



# BENEFICE BULLETIN

Church News for  
Bedale, Burrill, Leeming and Thornton Watlass

9th October 2022

## Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

### OUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR

Bel Newman, Marge Craddock, Lesley Hall, Delma Bode, John Hall, Jenny, Lynne Riddlestone, Olive Robinson, Barbara Jaques, Chris, Harry Scorer and David Disney.

### RIP

*Hugh Burch, Margaret Exelby, David Walker, Marcus Littler  
Malcolm Stokoe, Roy Hyde, Donald Lawson, Malcolm Gill, & Sandra Lowe  
May they rest in peace and rise in glory*

### Collect

**Almighty God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you: pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself, and so bring us at last to your heavenly city where we shall see you face to face; 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. Amen.**

### First Reading - Jeremiah 29.1,4-7

These are the words of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the remaining elders among the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

### Second Reading - 2 Timothy 2.8-15

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David - that is my gospel, for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus,

with eternal glory. The saying is sure: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he will also deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful - for he cannot deny himself. Remind them of this, and warn them before God that they are to avoid wrangling over words, which does no good but only ruins those who are listening. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth.

### **Gospel Reading - Luke 17. 11–19**

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, 'Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!' When he saw them, he said to them, 'Go and show yourselves to the priests.' And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, 'Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?' Then he said to him, 'Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.'

### **Additional Reading - Job 38:3-18**

Pull yourself together, Job! Up on your feet! Stand tall! I have some questions for you, and I want some straight answers. Where were you when I created the earth? Tell me, since you know so much! Who decided on its size? Certainly you'll know that! Who came up with the blueprints and measurements? How was its foundation poured, and who set the cornerstone, while the morning stars sang in chorus and all the angels shouted praise? And who took charge of the ocean when it gushed forth like a baby from the womb? That was me! I wrapped it in soft clouds, and tucked it in safely at night. Then I made a playpen for it, a strong playpen so it couldn't run loose, and said, 'Stay here, this is your place. Your wild tantrums are confined to this place.' "And have you ever ordered Morning, 'Get up!' told Dawn, 'Get to work!' So you could seize Earth like a blanket and shake out the wicked like cockroaches? As the sun brings everything to light, brings out all the colours and shapes. The cover of darkness is snatched from the wicked - they're caught in the very act! "Have you ever gotten to the true bottom of things, explored the labyrinthine caves of deep ocean? Do you know the first thing about death? Do you have one clue regarding death's dark mysteries? And do you have any idea how large this earth is? Speak up if you have even the beginning of an answer.

### **Post Communion Prayer**

**Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, and make us continually to be given to all good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## COMMENTARY ON THE READINGS

Most obviously, the Gospel passage tell the story of people cured of leprosy, with the added parallel that both stories centre on a foreigner. These are deeds of immense power. Although the 'leprosy' of the Bible was not necessarily always the disease we call leprosy today, incurable chronic skin disease was dreaded because it usually resulted in stigma and exclusion from society. Psalm 111 offers a broader context, recounting God's mighty acts of power in establishing Israel as his people. This sets the individual actions within a wider framework of God's ongoing commitment to the wellbeing of his people. 2 Timothy grounds its stoical endurance of suffering in the resurrection of Christ, for Christians the greatest of all God's works, and the one which provides the paradigm for making sense of all the rest.

### Psalm 111

This psalm was probably used at a ceremony to renew Israel's covenant with God, the source of their salvation. It offers a set of reflections on the wonder of God's being, arranged in Hebrew as an alphabetic acrostic. The recurrent theme is the greatness of God's work; the Old Testament understanding of God is demonstrated through what he does, rather than through any description of his nature. Much of the 'work' done remains undefined, but it includes providing food (especially in the wilderness), and giving the 'heritage of the nations' (v. 6), probably a reference to Israel's possession of the Promised Land. Thus the psalm recalls key events in Israel's history. Verse 2 suggests that the works of the Lord are especially meaningful to those who delight in the Lord; those who have faith already are better able to discern the presence of the Lord in the events of everyday life. In this, there is an echo of Naaman's journey of discovery.

### New Testament 2 Timothy 2.8-15

The passage begins with a succinct statement of the writer's gospel, focusing on Jesus as Christ, divine in his raising from the dead (1 Corinthians 15.20), human in his descent from David (Romans 1.3). This serves also as a climax to the preceding verses, in which the writer has encouraged Timothy to face suffering unflinchingly. He then goes on to refer again to his own suffering, which does not, however, inhibit the spread of the gospel (cf. Philippians 1.12-14) and is therefore worth enduring. A second reason for enduring suffering is the promise that Christ will honour us if we do so; but even if not, he remains faithful to us – an affirmation of the multiple opportunities Christ offers us to return to him. The passage then encourages Timothy in leading the congregation into an understanding of the truth. If there is a link between this passage and the others, it centres on the affirmation of God's greatest work in raising Jesus from the dead. It is so important to spread this good news that physical constraints become irrelevant to the commitment of the apostle; God's power overcomes all barriers.

### Gospel Luke 17.11-19

This story differs from the other stories of Jesus cleansing lepers (Matthew 8.2-4, Mark 1.40-45, Luke 5.12f) because there is no physical contact. The healing happens as the people are on their way to the priest (Leviticus 13). When he declared them clean, they would be restored to their communities. This makes their haste understandable. The single Samaritan who returned to give thanks resembles Naaman in his alien identity, and in his gratitude. This reaction implies a level of sensitivity to Jesus' deed and its life-changing impact, in contrast to the others whose focus is on themselves. He is blessed with words from Jesus recognising that his faith has 'made him well' (the Greek verb also means 'saved' and is used elsewhere to denote complete healing, cf. Luke 7.50). By the time Luke wrote, the Church probably included Samaritans (Acts 8.5) and this story affirms their place in the community, despite the long enmity between Jews and Samaritans.

The key theme is again the great power of God, overcoming multiple cases of leprosy, enabling people to reintegrate into their community, and overcoming the hostility between the Samaritan leper and Jesus the Jew (cf. Luke 10.30-36). Jesus made this point at the beginning of his ministry, drawing on the story of Naaman (Luke 4.27) to demonstrate that God's power is inclusive, and here, he makes the claim concrete.

# 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>
9th Oct	9:15am St Gregory's #*F	10:45 St Mary's Thornton Watlass #*	Burrill Church *
16th Oct	9:15am St Gregory's #*F	10:45 St Mary's Thornton Watlass #*	St Mary's Thornton Watlass *
		11am St John's, Leeming	
23rd Oct	9:15am St Gregory's #*F	9 am Burrill Church #	St John's, Leeming *
		10:45 St Mary's Thornton Watlass #*	

# Communion \* conference call F Facebook



***This week's floodlighting is in memory of  
Rosemary and John Albert Lightfoot***

To sponsor the floodlighting in memory of someone then please get in touch with Sarah in the office on 07949 006681 or [admin@bedale.church](mailto:admin@bedale.church)

## St John's, Leeming Harvest Festival

Sunday 16th October in church, followed by lunch.

Everyone is welcome.



### HAMBLETON FOODSHARE

We would really be grateful for anything as our stocks are going down so quickly at the moment. At the time of writing our current list of urgent shortages are: custard; coffee; sponge puddings; sugar; tinned ready meals; jars of spicy sauce; jars of pasta sauces; corned beef; tins of mixed veg; rice; jelly; shower gel; deodorants. We would also really appreciate toiletries and cleaning materials such as washing powder, washing up liquid etc and even pet food is good.



**Prayer and Praise**  
Next Sunday, 16th October  
At 5pm online

