

BENEFICE BULLETIN

Church News for
Bedale, Burrill, Leeming and Thornton Watlass

24th April 2022

Second Sunday of Easter

OUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR

Bel Newman, Marge Craddock, Lucy, Lesley Hall, John Hall, Jenny
Delma Bode, Fr Simon Gurd, Lynne Riddlestone, Olive Robinson & Barbara Jaques.

RIP

John Gill, Allan Blanchard, Scott Thompson, Pam Stead and Keith Anderson

May they rest in peace and rise in glory

COLLECT AND READINGS FOR SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Collect

Almighty Father, you have given your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification: grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

First reading - Revelation 1.4–8

John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. 'I am the Alpha and the Omega', says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Second reading - Acts 5.27–32

When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, 'We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us.' But Peter and the apostles answered, 'We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Saviour, so that

he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.'

Gospel reading - John 20.19–31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.' But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.' A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.' Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Post Communion Prayer

Lord God our Father, through our Saviour Jesus Christ you have assured your children of eternal life and in baptism have made us one with him: deliver us from the death of sin and raise us to new life in your love, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

COMMENTARY ON THE READINGS

The transforming impact of the resurrection on the lives of those who follow Jesus provides today's main theme.

Acts 5.27-32

The context for this passage is that in the very early days of what became Christianity, the apostles demonstrated their popularity by performing many miracles. Here the High Priest and Sadducees, having removed the leader of the movement, now decide to imprison the others for refusing to follow an explicit instruction not to teach in the name of Jesus (4.18 and 5.28). An angel releases them from prison and the apostles return to teach in the Temple area, where the High Priest demands they give an account of themselves. So in the opening it is: 'When they (the Temple police) had brought them (the apostles), they (the police) had them stand before the council.' Peter speaks on behalf of the apostles and repeats the central message of all the sermons in the opening of Acts, and indeed the whole New Testament, that 'the God of our ancestors raised up Jesus

whom you had killed' Peter lays the blame squarely on the Sadducees' shoulders and this is what the High Priest resents (v. 28) as well as, presumably, not believing in the resurrection. How far this antagonism is historically based is a matter of dispute because Luke's history is sometimes questionable. Luke may have written into this early incident a later antagonism between Christianity and Judaism at the time of authorship (AD 80). Nonetheless, Peter's message speaks of God giving 'repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins' as the first result of the exaltation of Jesus. In what follows (vv. 33-42) we are told that the council was enraged and wanted to kill the apostles but the great Rabbi Gamaliel warned them it would be inadvisable to pursue the case – a wise man.

John 20.19-31

We continue with the theme of Christ's resurrection and exaltation. Last week Mary Magdalene had been instructed not to touch the risen Jesus but here Thomas is actually invited to touch his still visible wounds. This suggests that the sense in last week's Gospel passage was that she should not cling to him as he will soon have to leave them (20.17). Thomas is a typical empiricist, like most of us, who will not believe such an outrageous idea as Jesus living after his burial without irrefutable evidence. He will not accept it on the say-so of his friends. Could it be a wind-up? It is the same day as Mary Magdalene's sighting; the disciples are in hiding, perhaps fearing the same fate as their leader. Note that Jesus does not pass through the door like a ghost, but is suddenly with them. He is not only alive but transformed, as Paul suggests in 1 Corinthians 15. Here in verses 21-23 John conflates other incidents: the sending out of the apostles (Matthew 28.19-20) and the Pentecostal experience (Acts 2.1-4). However, Thomas is not there and doesn't believe it. The following Sunday, a week after Easter Day, Jesus is with them again and greets them in the traditional Jewish way: 'Shalom, peace.' Thomas is dealt with kindly – his attitude is understandable – and is invited to touch. We are not told whether he did but he worshipped Christ as 'my Lord and my God', a title customarily given to Caesar, but here probably translating the Hebrew 'Yahweh, Elohim' which was used in the Old Testament only of Israel's God. John's Gospel was written close to the end of the century and the message for second and third generation Christians and the rest of us is: 'Blessed are those who have not seen and yet ... believe.' The first edition of the Gospel ended here at verses 30-31 with the original conclusion about belief and having 'life in his name'.

Service Times and Venues

Thursdays 10:30am BCP communion at St Gregory's

	<i>Morning Services - St Gregory's, Bedale</i>	<i>Morning Services - St Mary's, St John's and Burrill</i>	<i>18.30—Evensong conference call</i>
24th April	9:15am St Gregory's #*F	9 am Burrill Church #	St John's, Leeming *
		10:45 St Mary's Thornton Watlass #*	
1st May	8am St Gregory's #	10:45 St Mary's Thornton Watlass #*	St Gregory's, Bedale *
	9.15am St Gregory's #*F	11am St John's, Leeming #	
8th May	9:15am St Gregory's #*F	10:45 St Mary's Thornton Watlass #*	Burrill Church *

Communion * conference call F Facebook

Notices

LET US PRAY ... Deanery Prayers
at St Mary's, Thornton Watlass
Wednesday 27th April at 11am.
Everyone Welcome



Wensley Deanery



Current shortages

- All tinned vegetables
- Packs of 40 or 80 teabags
- Jam
- Small bags of sugar
- Washing up liquid
- Cleaning sprays or wipes
- Carrier bags/bags for life



All donations are gratefully received
if you need a food parcel email:

info@hambletonfoodshare.org.uk or ring

07514 244158

We are here to help

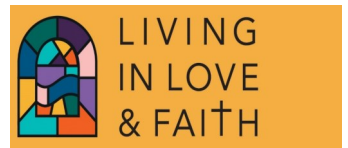
Wellbeing & Togetherness

The cafe will be open again on
Tuesday 26th April

The afternoon film
will be Jesus Christ
Superstar starting
at 2pm.



How do questions about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage fit within the bigger picture of the good news of Jesus Christ? What does it mean to live in love and faith together as a Church?



The Living in Love and Faith 5 week Course explores these issues and encourages deanery and church communities to be willing to do this even where they have different understandings and experiences.

The sessions will be held in **St Matthew's Church, Leyburn, 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start.**

Tuesday 26th April—Learning Together;

Tuesday, 3rd May—Identity;

Tuesday, 10th May—Relationships;

Tuesday, 17th May—Sex;

Tuesday, 24th May—Life Together

Please contact Rev'd Stephen Hanscombe for further details.

01969 622977

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'There is no fear in love, but perfect love cast out fear.'

1John 4:18