



# BENEFICE BULLETIN

*Church News for*

*Bedale, Burrill, Leeming and Thornton Watlass*

**Sunday 23rd June 2024**

**Fourth Sunday after Trinity**

## **OUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR**

Gaynor, Bel Newman, Mark Newman, Lesley Hall, Delma Bode, John Hall, David, Chris, Liz, Donna Bradley, George, Olive Robinson, Harry Scorer, Justin, Amanda, Tracey, Sue, Alison, Robin, Charlie, Kath Moore, Tim, Dan, Jeff Betts, John Pickard, and Doris Pearson.

## **RIP**

Kath Finkill, Marlene Sedgwick, Ernst Poole, James Jenkinson, and Derek Burton  
*May they rest in peace and rise in glory*

## **Collect**

**O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that with you as our ruler and guide we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not our hold on things eternal; grant this, heavenly Father, for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

## **First Reading - Job 38.1–11**

Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind: 'Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? Gird up your loins like a man, I will question you, and you shall declare to me. 'Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone when the morning stars sang together and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy? 'Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb? - when I made the clouds its garment, and thick darkness its swaddling band, and prescribed bounds for it, and set bars and doors, and said, "Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stopped"?'

## **Second Reading - 2 Corinthians 6.1–13**

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, 'At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.' See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great

endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labours, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honour and dishonour, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see - we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything. We have spoken frankly to you Corinthians; our heart is wide open to you. There is no restriction in our affections, but only in yours. In return - I speak as to children - open wide your hearts also.

### **Gospel Reading - Mark 4. 35–41**

On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, 'Let us go across to the other side.' And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great gale arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, 'Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?' He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, 'Peace! Be still!' Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, 'Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?' And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, 'Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?'

### **Post Communion Prayer**

**Eternal God, comfort of the afflicted and healer of the broken, you have fed us at the table of life and hope: teach us the ways of gentleness and peace, that all the world may acknowledge the kingdom of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **COMMENTARY ON THE READINGS**

### **Job 38.1-11**

Job is perhaps the most difficult book in the Old Testament. It contains repetitions, inconsistencies and diverging viewpoints, in particular between its sections of prose and of poetry. All this has led some commentators to see the book as a compilation, others as heavily ironical. Today's passage comes from the beginning of God's final speech. Job, in his utter misery, had protested his innocence and repeatedly begged God to speak to him and explain where he had gone wrong. Here the Lord does indeed appear to him, but instead of giving a reason for Job's suffering, he sweeps his questions aside. They are too petty to consider in the light of his own majestic power. God speaks 'out of the whirlwind', reminding us of the hurricane that killed Job's children (Job 1.19). The debate is lifted on to a different plane: God is concerned for an infinite variety of creatures, whose lives are so unlike, and so unconnected with, our own. Human knowledge is so limited that we have no right even to question God. From now on, God asks all the questions, and they are unanswerable by a human being; Job cannot have the comfort of an

explanation. Some argue that he does draw comfort from the sight of God; others find a way of making what seems an artificially happy ending (Job 42.7-17) appear less unsatisfactory. God's indifference to Job's personal difficulties contrasts sharply with the image of the Almighty as midwife or parent to the ocean. The mighty sea is a baby in his hands; he tames its pride and that of human beings alike (Job 40.11-12; 41.34).

## **2 Corinthians 6.1-13**

This passage begins and ends with Paul's pastoral concern for the Christians of Corinth. He urges them to 'open wide their hearts' (6.13), so that they do not betray the grace they have received from God (6.1), reminding them of God's promise of rescue and restoration (Isaiah 49.8, quoted in 6.2), assuring them that the time of rescue is now! In support of his plea that they trust God through whatever difficulties seem to be surrounding them, he gives an extended account of the pressures confronted and (by grace) overcome by the equally ordinary people who have brought the gospel to them. For Paul and his colleagues, serving God has not resulted in an easy life or a comfortable one. His list of commendations as a true servant of God includes nine itemised afflictions as well as eight virtues and seven persistent misrepresentations of what they have been. Here, truly, is ministry that is storm-tossed and fragile (see Mark 14.35-31), yet, by trusting in the presence of Jesus, it is ministry that can be absurdly rich and effective. It is possible, so what about us?

## **Mark 4.35-41**

On one level this story works as a dramatic demonstration of Jesus' kingdom command over the forces of nature, even at their most violent and chaotic. On another level it is a picture of the realities of survival as a follower of Jesus in a dangerous and threatening world. As an account of Jesus' ability to control the forces of nature, bringing peace to their chaos, this relates well to the Old Testament readings. As an engagement with the issue of Christian survival in a demanding and pressured world, it connects directly with Paul's ideas about apostleship in our 2 Corinthians reading. A fragile boat (or a fleet of such – see Mark 4.36) tossed in a violent storm makes a dramatic picture of a pressured life that feels constantly at risk of being swamped by the forces of chaos. Paul, in his passage, seems to assume that trying actively to be the people of God will regularly and persistently feel like this. The risk of rising panic is very real. What is to be done? The anxious disciples eventually fix on shaking the sleeping Jesus to share their desperation. This is effective because he rebukes the rising storm and brings peace and calm. Yet it also brings a rebuke to them for their panic. They had had him with them in the boat. Had they not seen the significance of that? Could they not sense the reassurance of that? Surely they should have learned to trust that presence even in the roughest storm? They, in a sense, have failed to see what they had for survival in the storm. Will we do any better in the storm of life?

## 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</i>
<b>23rd June</b>	9.15am St Gregory's #F	9:00am Burrill Mission Church #	St John's, Leeming Songs of Praise
		10:45 St Mary's Thornton Watlass #	
<b>30th June</b>	10:30am Burrill Mission Church - Benefice Service #		Burrill
<b>7th July</b>	8.00am St Gregory's #F	10:45 St Mary's Thornton Watlass #	St Gregory's
	9.15am St Gregory's #F	11am St John's, Leeming #	
<b>14th July</b>	9.15am St Gregory's #F	10:45 St Mary's Thornton Watlass #	Burrill

# Communion F Facebook

### Churches Together

# Praise in the Park

Bedale Park Bandstand

Sunday 7th July 2023

4pm



### Tuesday Togetherness

The Yorkshire Decibels will be joining us for a Spring into Summer concert on Tuesday 25th June at 2:15pm.

Afternoon refreshments will be served.

This is a free event but there will be a collection for a charity of their choice.