



BENEFICE BULLETIN

Church News for
Bedale, Burrill, Leeming and Thornton Watlass

8th June 2025

The Day of Pentecost

Service Times and Venues

Daily Morning and Evening Prayer conference calls at 8:30am and 4:00pm

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>
8th June	9.15am St Gregory's #F	10:45 St Mary's Thornton Watlass #	Burrill
15th June	10:30 Benefice Service with Confirmation , St Mary's Thornton Watlass #		
22nd June	9:00 Burrill 9.15am St Gregory's #F	10:45 St Mary's Thornton Watlass # 11:00 St John's, Leeming	St John's, Leeming

Communion F Facebook

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

NOTICES

Dates for your Diary:

15th June - Benefice Confirmation Service at St Mary's, Thornton Watlass with a 10:30am start.

28th June - our Assistant Curate, Lee, will be ordained deacon in Wakefield Cathedral. Please pray for Lee and his family as they prepare for his ordination.

29th June - Lee's first service will be in St John's Leeming, Sunday 29th June at the Benefice Service with a 10.30am start, followed by a finger food buffet.

Help Required

Diane Crisp and Elizabeth Pratt are organising a finger food buffet for after Lee's first service on 29th June. Small plates of food are needed, please see your church warden for the items that are needed. Thank you.

PRAYERS AND READINGS

OUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR

Bel Newman, Mark Newman, Lesley Hall, Delma Bode, John Hall, Chris, George, Olive Robinson, Chris, Justin, Amanda, Alison, Tim, Dan, George Carling, John, Rachel Oysten, Doris Pearson, Michelle Hammond, and Kevin.

RIP

William Wallis, Gerald Bunting, Elizabeth Rushby, James Constantine, June David and Pam Conway.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory

Collect

God, who as at this time taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

First Reading - Acts 2.1–21

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.' But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: "In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Second Reading - Romans 8.14–17

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, 'Abba! Father!' it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him

Gospel Reading - John 14.8–27

Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it. 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. 'I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

Post Communion Prayer

Faithful God, who fulfilled the promises of Easter by sending us your Holy Spirit and opening to every race and nation the way of life eternal: open our lips by your Spirit, that every tongue may tell of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

COMMENTARY ON THE READINGS

A new order

The story of Acts 2 portrays in dramatic form the nature of the new order ushered in by Christ. It points to realities which often do not appear so significant on the surface, which may indeed be invisible, but are even more powerful than the outward signs of wind and flame and tongues seen at Pentecost.

Creation

First, the events of that day were the sign of a new creation. The coming of the wind and the filling of the Spirit (Acts 2.2,4) are reminiscent of the Spirit of God hovering over the face of the waters in Genesis 1.2, as the formless void is about to be transformed into an ordered universe. It was by his Spirit that God continued to renew life on earth (Psalm 104.30). Pentecost reminds and assures us that whatever the world may seem like, we live in a universe in which God is at work to re-create and re-order that

which had become unravelled and distorted.

Unification

Second, these events were the sign of a new unification of human beings. Genesis 11.1-9 tells the story of how, following a proud attempt to achieve strength and hunity through a city and a tower stretching up into the sky, Yahweh scattered the people of earth and confused their speech. It is a striking expression of faith in the determination of God, who has made humans in his image (Genesis 1.27), not to allow them to exceed that calling and so bring disaster on themselves by forgetting their creator. God's scattering and confusion of the people at Babel – like other acts recorded of him – might seem like the punishment of a petty-minded, vindictive deity. But the Old Testament does not see it like that. Isaiah 2.6-22, for example, warns fiercely of the Lord's hostility to all creaturely pride, but this comes after a vision of what the exaltation of the Lord's mountain will mean: unity, justice and peace (Isaiah 2.1-5). Justice must be the path to peace – without one, you will never arrive at the other. As justice is so difficult to achieve, peace is also elusive. In Acts 2, the curse of Babel is reversed as people of different languages find that they can hear and understand news of God's wonderful works told by ordinary Galileans (vv. 5-13). It is only a beginning, but here we see that at last the necessary process of purgation and humiliation is complete, and God can begin to unite those whom he had once scattered.

Adoption

Third, the events of Pentecost were a sign of adoption. The Spirit is the Spirit of God himself. He has not 'begotten' us in the manner of a physical father, but he has now come down into his creation, within and among his people, to take us into his family in a fresh way (cf. Romans 8.14-17). His status as King and Father was always implied in his very creatorship, and his establishment of the covenant partnership with human beings (Genesis 1.26,27). Now this protective relationship with us is known with a new intimacy. This intimacy had been known by some in times past, but now the Spirit is poured out on all who will receive him (Acts 2.17,18,38).

The fulfilment of promises

Finally, Pentecost signals the fulfilment of promises. First there were the promises of a new covenant, attended by the Spirit, in various places in the Old Testament. Peter here cites the promise of Joel 2.28-32. The time of extraordinary God-events has now dawned. Peter's use of Joel's prophecy to explain the apostles' multilingual proclamation draws attention to the seeing and speaking which the Spirit enables (Acts 2.17,18). People of all kinds may now receive direct insight into the reality of God, along with the ability to speak of it. However, people should not think that the final 'great and glorious day' of Yahweh has yet come (v.20). We are in the time leading up to it, but still more striking signs await (vv. 19, 20). Second, there were the promises of Jesus himself. In an often sceptical world (Acts 2.13) the Spirit comes to the disciples precisely as the Helper or Advocate, the one who stands alongside them to give weight to their witness and assurance to their trembling hearts (John 14.16). He does not come automatically to 'the world', but he comes to the disciples, not as some new force or even new friend, but one whom they know already, precisely because they know Jesus (John 14.17). Thus Peter, having quoted Joel concerning the Spirit, will go on to speak of Jesus (Acts 2.22-36). Pentecost was unique, the Church's launchpad. But the Spirit of new creation, of unity, of adoption and fulfilment