



# BENEFICE BULLETIN

Church News for

Bedale, Burrill, Leeming and Thornton Watlass

15th March 2026

## Mothing Sunday

### 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>
15th Mar	9:15am St Gregory's #F	10:45 St Mary's Thornton Watlass # 11am St John's, Leeming #	Thornton Watlass
22nd Mar	9:15am St Gregory's #F	9:00 Burrill 10:45 St Mary's Thornton Watlass #	Leeming
29th Mar	10:30am Benefice Service at St Mary's Thornton Watlass #		No evening prayer

# Communion F Facebook

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

## NOTICES

*This week's floodlighting is in memory of*

*Harold and Betty Mountain*



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](mailto:admin@bedale.church)

### Easter Lilies

Please see your church warden or Sarah in the office if you would like to donate towards Easter Lilies in the churches.



### St Gregory's Spring Clean

Please join us to spring clean St Gregory's on Friday 27th March from 10am - many hands make light work and all help will be appreciated.

### March Office Opening Hours

The office will not be open on Tuesdays 17th and 31st March, but it will be open on Tuesday 24th March, and Thursdays throughout March.



### Coffee Morning

St John's Church Leeming

Thursday 19th March 10:00 - 12:00

St Mary's Thornton Watlass welcome you to their **Lent Lunches**. Soups and puddings on Saturday 21st March from 12 noon to 1:30pm in Thornton Watlass Village Hall. Everyone is

## PRAYERS

### OUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR

Bel Newman, Mark Newman, Delma Bode, Olive Robinson,  
Chris, Justin, Alison, Dan, John, Rachel Oysten, Doris Pearson, Mal Rowland,  
Bailey Cuthbert, Claire Bell, and Christina.

**We continue to pray for our local schools and care homes.**

### ANSWERS TO PRAYER

Thank you to everyone who regularly prays for those on the prayer list, we thought we would share some answers to those we have been praying for.

Terry and Marion - Terry has made a good recovery. Marion was dying and his passing was peaceful. Caleb - is getting the right support and is healing well.

Brenda - has recovered well.

**We would encourage you to keep praying, it makes a difference in peoples lives.**

### RIP

Betty Gentry, David Hewison Sandyford, Raymond Lawton and Carol Grayson.

*May they rest in peace and rise in glory*

### Praying for Edwin in Bolivia

*Lord God, we pray for Edwin to know your goodness and provision. We pray that he would place his identity in you. We ask that in the pressures of life, he would know you are his rock on which he can stand. We pray that through the challenges of school life, exams, and future decisions, you would lead him, guide him and bring him comfort. In Jesus' name, Amen*

## READINGS

### Collect

**God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself: strengthen us in our daily living that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal; 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 - 1 Samuel 1.20-end

In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, 'I have asked him of the LORD.'

The man Elkanah and all his household went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice, and to pay his vow. But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, 'As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, that he may appear in the presence of the LORD, and

remain there for ever; I will offer him as a nazirite for all time. 'Her husband Elkanah said to her, 'Do what seems best to you, wait until you have weaned him; only—may the LORD establish his word.' So the woman remained and nursed her son, until she weaned him. When she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine. She brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh; and the child was young. Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. And she said, 'Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the LORD. For this child I prayed; and the LORD has granted me the petition that I made to him. Therefore I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he lives, he is given to the LORD.'

She left him there for the LORD.

### **Second Reading - Colossians 3.12-17**

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

### **First Gospel Reading - Luke 2.33-35**

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

### **Second Gospel Reading - John 19. 25-27**

And that is what the soldiers did.

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

### **Post Communion Prayer**

**Loving God, as a mother feeds her children at the breast you feed us in this sacrament with the food and drink of eternal life: help us who have tasted your goodness to grow in grace within the household of faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## COMMENTARY

Today Mothering Sunday is a popular day when Christians choose to use the occasion to think about all things which concern motherhood. We give thanks for the Church as Mother, the Virgin Mary as the mother of Jesus, we remember that God cares for us like a mother and last but not least we give thanks for our own mothers. Mothering Sunday is the fourth Sunday in Lent and it is a time of special for thanksgiving. Sunday is the one day of joy in Lent, when flowers abound in all churches and when people are allowed a time off from the penitential season. It is also known as Mid-Lent Sunday, Refreshment Sunday or Laetare Sunday. The Latin name of Laetare, means rejoice.

In the fourteenth century Julian of Norwich, the first woman to write in modern English, experienced and understood the motherhood of God in her visions. Mothering Sunday is a good day to share her vision and recognise that although we are distinguished by our gender, God is not. Instead God is both mother and father to us.

The verses in Luke reside within the context of the early days of Jesus's life, particularly during His presentation at the temple. Here, Simeon, a righteous and devout man, proclaims the significance of Jesus, which undoubtedly strikes Mary and Joseph profoundly. Their reaction, described here as marvel, emphasises their feelings, like admiration mixed with a tinge of fear regarding the weight of what their son is destined to experience.

Mary and Joseph's astonishment is deeply human. Imagine being told that your child would bring salvation, light to the nations, and provoke thoughts in many hearts—these are visions of grandeur for a mere infant. It is common for parents to have dreams for their children, but the dreams here go beyond the ordinary. They encompass the entire future of humanity. When Simeon proclaims these prophecies, it undoubtedly stirs a whirlpool of emotions for them.

We may also consider the narrative lesson that God operates beyond human understanding. The divine plans often unfold in ways that can leave us astonished and bewildered. Just like Mary and Joseph learned to be receptive and accepting of God's revelations, we, too, should cultivate an attitude of openness to the mysterious ways God works in our lives and in those we love. The journey of understanding often begins with marvelling at the complexities of our existence, just as the couple did with Jesus's implications.

A final point is that this moment prepares Mary and Joseph for the trials ahead. The marvelling does not end with joy; it can also lead to sorrow, as indicated in the stark contrasting prophecies that predict suffering and separation. Eventually, Mary will witness her son not only bring joy but also endure pain and sacrifice. The marvel they experience foreshadows the larger narrative of redemption that will unfold, involving love, loss, and ultimate triumph. It encourages us to prepare our hearts to accept the fullness of life, with its myriad experiences, both beautiful and painful.