



BENEFICE BULLETIN

Church News for
Bedale, Burrill, Leeming and Thornton Watlass

Sunday 12th December 2021

Advent 3

OUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR

Bel Newman, Marge Craddock, Kath Marshall, Lucy, Geordie, Sid Blanchard, Lesley Hall, David & Delma Bode, Fr Simon Gurd, John Hall, Lynne Riddlestone, Olive Robinson, & Barbara Jaques.

RIP

David Hall, Simon Reynolds, Joyce Barnett and Roland Phillips.
May they rest in peace and rise in glory

ADVENT 2021 - *Public Reading of the Gospels*

Monday 13th December—7.00pm **St Luke's Gospel**

Volunteers are required to share the reading. Please speak to the Rector or arrive in good time at St Gregory's church to be allocated a section of the Gospel to read.

The event will be broadcast via Facebook and YouTube.

COLLECT AND READINGS FOR ADVENT 3

Advent Wreath Prayers

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, just and true: to you be praise and glory for ever. Your prophet John the Baptist was witness to the truth as a burning & shining light. May we your servants rejoice in his light, and so be led to witness to him who is the Lord of our coming kingdom, Jesus our Saviour and King of the ages.

Blessed be God for ever.

Lord Jesus, light of the world, John told the people to prepare, for you were very near. As Christmas grows closer day by day, help us to be ready to welcome you now. Amen.

Collect

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First Reading - Zephaniah 3.14–end T

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgements against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in our midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

Second Reading - Philippians 4.4–7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Gospel - Luke 3.7–18

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.' And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.' As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.' So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Post Communion Prayer

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

Service Times and Venues. (Thursday 10am Holy Communion - St Gregory's

	9.15am—Communion Facebook and Conference Call	*—Communion Conference Call	16.00—Evensong Conference Call
12 Dec	St Gregory's Bedale	10:45 *St Mary's Thornton Watlass	*Burrill Church
19 Dec	St Gregory's Bedale	*10.45 T/Watlass 11am Leeming	*Thornton Watlass Carol Service

***Carol Service St Mary's, Thornton Watlass
at 4pm on Sunday 19th December 2021***

COMMENTARY ON THE READING

Today's passages look forward and express the idea of waiting and longing for the promised future to come into being. John looks forward to Christ; Zephaniah and Isaiah look forward to the kingly reign of the Lord; and Paul looks forward to the gift of peace.

Luke 3.7-18

Having opened with a scripture reading (3.4-6), John began his preaching ministry in combative and condemnatory style (vv. 7-9). The crowds who had come to John in the desert to receive his baptism of repentance were challenged, in the light of forthcoming judgement, to reassess their attitudes towards both spiritual and secular power. This Jewish crowd were warned that they could not rely on their spiritual heritage or their ethnicity to escape divine wrath. Rather, they were told that what will count are lives which bear suitable fruit (v. 8). This metaphor of a fruit tree is continued in verse 9 when John returns again to the theme of judgement. The next section of this passage (vv. 12-14) is unique to Luke, and spells out in more detail John's ethical teaching, as he explains what he means by lives which 'bear fruits worthy of repentance'. If the crowd are to receive his baptism, they must turn from their old obsessions with spiritual and ethnic status, and instead live lives characterised by financial honesty (vv. 10-12) and acts of charity (v. 11). The implication is that they were resting secure in their heritage, while living lives of dishonesty and selfishness. As at the beginning of Acts (Acts 2.37-45, 4.32-35), Luke presents the proclamation of the good news of Christ, not just in terms of a spiritual renewal but also in terms of a transformation of the way in which money is handled. Throughout his Gospel, Luke links economics with power, and he makes it clear that he sees baptism into the way of Christ as breaking not just spiritual bondage (such as reliance on ethnospiritual heritage v. 8) but also fiscal bondage (vv. 10-12. cf. Luke 7.35-49, 12.13-21, 22-34, 14.25-30, 15.8-10, 16.1-13, 19-31, 18.1-8, 9-14, 18-30, 19.1-10, 11-27, 20.9-16, 21.3-4). Clearly John's approach is successful, as in the next section (vv. 15-18) the people start to wonder whether he might himself be the Messiah. With an eye on his readership, Luke makes it clear that John is not the Messiah (cf. Acts 18.25, 19.1-7) but rather that he is baptising people into repentance, in the expectation of a future, different kind of baptism. A contrast is therefore drawn between John's water baptism and the coming baptism of Christ, which is a baptism of fire and Spirit (cf. Acts 2.1-4). John's sermon ends as it began, with the theme of judgement (v. 17). However, this judgement is heard as 'good news' (v. 18) because it is delivered alongside a message of repentance and forgiveness.

ADVENT and CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Mon 13 Dec 7.00pm	Reading of the Gospel of Luke - Bedale
Tues 14 Dec 11.45am 1.30pm & 5.30	Benefice Christmas Lunch - Chantry Hall Leeming Londonderry School Nativity
Wed 15 Dec 10.00am 11.00am	Bedale Primary School KS1 Service Bedale Primary School KS2 Service
Thur 16 Dec 3.00pm 6.30pm	KS1 Christingle in Thornton Watlass School KS2 Carol Service in St Mary's Thornton Watlass
Sat 18 Dec 6.00pm	Carol Service at St Gregory's Bedale
Sun 19 Dec 4.00pm 6.30pm	Carol Service at St Mary's Thornton Watlass Carols at St John's Leeming
Mon 20 Dec 6.00pm	Carol Around Burrill Village
Tues 21 Dec 6.00pm	Carol Around Thornton Watlass Village
Wed 22 Dec 6.00pm	Carol Around Leeming Village
Thur 23 Dec 6.00pm	Carol Around Bedale

CHRISTMAS EVE

Fri 24 Dec 3.00pm	Crib Service at St Mary's Thornton Watlass
4.00pm	Crib Service at St Gregory's Bedale
7.00pm	Christmas Eve Communion - St John's Leeming
11.30pm	Midnight Mass - St Mary's Thornton Watlass
11.30pm	Midnight Mass - St Gregory's Bedale

CHRISTMAS DAY

Sat 25 Dec 8.00am	Holy Communion - St Gregory's Bedale
9.00am	Holy Communion - Burrill
10.00am	Morning Service - St Gregory's Bedale
10.45am	Holy Communion - St Mary's Thornton Watlass

BOXING DAY

Sun 26 Dec 10.30am	Benefice Service at St Gregory's Bedale
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This Sunday Afternoon 5pm

Praise & Prayer –

The King is Coming

Live or later on the Facebook Page or YouTube

