



# BENEFICE BULLETIN

Church News for

*Bedale, Burrill, Leeming and Thornton Watlass*

**30th November 2025**

## First Sunday of 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,</i>	<i>Morning Services - St Mary's, St John's and Burrill</i>	<i>16:00—Evensong</i>
30th Nov	10:30am Benefice Advent Service, St Gregory's, Bedale		No evening prayer
7th Dec	8am St Gregory's #	10:45 St Mary's Thornton Watlass #	St Gregory's, Bedale
	9.15am St Gregory's #F	11am St John's, Leeming #	

# Communion F Facebook

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

## NOTICES



### Advent Appeal

Mary's Meals provides life-changing school meals to children living in some of the world's poorest communities. The promise of a good meal brings hungry children into the classroom, where they can gain an education and better opportunities for the future.

For our Benefice advent appeal we will be collecting coins and notes from any country, as well as old UK currency no longer in circulation. This can be used to fund the work of Mary's Meals, and is an easy and meaningful way to recycle unused money while supporting their mission.

There will be leaflets at the back of each church, and donations can be given to any of the church wardens, or brought to the office.



### ST.MARY'S CHURCH THORTON WATLASS. Sponsored "CAROL SING ALONG" with Christingles.

Sunday 7th December at 2pm

Come and sing your favourite carol

Donations for church and Children's Society

Refreshments. Will be served and all are welcome.

**Coffee Morning St John's Church Leeming  
Thursday 11th December - 10:00 - 12:00**



## 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, Mal Rowland, Michelle Hammond, Terry and Marion, Caleb, Bailey Cuthbert, Brenda, Adrian, Pam and Mike Ryder, Ann and Steve Madsen, and Claire Bell.

### RIP

Alexander Nicholson, James Milligan, Ken Springate, Napha Gray, Kirsty Pain, Renee Stag, Alistair Bain, Jean Marshall, and Margaret Graham.

*May they rest in peace and rise in glory*

### Da pacem Domine



### Welcome and Hymn

#### First Sunday of Advent (Focus: Isaiah 64:1–9)

**Reader 1:** O God, we light the first candle of Advent.

*(The candle is lit.)*

**Reader 2:** We kindle it with hope. We long for you to come to our world, to break through and reign with compassion, justice, and peace.

**Reader 1:** The prophet Isaiah also cried to God to tear open heaven and come down. He called God's people to do right. Isaiah called them to be refashioned like clay by God, the potter. This Advent, we call out to God.

**Mighty God, creator of the world, break through all that keeps us from you.**

**We ask for your mercy and reform us in your image.**

**This Advent, visit us with your justice, love, and peace. Amen.**

### Sing - Tune - Love Divine

Shine on us, O God of justice;  
Guide our path through gloom of night;  
Bear within us Wisdom's glory;  
Come to us, O Christ the Light.



## Collect

**Lord Jesus, I turn my heart toward You now.  
You are my peace in the storm, my light in the darkness,  
my hope when I am weary.  
I lay down my worries at Your feet and rest in Your presence.  
Shape my thoughts, guide my steps,  
and let my life reflect Your love. Amen**

## Matthew 26:36-46

Then Jesus went with them to a garden called Gethsemane and told his disciples, “Stay here while I go over there and pray.” Taking along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he plunged into an agonizing sorrow. Then he said, “This sorrow is crushing my life out. Stay here and keep vigil with me.”

Going a little ahead, he fell on his face, praying, “My Father, if there is any way, get me out of this. But please, not what I want. You, what do you want?”

When he came back to his disciples, he found them sound asleep. He said to Peter, “Can’t you stay awake with me a single hour? Stay alert; be in prayer so you don’t wander into temptation without even knowing you’re in danger. There is a part of you that is eager, ready for anything in God. But there’s another part that’s as lazy as an old dog sleeping by the fire.”

He then left them a second time. Again he prayed, “My Father, if there is no other way than this, drinking this cup to the dregs, I’m ready. Do it your way.”

When he came back, he again found them sound asleep. They simply couldn’t keep their eyes open. This time he let them sleep on, and went back a third time to pray, going over the same ground one last time.

When he came back the next time, he said, “Are you going to sleep on and make a night of it? My time is up, the Son of Man is about to be handed over to the hands of sinners. Get up! Let’s get going! My betrayer is here.”

## Matthew 11:16-19

“How can I account for this generation? The people have been like spoiled children whining to their parents, ‘We wanted to skip rope, and you were always too tired; we wanted to talk, but you were always too busy.’ John came fasting and they called him crazy. I came feasting and they called me a drunk, a friend of the misfits. Opinion polls don’t count for much, do they? The proof of the pudding is in the eating.”

## Matthew 6:19-24

“Don’t hoard treasure down here where it gets eaten by moths and corroded by rust or—worse!—stolen by burglars. Stockpile treasure in heaven, where it’s safe from moth and rust and burglars. It’s obvious, isn’t it? The place where your treasure is, is the place you will most want to be, and end up being.”

“Your eyes are windows into your body. If you open your eyes wide in wonder and belief, your body fills up with light. If you live squinty-eyed in greed and distrust, your body is a musty cellar. If you pull the blinds on your windows, what a dark life you will have!”

"You can't worship two gods at once. Loving one god, you'll end up hating the other. Adoration of one feeds contempt for the other. You can't worship God and Money both."

## Matthew 5:13-16

"Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavours of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You've lost your usefulness and will end up in the dust bin."

"Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colours in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven."

## Intercessions

### Peace

### Commentary

I was in Guildford Cathedral the other week and the preacher spoke about us always having Christ at the centre. From her address I suddenly realised we were coming towards Advent and Christmas and then even beyond into Lent and I felt that this was the theme that I will follow, Christ front and centre.

You will note that the Advent Wreath Prayers and the scriptural focus is on Jesus. The address today is about as Christians always gravitating towards Jesus. The readings from Matthew do likewise. First, Jesus is praying not once but in three sessions throughout the night; he honoured the intimacy of his one on one relationship with his Father above his teaching, his ministry of healing, and his miracle working; may we follow suit in our prayer life. Second, it is too easy to picture Jesus with a sombre face, rather though, imagine him smiling and laughing and telling jokes. How does this change or expand your view of him? Third, Jesus said the richest people were those who'd banked a lifetime of actions that honoured God. He bluntly told his followers they could not be motivated by love of money and love of God at the same time. And finally, Jesus told his followers to plunge themselves into the mainstream culture like a lamp in a dark room or salt added to a recipe. Jesus intimates that the darkness of the culture only serves to accentuate the impact of his light.

So, whatever you are doing in the months ahead, whatever the situations are before you, perhaps the simplest direction is to ask 'What Would Jesus Do' In other words let Jesus be at the centre. This will be the theme on Advent Sunday and through and into Christmas as the theme whirled in my mind after hearing the preacher at Guildford. So keep Christ front and centre - read and reflect throughout the next months