

BENEFICE BULLETIN

Church News for

Bedale, Burrill, Leeming and Thornton Watlass

25th June 2023

Third Sunday after Trinity

OUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR

Gaynor, Bel Newman, Mark Newman, Lesley Hall, Delma Bode, John Hall, Chris, Lynne Riddlestone, Olive Robinson, Harry Scorer, Kath Finkill, Barbara Cooper, Harry Lillystone, Anne Jardin, Adrian Grayson, and Maureen Graham

RIP

Keith Brooks, Richard Lamming.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory

Collect

Almighty God, you have broken the tyranny of sin and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts whereby we call you Father: give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service, that we and all creation may be brought to the glorious liberty of the children of God; 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 - Genesis 21.8–21

The child grew, and was weaned; and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. So she said to Abraham, 'Cast out this slave woman with her son; for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac.' The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. But God said to Abraham, 'Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named after you. As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring.' So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed, and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba. When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot; for she said, 'Do not let me look on the death of the child.' And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. And God heard the voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her,

‘What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him.’ Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. She went, and filled the skin with water, and gave the boy a drink. God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness, and became an expert with the bow. He lived in the wilderness of Paran; and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

Second Reading - Romans 6.1b–11

What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Gospel - Matthew 10.24–39

‘A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household! ‘So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground unperceived by your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows. ‘Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven. ‘Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

Post Communion Prayer

O God, whose beauty is beyond our imagining and whose power we cannot comprehend: show us your glory as far as we can grasp it, and shield us from knowing more than we can bear until we may look upon you without fear; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

COMMENTARY ON THE READINGS

Romans 6.1b-11

Paul here describes the experience of being a Christian in language that is rooted in his own experience and that has a mystical quality about it. The key idea is that of 'participation'. Christ does not simply die 'for' us, or 'in our place'. Christians must die themselves, to their old lives and to the power of sin and death over them (vv. 4-7). This takes place in and through baptism (vv. 3-4) which is the means of participation in Christ's own death and resurrection. A life that is conformed to the pattern laid down by Jesus Christ will be sustained by the knowledge that, ultimately, death is not the last word, and that new life is possible.

Matthew 10.24-39

This collection of sayings of Jesus, included by Matthew as a part of the instructions Jesus gives to his disciples before he sends them out on his work, contains some difficult sayings. The first section (vv. 24-25) reminds them that their task is to be like their teacher and master, Jesus himself. Their mission is his mission, and their lives are to assume the character of Jesus' own life. This means that when they speak, they are to speak only what they have heard from Jesus (vv. 26-27). The second section (vv. 26-33) tells them not to fear (v. 26). Central to Matthew's portrayal of Jesus is the notion of opposition or hostility. It is no surprise, then, that the disciples will experience violent opposition (v. 28). Those who can 'kill the body' are probably the Roman authorities. The disciples are only offered the reassurance that comes from knowing that the God who cares for the sparrows, also cares for them (echoes of Matthew 7.26 here). With this confidence they can acknowledge, in their lives but above all in their words (the imagined scene of Matthew 10.32-33 is a law-court), that they are followers of Jesus, and this will ensure that Jesus acknowledges them at the last judgement. In the final section (vv. 34-39) the true cost of discipleship is spelt out in unequivocal terms. The sayings about divisions in family relations (vv. 35-36) may well be based on Micah 7.6. There, the breakdown between the young and the old is a sign of the corruption and moral decay of Micah's society. Here it is a consequence of faithful obedience to Jesus' commands. The radical break with previous commitments and priorities that is required by Jesus is summed up in the image of carrying your own cross (v. 38). Disciples are called to embrace this symbol of Roman degradation and execution, as the consequence of following Jesus. Of course, the reader of the Gospel knows that this is exactly the path that Jesus will take himself, through death and on to resurrection

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>
25th June	9.15am St Gregory's #F	9:00 Burrill Mission Church #* 10:45 St Mary's Thornton Watlass #*	St John's, Leeming
2nd July	8am St Gregory's #* 9.15am St Gregory's #*F	10:45 St Mary's Thornton Watlass 11am St John's, Leeming #*	St Gregory's, Bedale *
9th July	9:15am St Gregory's #*F	10:45 St Mary's Thornton Watlass #*	Burrill Church *

Communion * conference call F Facebook

Rambling Rector Returns



Thank you to everyone who walked with or found sponsors for this year's ramble. Especially to Matthew Bell who traversed every mile and Chris Ownsworth as taxi to and from the start and finish points.

Simon

Deanery Prayer Meetings 2023

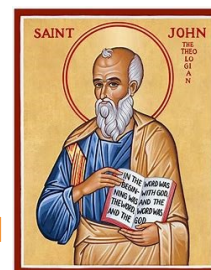
Everyone is welcome to join these to pray for the work in the Wensleydale Deanery. This month's meeting will be at 11am on Wednesday 28th June at St Michael's Church, Kirklington, .

St. John's Patronal Festival

Evensong at Leeming on 25th. June at 6.30pm

will celebrate St. John the Baptist, the Church's patron saint,

and will include a hymn specially dedicated to John. Refreshments will be served



Dates
for your



30th June

St Mary's, Thornton Watlass

Thornton Watlass Choral Group

SUMMER CONCERT 7.30pm in St. Mary's Church.

Tickets £10, including supper, available from

Christine Carruthers 01677 423519.

**Come and watch the first-ever multi-season series about
the life of Christ - from the beginning!**

Chantry Hall, Bedale @ 1.30pm starting 6th July

The Chosen is an historical drama of the life of Jesus. Come and experience his life and the Bible in a new and inspiring way.

