

THE RECTOR WRITES



Holidays are always good for me in respect to reading. I will get through a couple of light novels and hope to reread the biography of Trevor Huddleston. I say reread because I was inspired by it twenty or so years ago. Recently, after visiting the College of the resurrection , where our Curate Lee studied, I was drawn to begin the book again.

Father Huddleston was a curate in Swindon, and a long term member of the community at Mirfield, where he died in 1998. Yet, from the mid-nineteen forties he served as a parish priest in Sophiatown in Johannesburg South Africa where he became an early objector to the apartheid system. He eventually became Bishop of Tanzania, then Bishop of Stepney in the Diocese of London, and finally Father Huddleston served as Archbishop of the province of the Indian Ocean based around Mauritius, the Seychelles & Madagascar.

Yet, I remember the highlight of the book for me was that in South Africa in the Forties and Fifties, where he was remembered for doffing his hat to a black house-maid. This was recalled by her son none other than Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Huddleston's opposition to apartheid made him an enemy of the South African government and of many within the hierarchy of the Anglican Church. His love of the African people and those whom he served drove and indeed fuelled this man's calling. And why? He himself wrote:

“For the Christian, it is this mystery of identification which finds its expression in the stable of Bethlehem - God almighty and eternal, identifying himself with a man at his most helpless, with man in his utter littleness and poverty. Surely, if the incarnation means anything at all, it must mean the breaking down of barriers not by words but by deeds, by acts, by identification.”

In Trevor Huddleston's formation and work as an priest and bishop, at the centre was 'doing' the faith. For him this meant alongside a

robust prayer life, working alongside others, and for him personally this meant in places of great poverty and strife.

I remember the question that kept popping up into my mind as I read the story of this 'Turbulent Priest' was how do we 'do' our faith? From hearing and digesting the gospel how is it out-worked in our lives? What is our calling? And are we willing to answer that call? For Trevor Huddleston this meant being sent, with a great deal of uncertainty, to Africa and then recalled under authority from that situation and people he loved. I am not sure I could have been him. Yet reading his biography will again give me a lot of food for thought.

I am drawn to revisit this book as Lee and I explore ministry and we journey through his (and my) training conversations.

Simon



Our monthly service continues to be enjoyed by an ecumenical congregation from across our Deanery. and online It is an informal service with contemporary music and liturgy. We are blessed with a variety of

speakers and our next meeting in September is not to be missed as we have Rev Phil Stone, currently director of Scargill Community, coming to lead us. Do put this date in your diary and share with others. If you've not been to this service before, September would be a good time to give it a go. You will be warmly welcomed.

Dates 2025/6	Name
No meeting in August	
26 th September	Rev'd Phil Stone (Scargill Director)
24 th October	Rev'd Simon Moor and Rev Lee Finnegan
28 th November	Rev'd Stasi Tregartha
No meeting in December	
23 rd January	Steve Madsen (Lay Reader)

AUG & SEPT PRAYER DIARY

Intercessions for the streets, roads and lanes within the Benefice and specific themes for daily prayer during the months covered by this magazine.



