

You are warmly invited to the next MU meeting in church, titled "Getting Connected". 'Connected' is the title of the MU magazine about family life issues, that members receive twice a year. We will be sharing our thoughts on articles from the magazine. Members, if possible, please read the magazine so we can share our thoughts together. For non-members, copies of the magazine are available in church to take and read or please ask Hilary Whiteley for a copy. All are welcome with light refreshments served afterwards.

Sunday Service Rotas

The Sunday Service rotas for April & May are available to view on Church Suite. Thank you for serving, it really does help our services run smoothly. If you'd like to help out at Sunday services by being on one of the rotas, please email Sally in the office.

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 16th May and then The Great Get Together on Sat 20th 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?

Marriage Encounter Weekends

The perfect opportunity to spend a weekend learning & practising new ways to deepen your relationship, presented by a Christian team. For more info speak to Sue & Chris Kelk or email booking@marriageencounter.org.uk

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

Contacts

Clergy

Rev Gareth Howles - 07795 268997

vicar@pudseyparish.org.uk

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

www.pudseyparish.org.uk

Shirley's Reflection

The Risen Jesus encourages His friends.

Why are you crying? Who are you Looking for? ... Mary! (John 20: 14-16)

How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Didn't you know that the Messiah would have to suffer these things before He was given His glory? (Luke 24: 25-26)

Peace be with you ... Why are you so frightened? Why do you doubt? Look at My hands and My feet and see who I am! Touch Me and see for yourselves. Ghosts don't have flesh and bones as you see I have. (Luke 24: 36-39)

This being the most momentous and life-changing event in all of human history, it is perhaps surprising that it is told in such a quiet, gentle way. There is no eye-witness account of the dramatic removal of the heavy stone blocking Jesus' tomb, and the emergence of the risen Jesus. The first to see the empty tomb, the faithful women, were told by angels that Jesus was not there, but had been raised, but they couldn't take that in. But Mary Magdalene had stayed behind and, in her weeping, recognised Jesus, with joy and wonder when He called her name. He asked her to go and tell the menfolk among His friends, which she did with great joy, but, as was usual at the time, a woman's witness was regarded as unreliable, even though Simon-Peter and John had been to see the empty tomb. It was all beyond their imagining.

The gentle rebuke from Luke 24 was to 2 travellers trudging wearily to their home in Emmaus. They had been in Jerusalem for the Passover and knew that Jesus, who had been seen as the great prophet who would free the Jews from Roman rule, had been crucified. They'd heard that 2 groups of people had been to His tomb and found it empty but hadn't seen Jesus. So, they were very sad and puzzled when a stranger joined them and told them that what had happened to Jesus was all foretold in their Scriptures. Then He took them through those Scriptures showing them all the references to what had happened to Jesus. It was only when they were eating with Him, and He broke the bread in a familiar way, that they recognised Jesus, before He disappeared.

Then, although it was getting dark, they rushed back to Jerusalem to tell Jesus' friends about His visit and teaching. That's when Jesus appeared to them all, with the usual greeting of 'shalom' meaning much more than 'peace'; there's also the idea of well-being included, and rightness with God and others. Even so they were frightened thinking it was a ghost. He made quite clear that it really was the Jesus they'd always known even though changed in some way, even inviting them to touch Him. Then, as he had done with the Emmaus travellers, He went through their Scriptures pointing out all the references to Him and His suffering, death and rising. The most obvious of those references, for us to read, are Isaiah 52: 13 - 53: 12 and Psalm 22.

Those disciples needed to be gently helped to understand that Jesus had been raised from death in a new body. After all it was a completely unique and unexpected event, (even though Jesus had kept telling them about it). If we need help and reassurance to believe it, and ask for that help, He will give it, and help us to share in the joy and wonder that sin and death have been defeated, and that we shall live with Him in new bodies, in His kingdom where, as we read in Revelation 21: 4, "He will wipe every tear from [our] eyes and there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain."

In spite of their initial difficulty in accepting it, and many people's incredulity, it's true that "Christ is risen! He is risen indeed." Hallelujah!