



BENEFICE BULLETIN

Church News for

Bedale, Burrill, Leeming and Thornton Watlass

31st March 2024

Easter Day

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, Charlie, John Tedford, Kath Moore, Tim, Dan, and John Pickard.

RIP

*Stuart Smyth, Mandy Hutchinson and Margaret Fox
May they rest in peace and rise in glory*

Praying for Edwin in Bolivia

Dear Lord Jesus. Thank you so much for all the precious children in this world. We know they mean so much to you. We pray you would help us do all we can to protect and give them the start in life they deserve. Lord we bring to you all of the wonderful work being done to release children from poverty, and we pray that you would bless every pair of hands that works for you. Increase and bless their efforts in Jesus name, Amen.

Collect

Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity. Amen.

First Reading - Acts 10.34-43

Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He

commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 15.1-11

Now I should remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain. For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to someone untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace towards me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

Gospel Reading - Mark 16.1-8

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, 'Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.' So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Post Communion Prayer

God of Life, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection have delivered us from the power of our enemy: grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life; through Jesus Christ our Lord . Amen.

COMMENTARY ON THE READINGS

Acts 10.34-43

Peter makes the point that the prophets testified about Jesus, albeit when they are read with Christian eyes. The remarkable thing about the disciples after Easter was their change of heart from being frightened men into bold proclaimers of the truth about Jesus. Something must have happened to cause this change of heart. The New Testament indicates it was the vision of the risen Jesus, alluded to here, and not simply the discovery of the empty tomb which was responsible for this. Peter insists that Jesus could not be imprisoned by death but was raised by God to become the living and the dead. The resurrection appearances alluded to here make for an interesting comparison with the story of the empty tomb in Mark 16. Here is solid evidence presented with clear conviction and great courage. This is already a universal message for Gentiles as well as Jews; whilst for Jews hanging on a tree might still appear to imply that Jesus was cursed, in the proclamation to Gentiles it is simply part of the description of what actually happened and is proof that God's power triumphs over the worst the world can do.

Gospel Mark 16.1-8

Mark 16 is as interesting for what it does not say as for what it does say. It describes the appearance of an angel but not that of Jesus himself. When we set Mark alongside Paul, Paul has no description of the empty tomb and Mark has no description of the resurrection appearances. Indeed, Luke, in the Acts of the Apostles, does not put into anyone's mouth a need for a belief in an empty tomb. It is the appearances of the risen Christ which are the evidence they present. In fact we must read both narratives in the light of each other. The empty tomb, as described in the Gospel, is an unambiguous symbol which finds its meaning when read alongside the resurrection appearances. The resurrection appearances gain their definitive meaning from the description of the empty tomb. Put together, the Easter message is that Jesus, in rising from the dead, was revealed as a glorious heavenly being who was entitled to universal worship. The absence of a body supports a faith in the resurrection of the body rather than just a separation of body and spirit. The original version of the Gospel probably ended at Mark 16.8. If this is so, note the subtle absence of full narrative closure. The women said nothing to anyone for they were afraid. Indeed, the precise wording appears unfinished: 'they were afraid of ...' And what they feared seems too terrifying even to mention. Somehow, Mark is hanging on to his notion of a secret right to the end, and doesn't ever say that the risen Christ was seen. The story makes us ask what the resurrection means and how the disciples became convinced about it. This is a plea to read the New Testament as a whole and not to become bogged down in the differences between the different authors.

When Mary Thro' the Garden Went

Charles Villiers Stanford

Lyricist: Mary E. Coleridge

When Mary thro' the garden went,
There was no sound of any bird,
And yet, because the night was spent,
The little grasses lightly stirred,
The flowers awoke, the lilies heard.

When Mary thro' the garden went,
She sought within the garden ground,
One for Whom her heart was rent,
One Who for her sake was bound,
One Who sought, and she was found.

When Mary thro' the garden went,
The dew lay still on flower and grass,
The waving palms above her sent
Their fragrance out as she did pass.
No light upon their branches was.
When Mary thro' the garden went,
Her eyes, for weeping long, were dim.
The grass beneath her footsteps bent,
The solemn lilies, white and slim,
These also stood and wept for him.

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>
31st Mar— Easter Day	9:15am St Gregory's #F	9:00 Burrill	St Gregory's, Bedale
		10:45 St Mary's Thornton Watlass #	
		11am St John's, Leeming #	
7th April	8:00am 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 #	
14th April	10:30am—Benefice Service with confirmation, at St Mary's Thornton		Burrill

Communion F Facebook

This week's floodlighting is in memory of

Jim McCormack



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