1	Sergeant Bank	Charlcot	Watlass Moor Lane	T/Watlass
2	Snape Road	T/Watlass	Westfield Lane	Exelby
3	South End	Bedale	Willow Close	RAF Leeming
4	South End Avenue	Bedale	Willow Drive	Aiskew
5	Spruce Gill Avenue	Aiskew	Willow Gardens	Leeming Bar
6	Spruce Gill Drive	Aiskew	Woodland Drive	RAF Leeming
7	St John's Crescent	Leeming	Wren Close	Aiskew
8	St. John's Road	Leeming	Wycar	Bedale
9	Stapleton Close	Bedale	Aiskew Bank	Aiskew
10	Stubbing Nook Lane	Burrill	Alder Close	RAF Leeming
11	Sussex Close	Bedale	Alexandra Court	Bedale
12	Sussex Street	Bedale	Anvil Gardens	Leeming Bar
13	Sycamore Avenue	Aiskew	Ascough Wynd	Aiskew
14	Sycamore Drive	Bedale	Ash Tree Close	Bedale
15	Sycamore Lane	Leeming	Ash Tree Road	Bedale
16	The Coppice	RAF Leeming	Ash Tree Walk	Bedale
17	The Court	Bedale	Back Lane	Aiskew
18	The Crescent	Aiskew	Badger Hill Drive	Aiskew
19	The Grange	Leeming	Barras Terrace	Bedale
20	The Paddock	Aiskew	Bedale Road	Leeming Bar
21	The Spinney	RAF Leeming	Bedale Road	Aiskew
22	The Square	RAF Leeming	Bedale Rose Avenue	Leeming Bar
23	The Wynd	Bedale	Beech Close	RAF Leeming
24	Thirn Village	T/Watlass	Beechwood Close	Bedale
25	Tofts Lane	Exelby	Beechwood Court	Bedale
26	Tom Hall Court	Bedale	Benkhill Drive	Bedale
27	Tornado Close	Bedale	Beresford Close	Bedale
28	Tutin Road	Leeming Bar	Bielby Close	Aiskew
29	Vasey Close	Bedale	Blind Lane	Aiskew
30	Water Lane	Leeming	Bluebell Way	Aiskew
31	Watlass Lane	T/Watlass	Bowe Crescent	Bedale

1	For the Reader Steve, the Lay Worship Leaders, Chris, Linda, and Mike and Michelle our Family Chaplain.
2	For the house-bound and those who are lonely.
3	For all the church wardens and their commitment.
4	For all who are going on holiday this month.
5	For the doctors, home helps, for the Herriot and McMillan Hospices and the Marie Curie nurses.
6	For all who help in the maintenance of the church buildings and those who look after the linen, candles and other elements which assist in our worship
7	For all who act as servers, intercessors and read the lessons at the services.
8	For Lee and Louise, and their family, for their ministry in this benefice
9	For our Diocesan Bishop and all the Area Bishops
10	The Health Centres and those in private health care practice.
11	For new members to come into our church family, and that they're welcome.
12	The congregations of the different services at all our churches.
13	For all local study and prayer groups, and that they will grow in number.
14	For all who provide and maintain our utility services.
15	For all serving members of the armed forces, especially those at RAF Leeming.
16	Local Government, Town and Parish Councils, Forums, and the local councillors.
17	For the mission and ministry of our churches in their respective parishes, and for the benefice as a whole.
18	For all who come to the churches to be married
19	For those who minister in, and those who attend both the Methodist and Catholic churches.
20	For all the staff and pupils in our schools as the summer holidays are underway.
21	Those who care for relatives in their own homes, and those whom they care for.
22	Our ministry to children and young persons both in the schools & at outside activities
23	For those we find it difficult to pray for.
24	For all who help to provide the Meals on Wheels and the Food Banks.
25	For the tourists who visit the area and for all who work in the tourist
26	For all who work at and visit the Leeming Bar industrial estate.
27	For the commercial and retail area in Bedale.
28	For the many countries who are suffering from natural disasters, for their governments and the aid workers who bringing help and support to the areas in need.
29	For all the treasurers, secretaries, and other officers of the various PCC's.
30	For the farming community.
31	For your own family and friends.

THE RECTOR'S RAMBLE 2025

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the Rector's Ramble this year. £2452 was collected through sponsorship and each church in the Benefice received proceeds of £613 half of which was forwarded to Bedale Scouting group.



Rev'd Canon Simon Moor
Rector
Bedale Benefice of Churches
Bedale
North Yorkshire

Bedale Scout Hut
Emgale
Bedale
DL9 1AH
Lead Volunteer: Joe Poole
Chalgeson: Michelle Healegrave

13th July 2025

Dear Simon,

I'm writing to say a huge 'thank you' for your very generous donation to the Bedale Scout Group following your recent long distance Ramble.

We really do appreciate your continued support. This money will help us in our aim to rebuild our storage facility so that we can provide better support to our leaders and youth members and also provide support to other charities and community events in our area.

The next phase of the build is planned for this summer, though we don't yet have any dates from the contractors. We would like to get this done while our youth members are enjoying their well earned holidays as this should reduce the traffic and disruption to all who use the lane.

Thank you once again.

