



# BENEFICE BULLETIN

Church News for

Bedale, Burrill, Leeming and Thornton Watlass

11th February 2024

## The Sunday Next Before Lent

### OUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR

Gaynor, Bel Newman, Mark Newman, Lesley Hall, Delma Bode, John Hall, Donna Bradley, George, Olive Robinson, Harry Scorer, Terry Gregory, Jack, Kath Finkill, Amanda, David, Chris, Liz, Tracey, Sue, Pam Kenyon, Arthur Lightfoot, Alison, Robin, Kath Moore, Tim, Dan, and John Pickard.

### RIP

Priscilla Slater, Patricia Wilson, Michael Ellis, Michael Fox, and Paul 'Curly' Hirst.  
*May they rest in peace and rise in glory*

### Praying for Edwin in Bolivia

*We pray you would bless Edwin as he grows. Keep him safe and strong in the weeks, months and years ahead. Give his family grace and strength through the highs and lows of caring for a child. In Jesus' name. Amen*

### Collect

**Almighty Father, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross: give us grace to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to suffer with him and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

### First Reading - 2 Kings 2.1–12

Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, 'Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel.' But Elisha said, 'As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, 'Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?' And he said, 'Yes, I know; keep silent.' Elijah said to him, 'Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho.' But he said, 'As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, 'Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?' And he answered, 'Yes, I know; be silent.' Then Elijah said to him, 'Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.' But he said, 'As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to

the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground. When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, 'Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.' Elisha said, 'Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.' He responded, 'You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.' As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, 'Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!' But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

### Second Reading - 2 Corinthians 4.3–6

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

### Gospel Reading - Mark 9.2–9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!' Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore, but only Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

### Post Communion Prayer

**Holy God, we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ: may we who are partakers at his table reflect his life in word and deed, that all the world may know his power to change and save. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## COMMENTARY ON THE READINGS

### 2 Kings 2.1-12

We read the story of Elijah's death in 2 Kings because the story endorses his teaching. Elisha has to make a patient journey with Elijah (see verses 2, 4 and 6), before he sees the vision of him going into heaven. Then, he takes up Elijah's mantle, and sets out to continue God's prophetic ministry to his people. There is no staying with what he has experienced.

### 2 Corinthians 4.3-6

Paul has been encouraging his young Christian disciples to be bold about sharing the Gospel (2 Corinthians 3.12). They have experienced the glory of the Gospel. Their hearts shine! Now Moses

may have veiled his face (Exodus 34.33), rather than frighten people with the glory of God, but we must not be afraid to show forth his glory to those around us. Paul suggests we are not veiled but, further, he says that those who heard the Good News, the Jews in his time, were veiled, and could not appreciate the work of God in his Church. We, too, can still hide or veil the glory, because we cut ourselves off from society, stay on the mountain of religious experience, and fail to communicate with those around us. 'Let your light shine before others' says Jesus in Matthew 5.14. On our own that may seem daunting. But, work together and we can illuminate the world, as God had always intended (Isaiah 42.6 and 49.6).

### **Mark 9.2-9**

Up to this point Jesus has been rushing around Galilee, full of activity. Suddenly, there is a warning about his future suffering. When Peter proclaims, at Caesarea Philippi, 'You are the Christ' (Mark 8.29), Jesus warns the disciples that he will suffer and die. Peter 'rebukes' him. This is not the expected end for the Messiah. Peter must, however, follow Jesus along the way of the cross (8.34). The inner group (Peter, James and John) need an epiphany experience. Jesus is revealed in all his glory, talking with Moses and Elijah. Jesus has worried the disciples, talking about his death, but they are shown, at this low moment, his true nature. The presence of Moses and Elijah, on the mountain, is significant. Moses, whose face shone after he had spoken with God (Exodus 34.29ff.), was the great servant of God, who led the people towards the Promised Land, but died before he could experience it himself (Deuteronomy 34.4). Elijah was the outstanding prophet servant, who constantly feared for his life, and, yet, was, miraculously, taken up into heaven (2 Kings 2.11). Jesus 'outshines' them and is seen to be the Son, the supreme servant of God. This is confirmed by the voice (v. 7). Now Peter would rather be here than on the road to Jerusalem! He wants to capture the moment, to hold on to it. 'Let us make three dwellings', he says. 'Dwelling' is a weak translation. 'Tent' would be better, but best of all is 'tabernacle' for it links us to the tabernacle in the Tent of Meeting, which housed the Ark, and so signified the continued presence of the Glory of God in the midst of his people (Exodus 40.34). However, the three disciples cannot hold on to God's glory. They have been privileged to see what Jesus is really about. He will walk the 'via dolorosa'. He will suffer and die, but his death, as John's Gospel makes clear, is the true moment of glory (see John 17.1). Privilege though it was for them to have this foretaste, it is a hard lesson for the disciples, and it can be a hard lesson for us, as we leave the Epiphany and approach Lent. They and we must come down, go out, and walk the way of costly love, with Jesus.

### **The links between the lectionary readings**

At the transfiguration Jesus appears with Moses and Elijah, so fittingly our readings refer to these (actually, Paul's references to Moses are in 2 Corinthians 3, but the concept of being veiled remains). The strange circumstance of their deaths, Elijah being caught up into heaven and no one knowing Moses' burial place (Deuteronomy 34), give rise to the belief that they will reappear to herald the coming of the Messiah. So, as proof that Jesus who now goes to suffer and die is actually the promised Saviour, they are seen beside him in glory.

## 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>16:00/18.30—Evensong conference call</i>
11th Feb	9:15am St Gregory's #F	10:45 St Mary's Thornton Watlass #	Burrill Church
18th Feb	9:15am St Gregory's #F	10:45 St Mary's Thornton Watlass #	St Mary's Thornton Watlass
		11am St John's, Leeming #	
25th Feb	9:15am St Gregory's #F	9 am Burrill Church #	St John's, Leeming
		10:45 St Mary's Thornton Watlass #	

# Communion F Facebook

***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)

### ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

There will be an Ashing Service at ST Gregory's, Bedale on Wednesday 14th February at 7pm.

### LENT

This year we are using a resource devised by the Diocese of Gloucester. Over the five weeks we will be looking at five different parts of 'Shapes for Living'. The subjects

covered are: Relating, Praying, Working, Playing and

Growing. There are also opportunities to meet in different groups and on different days with different times. Miss one and make one of the other times and venues. Groups begin the week after Ash Wednesday.

Mondays — 7pm Bedale and District Methodist Church

Tuesdays — 2pm Chantry Hall

Wednesdays — 6pm School House, Thornton Watlass ***(Not 21/3/24)***



**Coffee Morning St John's Church Leeming**

**Thursday 15th February - 10:00 - 12:00**

