

# Welcome to Pudsey Parish Church

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2026 – The Fifth Sunday of Easter

## This Sunday

**9.00 am** Service with Holy Communion

**10.30 am** Service of the Word

**Readings** Acts 7: 55-60 & John 14: 1-14

**6.30 pm** HC Service with anointing

**Readings** Psalm 147:1-12 & Luke 2: 25-38

## Collect

Risen Christ,  
your wounds declare your love for the world  
and the wonder of your risen life:  
give us compassion and courage  
to risk ourselves for those we serve,  
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

## Flowers

in loving memory of Alan Ashby, from Marian

## Diary for the week

### Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May

Bank Holiday

### Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May

9.30 am – 11.15 am ABC toddler & baby group.

2.00 pm – 4.00 pm Mothers Union meeting

6.00 pm Beavers

### Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May

10.00 am Midweek Communion

1.00 pm Funeral Service of

Toni Dutton

6.00 pm Cubs

6.00 pm – 7.00 pm Vicars Hour

7.30 pm Scouts

### Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May

7.00 am – 10.00 pm Polling Station

11.30 am-1.30 pm Connect Lunch

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

## Next Week Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May

**9.00 am** Service with Holy Communion

**10.30 am** Service with Holy Communion

**Readings** Acts 17:22-31 & John 14:15-21

**6.30 pm** Evening Prayer Service

**Readings** Psalm 87:1-10

Revelation 21:22-22:5

## Notices

### Mothers Union

On Tue 5<sup>th</sup> May the MU have their next meeting starting at 2pm. Topic is **Prayer in circles – Labyrinth and sheep pens!** All are welcome and light refreshments will be served afterwards.

### Polling Station & Connect Lunch

Local elections take place on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May, and the church will once again be used as a polling station from 7am-10pm. This year we're pleased that our Connect Lunch will run alongside it from 11.30am-1.30pm, offering a warm welcome to anyone who pops in.

### Gareth's Birthday Meal

We'll be celebrating Gareth's birthday with a roast dinner after the service on Sun 10<sup>th</sup> May. For catering purposes please sign-up at the back of church or via ChurchSuite. All are welcome.

### Pastoral Care Team

A little reminder that our Pastoral Care Team aim to support any in our church family (over age 18) in prayer, listening, emotional support & practical advice. This can include visiting our elderly or housebound, at times of illness & bereavement & at other times when support is needed. They can also provide home communion if required. The team can be contacted by email at [pastoral@pudseyparish.org.uk](mailto:pastoral@pudseyparish.org.uk). We will then contact you as soon as possible but please note this may not be the same day. Please keep the team in your prayers as they continue this important work.

## Contacts

### Clergy

Rev Gareth Howles - 07795 268997

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

### Parish Administrator

Sally Corbin-Smith – 0113 2577843

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

### Church Wardens

Marian Ashby – 07971 323749

Trevor Newbold – 07999 710320

### Pastoral Care Team

[pastoral@pudseyparish.org.uk](mailto:pastoral@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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*It is by grace you have been saved, though faith .... not by works, so that no-one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (Ephesians 2: 8-10)*

*Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with them, and they with me. (Revelation 3: 20)*

Here are 2 more verses to help people to understand the gospel. The first one might be a bit puzzling - 'not by works' and yet 'to do works' - but there's a world of difference between them. The 'works' which can't save us are rules which other religions and societies say we must keep to be accepted by God, or to know real satisfaction. The Pharisees of Jesus' time could boast about keeping huge numbers of rules, and despising those who didn't. They had Jesus put to death because they couldn't accept His teaching that relationship with God through Him mattered much more than rules. People of other faiths today are concerned that they might not keep enough rules to be accepted.

There's a huge difference between doing things to try to win someone's favour and knowing they have accepted you, and doing things inspired by your love for each other. God's 'grace', His free, unearned favour, sent Jesus to die for the sin of all the world, and it becomes ours when we commit ourselves to Him in faith. Then as His forgiven, loved and adopted children, He shows us how to serve Him by doing what pleases Him, and sharing His love with others, as helped by His Holy Spirit.

There's a famous painting to illustrate our second verse; it shows Jesus knocking at a door which has no handle on the outside and has weeds growing up it; there a version of it in the stained-glass window in our church kitchen. It makes clear that Jesus never forces Himself on anyone but is always there, waiting for people to respond to Him. Many people have been encouraged, by this verse, to make that leap of faith to open their hearts and lives to Jesus and know the joy of the loving relationship which sharing a meal can celebrate.

In fact, it was written to a church which had become very self-satisfied and had lost sight of what churches are meant to be. It can happen to churches and individuals today. Some churches concentrate so much on music, practical and material help to others, beautiful vestments or liturgy, exciting experiences of the Holy Spirit or getting so busy (and that can apply to individuals too) that they lose sight of what really matters. All those things are good in themselves, and help to encourage worship for some people, but if they take our eyes off Jesus and His love shown on the cross, they are a hindrance to real worship and service to God and others. Then, as the song says, each of us, and we all as a church, need to come back to the heart of worship 'And it's all about You, Jesus.' May we be prayerful and watchful to keep that true of us all.