Best wishes,

Karen Cheesbrough
Group Administrator
Bedale Scouts & Guides Group



Bedale Scouts & Guides Registered Charity No. 503989



An Article Sent to the Rector

When I was a young teenager, I heard a visiting Vicar at my school say: "Jesus Christ came to kill religion and bring life." I was intrigued. On one hand, religion always seems the source of war, division and conflict. On the other, whenever I came across stories about Jesus, he seemed to be about peace, kindness, sacrifice, freedom and affirmation. I decided to read up about this Jesus person and the one thing I always noticed is that whoever he met rich, poor, sick, healthy, preacher or prostitute, powerful leader or simple fisherman no one ever seemed to walk away unchanged.

It made me want to explore the notion of faith and learn more about what he was about. It wasn't religion I was after as a teenager I wasn't exactly hungry for more rules, restrictions, customs and conventions. But I did like the sound of the freedom and empowerment that seemed to come from being around this guy. What I didn't know was how it would truly change me from the inside out.

Sir Edmund Hillary, the first man confirmed to have climbed the world's highest mountain, once said, "There is no such thing as an atheist in the 'Death Zone' on Everest." I am sure a few atheists have climbed Everest over the years, but the point he made is that when we're truly afraid and there's no one around to help us to possess a quiet faith can give us a persistence and courage that is so much greater than what we have within ourselves.

But what is this faith within? Can the power and presence that Jesus had 2000 years ago have such an effect on us today? I can only talk from experience. For me, having a Christian faith can be difficult to articulate. It's like describing ice cream or swimming it has to be tried to be felt. In a nutshell, Christian faith has strengthened me in so many battles I've faced in life. Not long after that visiting preacher delivered those words about religion versus life, I said a quiet prayer to myself in a tree at the end of our garden. I closed my eyes and asked if Jesus was real, then please be with me and help me. Little did I know that this simple prayer would be the acorn from which an oak tree would grow.

At heart, my Christian faith tells me I will never walk alone, and that I have the light of the Almighty within me. The most beautiful part is that this gift is given to any of us freely when we simply ask. And I've witnessed it change so many lives over the years. None of us deserves this I certainly don't. If anything, I am more aware than ever how often I have failed, yet still I am forgiven. That's why Christ turned everything on its head. His forgiveness is free because he has paid the price. He took our place on the Cross. He died to set us free. It's the greatest story ever told. In years gone by, I have ignored my faith. I have tried to be strong only in myself. But I found that my heart is restless until I open the door to Christ again. I have discovered that we lose our power when we try to live on our own strength alone. I really need His helping hand, His peace within and that quiet assurance.

My longing for this life within me is stronger than the fear of what others may think. I am not too proud to admit that I need my Saviour beside me, within me. Does that make my faith a crutch? Maybe. But what, does a crutch do? It helps us stand and walk on in life, even when we have wounds and hurts. I like that. My Christian faith helps me to live more adventurously, be bold and take risks, but also to care and encourage, to love and support those closest to me, and hopefully beyond as well.

It's easy to be cynical about faith and to push difficult issues and questions aside. But to explore is good. To question is wise. To seek truth is courageous. And, of course, we will have doubts. That's part of it all. The uncertainty. But I have realised that doubts are ok. Two sides of the same coin: doubt and faith. It means we can't have one without the other. But to choose to have a faith takes courage. All too often it is the tougher path, but life and the wild have taught me that the tougher path open ends up being the most fulfilling one. So be brave. Bend the knee, close your eyes and ask for help. It's a beautiful, humble, powerful thing to do. We have nothing to lose and everything to gain.

Bear Grylls OBE is an adventurer writer and television presenter and served as the Chief Scout of the UK from 2009 until 2024, significantly transforming the scouting movement and inspiring millions of young

Tuesday Chatterings

By the time you're sat reading this, we will have had our annual away day which this year was to Skipton.



We are pleased that this year both of our regular visiting nursing homes have been able to join us.

Unfortunately, this article has been written before the trip, but rest assured there will be some pics coming up in the next edition.

We are hoping to run some social events, get togethers, visiting choirs, crafts, short courses or standalone sessions etc on Tuesday afternoons as well as continuing to support local charities with coffee mornings and fund raisers like Macmillan and Christian Aid.

