

# BENEFACT BULLETIN

Church News for

Bedale, Burrill, Leeming and Thornton Watlass

12th February 2023

## The Second Sunday Before Lent

### OUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR

Ross, Gaynor, Toni and Eric Kent, Bel Newman, Lesley Hall, Delma Bode, John Hall, Barbara Pike, Chris, Lynne Riddlestone, Olive Robinson, Harry Scorer, Kath Finkill, Harry Lillystone, Pauline, and Mark Newman.

### RIP

Pamela Exelby, Virginia Finkill, David Disney, Enid Farrow and Kathleen Wilson.  
*May they rest in peace and rise in glory*

### The Passing Bell

The passing bell was rung on Saturday 4th February in memory of Enid Farrow, aged 82

### Praying for Edwin in Bolivia

Please pray for Edwin, for his teachers and workers at the project.

### COLLECT AND READINGS

#### Collect

**Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever. Amen.**

#### First Reading - Genesis 1.1 – 2.3

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. And God said, 'Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.' So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. And God said, 'Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.' And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, 'Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.' And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with

the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day. And God said, 'Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.' And it was so. God made the two great lights - the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night - and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day. And God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.' So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.' And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.' And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.' So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.' God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

### **Second Reading - Romans 8.18–25**

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

## **Gospel Reading - Matthew 6.25–34**

‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you - you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?” For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ‘So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.

## **Post Communion Prayer**

**God our creator, by your gift the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise, and the bread of life at the heart of your Church: may we who have been nourished at your table on earth be transformed by the glory of the Saviour’s cross and enjoy the delights of eternity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **COMMENTARY ON THE GOSPEL**

Don’t worry about tomorrow. The first lesson we can learn from Jesus is not to worry. Worry is unproductive and stunts spiritual growth. It takes us away from what we really need in life. Jesus taught us to seek first the kingdom of God. This is the ultimate goal in life, and if we seek the kingdom of God first, then all of our other needs will follow. Unfortunately, many Christians live according to Maslow’s “hierarchy of needs,” focusing on our physical, emotional, and intellectual needs and neglecting God’s will. However, Jesus’ advice to seek first the kingdom of God is the best way to avoid being caught up in these conflicting priorities.


The phrase “seek first God’s kingdom” can be difficult to understand without a deeper understanding of what it means. In Matthew 6:33, Jesus calls us to run to the Father, to seek God first, and to live for God. This is a profound statement. When understood in its entirety, this verse brings coherence and clarity to our relationships, our justice, and our character. Pursuing Intimacy with God is a spiritual journey that enables us to experience the kingdom of God, and is not simply a religious exercise.

In addition to causing tension, worrying is unproductive. While worrying may be helpful, it will ultimately make you less present at the moment. By worrying about things that are outside your control, you won’t make any progress in planning your actions. Worrying about things you can’t control will only waste your mental energy and take you away from making good choices. Similarly, worrying without a plan is unproductive. What makes worry productive? If it helps you solve a problem, then it’s productive. Conversely, unproductive worry takes up valuable mental energy and does nothing to solve problems. Worrying is also ineffective when it does not result in concrete actions or problem-solving strategies. So, instead of wasting your energy worrying, try focusing on making the most

of your time.

Jesus said to not worry about tomorrow because it is only tomorrow and the issues we face today aren't the same as tomorrow's. Worry is a distraction from your focus on the things that matter most in life. He said to seek first the kingdom of God and all other things will be added to you. Worry is not the solution to our problems and it is not in our power to control the outcome of events.

There is no doubt that worry stunts spiritual growth. Jesus once said that worry stifles our spiritual progress. While worry can be a natural human emotion, it is not helpful in preventing bad things from happening. Worry should be replaced with trust in God, who is wise, compassionate, and powerful.



## ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

**We will be holding an Ash Wednesday Service at St Gregory's Church, on Wednesday, 22nd February 2023 at 6:30pm.**


*The service will be repeated on Thursday 23rd February at 10.30am*

### 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>16.00—Evensong conference call</i>
12th Feb	9:15am St Gregory's #*F	10:45 St Mary's Thornton Watlass #*	Burrill Church *
19th Feb	9:15am St Gregory's #*F	10:45 St Mary's Thornton Watlass #* 11am St John's, Leeming	St Mary's Thornton Watlass *
26th Feb	9:15am St Gregory's #*F	9 am Burrill Church # 10:45 St Mary's Thornton Watlass #*	St John's, Leeming *


# Communion \* conference call F Facebook



## Prayer and Praise

This Sunday - 12th February

At 5pm online





### ***This week's floodlighting is in memory of Dave Collingwood***

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 Church Leeming Coffee Morning

In St John's Church on Thursday 16th February 2023

from 10:00am –12:15pm

