



BENEFICE BULLETIN

Church News for

Bedale, Burrill, Leeming and Thornton Watlass

16th November 2025

Second Sunday before Advent

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>16:00—Evensong conference call</i>
16th Nov	9:15am St Gregory's #F	10:45 St Mary's Thornton Watlass # 11am St John's, Leeming #	St Mary's Thornton Watlass
23rd Nov	9:15am St Gregory's #F	9 am Burrill Church # 10:45 St Mary's Thornton Watlass #	St John's, Leeming
30th Nov	10:30 Benefice and Churches Together Advent Service in St Gregory's		None

Communion F Facebook

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

NOTICES



***This week's floodlighting is
in loving memory of
Dr Rupert .E. Blagg***

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

**Coffee Morning St John's Church Leeming
Thursday 20th November from 10:00am until 12:00 noon**



PRAYERS AND READINGS

OUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR

Bel Newman, Mark Newman, Lesley Hall, Delma Bode, John Hall, Olive Robinson, Chris, Justin, Alison, Dan, John, Rachel Oysten, Doris Pearson, Adrian, Mal Rowland, Michelle Hammond, Terry and Marion, Caleb, Bailey Cuthbert, Brenda, and Claire Bell.

RIP

NAMES

May they rest in peace and rise in glory

Praying for Edwin in Bolivia

We pray you would bless Edwin as he grows. Keep him safe and strong in the weeks, months and years ahead. Give his family grace and strength through the highs and lows of caring for a child. In Jesus' name. Amen

Collect

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

First Reading - Malachi 4.1–2a

See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings.

Second Reading - 2 Thessalonians 3.6–13

Now we command you, beloved, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from believers who are living in idleness and not according to the tradition that they received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it; but with toil and labour we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you. This was not because we do not have that right, but in order to give you an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat. For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

Gospel Reading - Luke 21.5–19

When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said, 'As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.'

They asked him, 'Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?' And he said, 'Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, "I am he!" and, "The time is near!" Do not go after them.

'When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.' Then he said to them, 'Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

'But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify. So make up your minds not to prepare your defence in advance; for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls.

Post Communion Prayer

Gracious Lord, in this holy sacrament you give substance to our hope: bring us at the last to that fullness of life for which we long; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

COMMENTARY ON THE READINGS

In difficult days, when even life seems threatened, the people of God are called to remember God's past works, to celebrate what God is presently doing, and to continue living in loyal trust in God's purposes.

Malachi 4.1-2a

Malachi means 'my messenger'. The book is hard to date, although it is almost certainly post-exilic. The exile had been a deeply disturbing experience for Israel. What had God been doing in it all? The central concern of Malachi is in the question, where is the God of justice? (2.17) God's answer is that a messenger sent to prepare the way for the Lord will suddenly come to his Temple. In today's passage, the coming Day of Judgement is announced. The destruction will be complete. This will mean the separation of the righteous from the wicked, but for the faithful, the coming day will be good news. The question of God's justice is finally brought to resolution in the rising of the sun of righteousness with healing in his wings. Malachi is a book in which both God

and God's people make counter-accusations about covenant disloyalty. Judgement is inevitable. But because of God, the people are never without hope.

2 Thessalonians 3.6-13

It is tempting to suggest that the imminent end of all things dominates the passage. Perhaps there were those in Thessalonica who thought that, because the Lord's coming was very soon, they should not bother much with daily responsibilities like work. There is a strange logic in such a response. Why concern yourself with matters that may not soon matter at all? But, given the later date of 2 Thessalonians, this is unlikely to be the whole answer. Notice the use of the word tradition. Those living in 'idleness' are better described as 'unruly' in the sense that they no longer keep to the practices of the community taught them by the Apostle. 'Tradition' here means a way of life rather than a body of inherited doctrine. There are those in the church who are seeking to live off others in the community, minding everyone else's business but their own. The apostle calls the church to a way of imitation, not least of the apostles who worked for their living and refused to be a burden to others. In contrast to our individualistic emphases, the importance of the common life is essential to the church as the people of God. So the call is to work quietly without wearying in doing what is right. This is a word spoken not just to the lazy freeloaders but to the whole church (v. 6). Disorderliness will not build up the church in demanding times.

Or might it be possible that some in the church wanted to play by their own rules and desires? They knew the way of life handed down in the tradition but they wanted to live differently. Group codes can become very unimaginative and seem uncreative in new circumstances. But no community exists without some shared standards and goals. Are the Thessalonians facing the perennial question of how we live responsibly in community? Individualism is no answer. But neither is uncreative tradition. Least helpful of all are those who disregard their responsibilities to others altogether.

Luke 21.5-19

Earlier Luke has recalled the predicted destruction of Jerusalem (19.44). Now this finds a focus in the Temple. That it is a place of religious perversion has already been indicated, but the fall of the Temple, a marvellous building of beauty and unspeakable religious significance, was a stunning, shocking thought. In 70 CE it did fall. Will its fall mean the end of all things? No. Luke recalls teaching about the coming of false 'christs', misleading messiahs. There will also be wars, terrible experiences of suffering and revolt but these, too, are not the end. Natural disasters will also shake life to the foundations. But none of this is outside the divine purpose! Christians also will know persecution and betrayal, the breakdown of family loyalties. No one will be spared suffering. But no one who endures in the way of Jesus will be abandoned. They will be given words to say and grace sufficient for their needs. The readers of Luke would know about the fall of the Temple and the city of Jerusalem. But the end was not so immediate as they once thought. So faithful discipleship, bearing persecution and suffering betrayal, these are theirs to bear. But so is the strength that God gives and the promise of the triumph of God's purposes.