Please keep a look out for our flyers and bulletin announcements.

Suggestions welcome on what you would like to see or do.



Just a reminder that we will be closed throughout August to allow for everyone to have a well earned break.

We will start up again on the 9th of September and look forward to welcoming our regular and new customers.

On behalf of all the team we would just like to thank you all for your continued support.

Wishing everyone a happy summer

WHO'S WHO AROUND THE BENEFICE

Rector

Rev'd Canon Simon Moor samoor@bedale.church 01677 988175

Clergy

Rev'd Robin Brown robin.stel1@btinternet.com 07960 277495

Rev'd Philip Carrington philipjcarrington@gmail.com 01677 425077

Rev'd Canon Adrian Gatrill adrian.gatrill@gmail.com 07920 837256

Readers

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Family Chaplain

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Parish Administrator

Sarah Ryder admin@bedale.church 01677 425985

Benefice Safeguarding Officer

Linda Collingwood safeguarding@bedale.church 07944 599351

Chantry Hall Lets

Sarah Ryder admin@bedale.church 01677 425985

Bulletin and Magazine

Via the Rector or Parish Administrator

ST GREGORY, BEDALE

Church Wardens

Phillip Witty cw.phillip@bedale.church 07891 537082

Linda Collingwood cw.linda@bedale.church 07944 599351

Treasurer

Paul Carnell treasurer@bedale.church 01677 422503

PCC Secretary

Sarah Ryder admin@bedale.church 01677 425985

Organist

Richard Boyton rickdomino47@aol.com 01677 425800

Bell Ringers

Matthew Bell bedalebellringers@gmail.com

Electoral Roll Officer

Sarah Ryder admin@bedale.church 01677 425985

From the Registers



Baptisms

St Gregory's, Bedale

8th March	Ada Bonnie Neale
9th March	Ida Donaldson
13th April	Freya Ludemann
4th May	Elizabeth Walker
25th May	Mark Truemann
13th July	Henry Richard Alfie Cooper
13th July	Acie King
20th July	Harper Claire Elizabeth Robinson
20th July	Khaleesi Jean Wood

Funerals

St Gregory's, Bedale

13th Mar	Sue Ward
1st Apr	George Sinclair
15th Apr	Elaine Kershaw
22nd Apr	Chris Nattrass
12th May	Monty Taylor
22nd May	Chris Till
5th Jun	William Wallace
19th May	Irene Rushby
3rd Jun	James Constantine
20th Jun	Gerald Bunting
16th Jun	Jean Merryweather
26th Jun	George Rigg
7th Jul	Pam Conway
8th Jun	Irene Gyseman
29th Jul	Stuart Tipton
31st Jul	Grace Calvert
4th Aug	Mary Dawson

St John's, Leeming

25th Feb	David Pratt
27th Feb	Carolyn Searle
11th Mar	Fred Webster
29th Jul	Carole Brewster

St Mary's, Thornton Watlass

10th Feb	Ann Weatherill
12th Mar	Edna Surtees
21st Mar	Norena Backhouse (Ashes)
21st Mar	Emma Singleton
15th Apr	Sue Thomas
9th Jul	Toni Kent

Thornton Watlass Dates for the Diary

August

9th - Car Boot Sale in Bedale Park and Coffee Morning in the Chantry Hall 0930-1200

31st - No Service at Thornton Watlass, Benefice Service at Burrill 1030.

September

9th - Tuesday Club, Walking Treasure in Thirsk, details from Ellen or Christine (01677423519)

16th - Gardening Club in the Village Hall 7.30pm, "Autumn Fun-gi" with Jill Cunningham. Visitors welcome

