

BENEFACTIVE BULLETIN

Church News for

Bedale, Burrill, Leeming and Thornton Watlass

18th January 2026

Second Sunday of Epiphany

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>
18th Jan	9:15am St Gregory's #F	10:45 St Mary's Thornton Watlass # 11am St John's, Leeming #	4:00pm Thornton Watlass 6pm Burrill Churches Together
25th Jan	9:15am St Gregory's #F	9am Burrill 10:45 St Mary's Thornton Watlass #	Leeming
1st Feb	8:00am St Gregory's # 9:15am St Gregory's #F	10:45 St Mary's Thornton Watlass # 11am St John's, Leeming #	Bedale

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

NOTICES

ST. MARY'S CHURCH THORNTON WATLASS

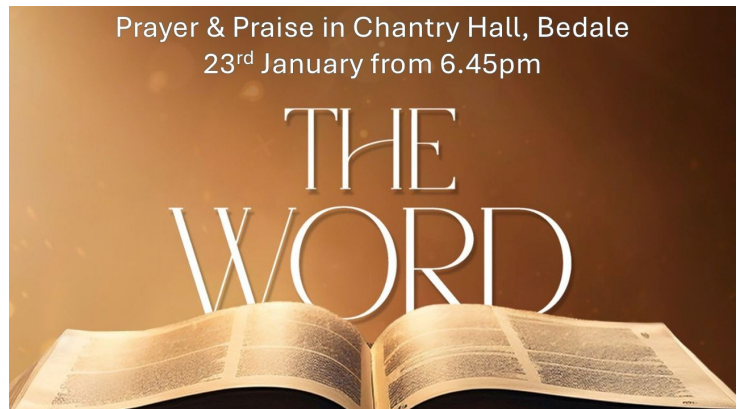
As you may know St. Mary's Church Thornton Watlass runs a 100 Club draw each year. The time has come to renew memberships of the 100 Club for another year or for new members to join for 2026. Subscriptions of £12, £1 per month, are now due. There are two prizes drawn each month. The first draw for this year will take place on Sunday 15th February when prizes for January and February will be awarded. If you would like to join for 2026 then please let Chris Carruthers (01677423519) have your cheque (payable to "P.C.C. of St. Mary's Church Thornton Watlass"), or cash. at your earliest convenience. Thanks.



This week's floodlighting is in memory of Nellie Attwood and Tony 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

Prayer & Praise in Chantry Hall, Bedale
23rd January from 6.45pm



PRAYERS

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, Ann Madsen, and Claire Bell.

RIP

Bill Fox, Bishop Bill Godfrey, Malcolm Bramham, and Alan Firth,
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.

READINGS

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 49.1-7

Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away! The Lord called me before I was born, while I was in my mother's womb he named me. He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away. And he said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified.' But I said, 'I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the Lord, and my reward with my God.'

And now the Lord says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honoured in the sight of the Lord, and my God has become my strength - he says, 'It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.'

Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised,

abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, 'Kings shall see and stand up, princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.'

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 1.1–9

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Gospel Reading - John 1.29–42

The next day he saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, 'Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, "After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me." I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.' And John testified, 'I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit." And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.'

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, 'Look, here is the Lamb of God!' The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, 'What are you looking for?' They said to him, 'Rabbi' (which translated means Teacher), 'where are you staying?' He said to them, 'Come and see.' They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas' (which is translated Peter).

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

It can help to take a nonlinear approach to this Gospel, as stories are being told in a way that doesn't make much sense. In describing the baptism of Jesus, John the Baptist defines the dove that descends from heaven as the Holy Spirit. He then declares to his disciples—twice, in case they don't get it the first time—that Jesus is the Lamb of God. And then two disciples of John do get it and immediately begin to follow Jesus. We jump from one scene to another, as in a movie, and the first recorded conversation between Jesus and his new disciples seems more appropriate for a Wes Anderson film than for sacred scripture: “What are you looking for?” “Teacher, where are you staying?” “Come and see.” It feels less than illuminating.

But if we stay with the strangeness for a while, we find in this peculiar exchange a key to understanding what faith entails. It is not so much a matter of thinking as doing—and not doing so much as being and witnessing. Just come and see, and we might realize that Jesus came to make us both more holy and more fully human. Just come and see, and we can comprehend the life and ministry of Jesus as the very centre of our own faith. Of course, this puts pressure on us as Christians to live a life worthy of the name. If we were asked where we “stay,” to define where it is we make our stand, what witness would our life make? Would we look like everyone else in the rat race, distracted and disaffected, prone to resentment and ready to stick derogatory labels on those who do not act, think or worship as we do? Or would we remember, as Paul reminds the contentious Corinthians, that we are called to be saints? Would we respond to this call in a self-aggrandising way, certain that God loves us more than other people? Or would we respond by shutting down our egocentricity and opening our ears?

When we come to John's Gospel we find it opening, like the book of Genesis, with the words, “In the beginning,” and while John seems more a theologian than a storyteller, his narrative races along, and at every turn someone receives a new name. John calls Jesus the Lamb of God, while the disciples name him Rabbi or Teacher, but soon are calling him something more: Messiah, the Anointed One. Jesus returns the favour, declaring that Simon is now to be known as Cephas, or Peter. Names signify a new creation, in this case the church, full of those flawed people who will bear the name of Christian. Isaiah has told us: listen, pay attention. And the psalmist asks: did you ever find the strength to sing a new song when you were in the pit? Or perhaps you were standing on the banks of a muddy rivulet and discovered there the river of life. How is this possible? What has come into the world so that it can happen? It is not answers that matter here, but the invitation that we can only hope we have the grace to hear: come and see.