



BENEFICE BULLETIN

Church News for

Bedale, Burrill, Leeming and Thornton Watlass

19th January 2025

Second Sunday of Epiphany

Service Times and Venues

Daily Morning and Evening Prayer conference calls at 8:30am and 4:30pm

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>
19th Jan	9:15am St Gregory's #F	10:45 St Mary's Thornton Watlass # 11am St John's, Leeming #	St Mary's, Thornton Watlass
26th Jan	9:15am St Gregory's #F	9 am Burrill Church # 10:45 St Mary's Thornton Watlass #	St John's, Leeming
2nd Feb	8:00am 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

Communion F Facebook

Conference Call Tel 03330110945 and enter when prompted Room No.66307496# PIN 9498

NOTICES

This week's floodlighting is in memory of

Tony Attwood and Nellie Attwood



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

TODAY

Service for Christian Unity

Sunday 19th January

Bedale and District Methodist Church at 6.30 pm,

led by Rev Ian Prudom, Methodist District Ecumenical Officer.

Everyone is welcome.

BELLS - RINGING THE CHANGES



At our AGM last month, our long-term ringing twins Val Dobson and Jan Allen were elected to serve as joint Tower Captains and Matthew Bell to serve as Tower Secretary. Jan Allen and Chris Carruthers were re-elected to serve as Treasurer and Steeple-keeper respectively.

PRAYERS AND READINGS

OUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR

Bel Newman, Mark Newman, Lesley Hall, Delma Bode, John Hall, David, Chris, Donna Bradley, George, Olive Robinson, Justin, Amanda, Tracey, Sue, Alison, Tim, Dan, Jeff Betts, John Pickard, George Carling, John, Rachel Oysten, and Doris Pearson.

RIP

Robert Smith, Patricia Stubley, Maureen Graham, Malcolm Peacock, Heather Abbott, and Prudence Southall

May they rest in peace and rise in glory

Praying for Edwin in Bolivia

Lord God, we praise you that you are fully in control of all things. We pray you would protect Edwin, his family and those at the project. Keep them healthy and help them to thrive. We thank you that you know every hair on Edwin's head. You know exactly when he rises and when he falls. Watch over Edwin in every area of his life and keep him safe we pray, Amen.

Collect

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new: transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; 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 - Isaiah 62.1–5

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate; but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married. For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your builder marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

Psalms 36.5-10

Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens and your faithfulness to the clouds. Your righteousness stands like the strong mountains, your justice like the great deep; you, Lord, shall save both man and beast. How precious is your loving mercy, O God! All mortal flesh shall take refuge under the shadow of your wings. They shall be satisfied with the abundance of your house; they shall drink from the river of your delights. For with you is the well of life and in your light shall we see light. O continue your loving-kindness to those who know you and your righteousness to those who are true of heart.

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 12.1–11

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says, 'Let Jesus be cursed!' and no one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

Gospel Reading - John 2.1–11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Post Communion Prayer

God of glory, you nourish us with your Word who is the bread of life: fill us with your Holy Spirit that through us the light of your glory may shine in all the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

COMMENTARY ON THE READINGS

The wedding in Cana reveals Jesus as the one who dispenses the good gifts promised to those looking for God's coming. The Old Testament readings help us to see this wine at a wedding as a symbol of the joy of God's transforming presence. Psalm 36 is an individual's prayer for help. It contrasts the world of the wicked with the world of the Lord, who is trusted as willing to give 'drink from the river of your delights'. Isaiah invites the exiles in Babylon to enter an everlasting covenant with God with the cry of a merchant giving her goods away, 'Come, buy wine and milk, without money and without price' (Isaiah 55.1). And just as Hosea had used the metaphor of marriage to

express the renewal of Israel's relationship with God (Hosea 2.16), so Isaiah 62 anticipates God's restoration of Jerusalem in the poetic language of a young man's marrying the young woman who is his delight.

The servants knew that the transformation had happened because they had listened to Jesus' mother and had done as Jesus asked. However, the Christians addressed in 1 Corinthians were failing to recognise the Lord's life-giving presence in the cup of wine that symbolised the new covenant. They had to be reminded that drinking the cup was to 'proclaim the Lord's death until he comes'. Because of their selfish divisions Paul even had to instruct them, 'when you come together to eat, wait for one another' (11.26,33). In chapter 12 he explains that the gifts they have received are to be used in the service of the same Lord and for the common good.

Isaiah 62.1-5

Throughout the Bible, the giving of a new name marks a change of status, and the beginning of a new relationship with God. Abram was renamed Abraham, and Jacob was given the new name Israel. Now, on the return from exile to the Promised Land, the prophet announces that the forsaken and desolate Jerusalem will be renamed. The glory of the city is grounded in the passionate love of God who acts 'for Zion's sake'. The intimacy of the renewed relationship is such that the new name of the city is 'My delight is in Her' and that of the land is 'Married'.

1 Corinthians 12.1-11

Paul is concerned that there are divisions among the saints at Corinth. It seems that there were those among them who believed that they had a special spiritual status. They thought they were already elevated above the concerns of those they considered less strong or wise than themselves. For this group, the gift of tongues was another demonstration of their superiority. Paul reminds the whole community that they all use their voices to proclaim 'Jesus is Lord', and so it is clear that they have all received the Spirit. Every individual has received spiritual gifts from the same Lord. All are to use them for the common good.

John 2.1-11

This miracle is an epiphany, revealing the glory of Jesus. At this first sign in Cana we are told that having seen, 'his disciples believed in him'. At the second sign, also in Cana, it is after the nobleman has 'believed the word that Jesus spoke to him' that he sees his son restored to life (4.46-54). Faith may begin with looking back to what has happened, but it must become strong enough to look forward to the transformations that are not yet visible.

Jesus' mother had already seen enough to believe that her son could meet an immediate need: 'They have no wine.' She felt their loss, and she initiated the replenishment: 'Do whatever he tells you.' Only Jesus could look forward as far as his calling would take him: 'My hour has not yet come'. But seeing this sign, others were drawn into his community. The wine at the wedding is the sign of God's renewed relationship with the people. 'On that day, says the Lord, you will call me "My husband"' (Hosea 2.16). The wedding at Cana was 'on the third day'. The hour of Jesus' faithfulness to death will become the day of his resurrection. 'On the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him' (Hosea 6.2).