



BENEFICE BULLETIN

Church News for
Bedale, Burrill, Leeming and Thornton Watlass

1st May 2022

Third 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,
Dawn Durbridge, Sandra Lowe and Christine Isbister.

RIP

John Gill, Allan Blanchard, Scott Thompson, Pam Stead, Keith Anderson, Freda Seyffert,
June McLaughlin, Cynthia Lee and Shirley Bibby.
May they rest in peace and rise in glory

COLLECT AND READINGS FOR THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Collect

Almighty Father, who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord: give us such knowledge of his presence with us, that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life and serve you continually in righteousness and truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First Reading - Revelation 5.11–14

Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, singing with full voice, 'Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honour and glory and blessing!' Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing, 'To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honour and glory and might for ever and ever!' And the four living creatures said, 'Amen!' And the elders fell down and worshipped.

Second Reading - Acts 9.1–20

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' He asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The reply came, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.' The men who were travelling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into

Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank. Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, 'Ananias.' He answered, 'Here I am, Lord.' he Lord said to him, 'Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.' But Ananias answered, 'Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.' But the Lord said to him, 'Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.' So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, 'He is the Son of God.'

Gospel reading - John 21.1–19

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, 'I am going fishing.' They said to him, 'We will go with you.' They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, 'Children, you have no fish, have you?' They answered him, 'No.' He said to them, 'Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.' So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, 'It is the Lord!' When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the lake. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, 'Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.' So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, 'Who are you?' because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my lambs.' A second time he said to him, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Tend my sheep.' He said to him the third time, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, 'Do you love me?' And he said to

him, 'Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.' (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, 'Follow me.'

Post Communion Prayer

Living God, your Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in all his redeeming work; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

COMMENTARY ON THE READINGS

Jesus is the means whereby God encounters individuals to transform them, but is also the ultimate object of worship for all creation.

Today's readings from Acts and John focus on the transformation God can bring about individuals' circumstances. We might well ask, 'but what if it doesn't happen to me?' If God's working in our lives is so much a matter of his initiative; if we search for healing and transformation and do not find it – what does that say about God and faith? Perhaps the reading from Revelation points to an answer, for there Jesus is unambiguously acclaimed not merely as the Lord and Saviour of individuals, but as the worthy object of all creation's praise.

Acts 9.1-6

Saul, too, is at God's mercy, though at the beginning of the story he does not realise it. Who else could turn him from his persecuting? God came, as God often comes in Scripture, in a surprising way that demonstrated his complete freedom. Yet the story of Saul's conversion shows us that God has a distinctive face which any can seek: it is Jesus, whom Saul recognises as 'Lord' and 'Master' (v. 5). At times, still, it will seem as if God hides his face. The ways in which Jesus' lordship is seen are often puzzling and unexpected. But Saul's encounter, like that of the earlier disciples, assures us that one day his lordship will be seen by all, as he himself became convinced (Philippians 2.11).

Gospel John 21.1-19

The disciples, like the psalmist, must have felt utterly at the mercy of God. They could not control the appearances of Jesus. The joy that had dawned when they first saw the risen Lord seems to have been replaced by dull acceptance that everything would go 'back to normal', as we find them back at their fishing.

Jesus appears here in such a way as to make the joy more durable. The climax of the event is not the catch of fish, but their meeting with him in his old characteristic role as host (vv. 12-14). This is what really excites Simon (v. 7). One can imagine this meeting reviving their faith that though they would go through nights of weeping, as they just had (the futile night's fishing echoes the misery of the immediate aftermath of Jesus' death), the mornings of joy would be the lasting reality.

Jesus' interview with Peter confirms this on the deepest personal level, as the relationship broken by his denial and desertion is restored, and Peter inherits the awesome role of shepherd of the flock (vv. 15-17). He would suffer as Jesus did (vv. 18-19), but in the light and hope of Jesus' risen presence, he would have purpose that would banish all misery and despairing drift.

Notices

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>18.00—Evensong conference call</i>
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 *
15th May	9:15am St Gregory's #*F	10:45 St Mary's Thornton Watlass #*	St Mary's Thornton Watlass *
		11am St John's, Leeming	

Communion * conference call F Facebook

St John's Church Leeming Coffee Morning in the Chantry Hall on Saturday 14th May 9:30am - 12:30pm



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



Wensley Deanery

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.

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

1John 4:18