26th - Burrill Harvest Festival 7pm

October

5th - Harvest Festival 4pm, with Choral Group



Firstly many thanks to all those who make donations, whether food or money. Both are greatly appreciated. Without your donations Hambleton FoodShare would not exist. However, because times are harder for everyone, donations are no longer sufficient to meet the need which continues to remain high. To ensure that the shelves at the store in Northallerton remain adequate we are having to use our reserves each month buying in supplies. This has often amounted to £5,000 or more. This is not sustainable in the long term and so the decision has been made to reduce the amount of food we are able to give, limiting each delivery to 3 meals per day for 3 days. After 2 deliveries recipients must get a formal referral from an agency, which is not always an easy thing to achieve. So thank you for the donations you already make. If you have not given before, could you please consider doing so? If you are a regular donor could you consider increasing your donation by a small amount? Could you spread the word and encourage others to give? It is a lot to ask I know, but without your help there is a real danger that Hambleton FoodShare will no longer be able to meet the need that exists in our neighbourhood. If you would like any more information, please do speak to me or have a look at the website:

<https://hambletonfoodshare.org.uk/>

Thank you Linda Collingwood

CHURCHWARDEN'S REGULATIONS

16TH CENTURY

The toppings of the trees in the churchyard belong to the Vicar of the parish.

None sit in church with the hats on – and that non-contend quarrel about place or upon any other occasion, make any broil or brawling there. And that none depart out of church unless the case of necessity till the service be fully ended.

They shall also chastise the boys who are rude & disorderly. Fines our one shilling for absenting from church, 1s for not abiding there until Service and Service is ended, 1s for not behaving orderly and soberly while there, and not withstanding they have paid the said mulct (fine) they must also be present at the next visitation.

If any Carter, Wainman, Carman, Drover, Horse-Courser, Waggoner, Butcher, Higler travel in the Lords day £1. If travelled by boat, whery, barge or lighter five shilling. If any meet for bullbaiting, bearbaiting, interludes, common plays or other sports, 3s 4d and where no distresses to be had the offender to be put in stocks. They should also frequently to visit on the Lords day arms houses and tavern, both in time of divine service and out of it, any tipping, 3s 4d and master of the house 10s and 5s more for using his trade on the Lord's day. To levy a penalty of 1s or 2s on those who profanely curse or swear to be levied by distress, if none, to be set in the stocks or if under 16 whipped. Shoemaker putting boots and shoes on sale on Sunday, 3s 4d and the goods.

If one is assaulted and beaten in a church, it is not lawful to return or give back any blows.

Penalty for striking another in a church here in church, or church yard – excommunication. But if with a weapon, the offender to lose one of his ears.

Each parish to keep a large engine, a hand engine and a leather pipe on penalty of £8. The first person to bring an engine to a fire should be paid £1.10s as an encouragement. The person bring the second engine £1 the third 10s.

Words From Leeming

Well, it's that time again. I am more than bemused with the current weather. Yesterday it was T-shirt and shorts, today it's – well let's just say typical Yorkshire weather – pouring down at the moment, at least it's some welcome relief for our farmers.



There has been quite a lot going on over the last few weeks. First, and most importantly, it was really nice to be able to welcome Lee and to have his first service at our Benefice Service. Thank you to everyone who came to welcome him and also to enjoy the refreshments, put on by the ladies from all over the Benefice, truly showing a community effort.

My comments regarding grass cutting in the last edition obviously fell on deaf ears!! Not one volunteer or comment, I was very disappointed. Yet, there is time to volunteer still or pass the request on to someone who might lend a hand.

The car boot sale went very well, apparently the best one this year, perhaps the weather had something to do with it!! Thanks to everyone who helped out.

On a brighter note, by the time you read this we (hopefully) will have our replacement Organ installed. The previous instrument really had reached (some might say passed) its “sell by date” and another one was needed. After months of searching, and researching we managed to track one down that had sat in a disused church “up north” for 5 years. Having sat that long, we were slightly concerned as to how it might perform. To say it exceed our expectations is an understatement. It sounds absolutely beautiful - to my ears anyway. SWMBO is over the moon with it, as, I'm sure the congregation will be too. Delivery is imminent, so, if you are reading this paragraph, it went well. If my submission this month is shorter than normal..... I must say a very big thank you to Norma (the former Church Warden) and to Dan (Resources Officer for Durham Diocese) for all their help and support. Norma in particular was very emotional when Joan was trying it out, but really happy for it to be going, as she said “to a good home”. So please, please come and hear it.

That's it for now, think my fellow Wardens may well enjoy the details of a 16th Century Warden on the previous page.

God bless, stay safe. Until the next one bye for now.

Chris L