



BENEFICE BULLETIN

Church News for

Bedale, Burrill, Leeming and Thornton Watlass

5th July 2026

Fifth Sunday after Trinity

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

	Morning Services - St Gregory's, Bedale	Morning Services - St Mary's, St John's and Burrill	18.30—Evensong conference call
5 th July	8:00am St Gregory's #	9:00am Burrill #	Bedale
	9:15am St Gregory's #F	10:45 St Mary's TW #	
12 th July	9:15am St Gregory's #F	11am St John's, L #	Burrill
19 th July	9:15am St Gregory's #F	10:45 St Mary's TW #	Thornton Watlass
		11am St John's, L #	

Communion F Facebook

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

NOTICES

Car Boot

The next car boot sale will be on 11th July; volunteers are needed to assist in on the gates and provide cakes for the coffee morning in Chantry Hall. Please speak to your churchwarden or sign up on the sheets in the churches.

THORNTON WATLASS CHORAL GROUP

Friday 10th July 2026 – 7:30pm

St Mary's Church, Thornton Watlass

Tickets £12 to include refreshments

Please contact Christine Carruthers on Bedale 423519

THE CHEQUERED ACAPELLAS
BURRILL CHURCH SATURDAY 18TH JULY 2026, 7.30pm

Entry price £10 to include one drink, with wine & beer available throughout the evening (Donations please) and a Raffle on the night.

Please book your place with:

Angela Gill tel: 07850 922035

Elaine Averis tel: 07778 622242

Payment may be made to them in advance or pay on the door



Eight blokes singing in unaccompanied close harmony to entertain with music from all eras! Something for everyone, with some laugh along the way. For a preview check them out on Facebook.

PRAYERS

OUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR

Bel Newman, Mark Newman, Olive Robinson, Justin, Alison, Dan, John, Doris Pearson, Bailey Cuthbert, Claire Bell, Christina, Elizabeth, Jean, and Christine.

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

RIP

Peter Dutezac, Thomas Graham, and Margaret Horner.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

READINGS

Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified: hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people, that in their vocation and ministry they may serve you in holiness and truth to the glory of your name; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

First Reading - Zechariah 9.9–12

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the warhorse from Jerusalem; and the battle-bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the river to the ends of the earth. As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your

prisoners free from the waterless pit. Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

Second Reading - Romans 7.15–25a

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Gospel Reading - Matthew 11.16–19, 25–end

‘But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market-places and calling to one another, “We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.”

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, “He has a demon”; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, “Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!” Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.’

At that time Jesus said, ‘I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

‘Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.’

Post Communion Prayer

Grant, O Lord, we beseech you, that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered by your governance, that your Church may joyfully serve you in all godly quietness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

COMMENTARY

One of the joys of Christian ministry is that there's no single way of doing it. You can be as different as Jesus and John the Baptist, and each be faithfully doing God's work because you are each responding to God's call. Some people will respond to the one, and some to the other. Christian ministry is about using the gifts and personality God has given you and using them, in collaboration with very different people, for the good of the church and of God's kingdom. That's part of why I believe very strongly in working together – not just clergy or in a 'ministry' team – but the church together, acting as one team, to offer Christ's presence to the wider world. A good team looks like it's working together simply and naturally, but to get there requires working through inevitable complexity, in organisation, in relationship, and in expectation of what can be achieved. In the face of complexity, you need a clear and simple vision.

Paul speaks of our inner complexities, which we all have partly because of the expectations we have of ourselves. 'I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do... I have a desire to do what is good, but I do not carry it out.' As we seek to follow Jesus, we want to do right; we want to do what he wants us to do. But we all know we don't always manage it. Human nature gets in the way. We doze when we want to pray. We forget the thing we've promised to do. We keep silent when we should speak, and we speak when we should listen. And so on, and so forth. I sometimes think we're stuck in the New Year's Resolution school of Christianity. We get it wrong. We say our confession. We resolve to do better. But 5 weeks, or 5 days, or 5 minutes later, we're doing it all again. As Paul shouted at himself: 'Wretched man that I am! Who will save me from the coming wrath? Thanks be to God – through our Lord Jesus Christ!' Thanks be to God, through our Lord Jesus Christ. The love of God in Jesus, the grace of God in Jesus, is there for us, to give us a power to live by – fresh purpose and vision and joy and delight, so we don't fixate on failure. Nor do we ignore it or get complacent about it. We don't give up the struggle. In the face of complexity in our inner lives, we turn our eyes on Jesus for the simple vision of his saving love, and ask him to fix us from inside out.

So, let's turn back to Jesus in the Gospel. Jesus faced down the pressure caused by complexity of competing expectations. Now, he offers words that are balm to the soul: 'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.' It's all been revealed to children, he says. You adults shouldn't make it so complicated. You haven't got to learn or understand every detail. Eternal life is about knowing God. No one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. So, all you need to do is focus on him. In your spinning head of expectations, find the still point. Burdened by demands – whether the outer demands of expectation from family or from work or from friends, or the inner expectations of getting your life right before God – realise you don't need to get everything perfect. Just let him walk alongside you and gently lift the burden and share the weight you have been worrying about. Let him provide rest for your soul. Learn the value of loitering in his presence. Just don't forget the liturgical intent.