

BEDALE AND BEYOND

*Linking Church and Community in
Bedale, Burrill, Leeming, & Thornton Watlass*



*Harvest and Remembrance
October and November 2026*

BENEFICE DIARY

OCTOBER

4TH Trinity 18	8.00	Bedale Holy Communion BCP
	9:15	Bedale Parish Communion
	10:45	Thornton Watlass Parish Communion
	11:00	Leeming Parish Communion
	16.00	Harvest Service at Thornton Watlass
	18.30	Bedale Evensong
8 th Thursday	10.30	Bedale Holy Communion BCP
9 th Friday	19.00	Pie, Pea & Quiz at Thornton Watlass Village Hall
11th Trinity 19	9:15	Bedale Harvest Festival
	10:45	Thornton Watlass Parish Communion
	18.30	Burrill Evensong
15 th Thursday	10:30	Bedale Holy Communion BCP
17 th Saturday	16.00	Mayor's Gathering for Those who Serve
18th St Luke	9:15	Bedale Parish Communion
	10:45	Thornton Watlass Parish Communion
	11:00	Leeming Harvest Festival
	18.30	Thornton Watlass Evensong
22 nd Thursday	10:30	Bedale Holy Communion BCP
23 rd Friday	19.00	Prayer and Praise in Chantry Hall
25th Bible	9.00	Burrill Church Communion
Sunday	9:15	Bedale Parish Communion
	10:45	Thornton Watlass Parish Communion
	18.30	Leeming Evensong
29 th Thursday	10:30	Bedale Holy Communion BCP

November

1st All Saints	8:00	Bedale Holy Communion BCP
	9:15	Bedale Parish Communion
	10:45	Thornton Watlass Parish Communion
	11:00	Leeming Parish Communion
	16.00	All Souls Service, Bedale
5 th Thursday	10:30	Bedale Holy Communion BCP

8th Third Sunday before Advent/ Remembrance Sunday	9:15	Bedale Parish Communion
	10:45	Acts of Remembrance at Bedale, Thornton Watlass and Leeming
	16.00	Burrill Evensong
11 th Wednesday	11.00	Act of Remembrance at Bedale War Memorial
12 th Thursday	10:30	Bedale Holy Communion BCP
15th Second Sunday before Advent	9:15	Bedale Parish Communion
	10:45	Thornton Watlass Parish Communion
	11:00	Leeming Parish Communion
	16.00	Thornton Watlass Evensong
19 th Thursday	10:30	Bedale Holy Communion BCP
22nd Christ the King	9.00	Burrill Church Communion
	9:15	Bedale Parish Communion
	10:45	Thornton Watlass Parish Communion
	18.30	Leeming Evensong
23 rd Monday	18:30	Bedale PCC in the OGS
26 th Thursday	10:30	Bedale Holy Communion BCP
27 th Friday	19.00	Prayer and Praise – Chantry Hall
29th Advent Sunday	10.30am	Churches Together in Bedale Joint Service at Bedale Methodist Church

Tuesday Togetherness meet for coffee, cake & lunch
each Tuesday in Chantry Hall—all welcome.

BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION, WEDDINGS & MEMORIALS

BAPTISMS Anyone who is wanting a child christened please contact the parish office or via admin@bedale.church. Remember, that baptisms can happen any day of the week or evening as well as Saturday or Sunday.

CONFIRMATIONS Contact the parish office admin@bedale.church.

WEDDINGS Weddings are taking place throughout the benefice. The churches are usually available during the week and most weekends. Basic legal primaries need a month's notice although there are other means of marrying with less notice. Contact the Rector directly or via the office admin@bedale.church

FUNERALS & MEMORIALS Funerals are usually organised through an undertaker or by contacting the Rector directly. Memorial services can be organised through the parish office admin@bedale.church

Oct/Nov '26 Prayer Diary

Intercessions for the streets, roads and lanes within the Benefice and specific themes for daily prayer during the months covered by this magazine.



1	Prospect Way	Leeming		The Bridge	Bedale
2	Queen Anne's Court	Bedale		The Coppice	RAF Leeming
3	Queen Anne's Drive	Bedale		The Court	Bedale
4	Railway View	Aiskew		The Crescent	Aiskew
5	Robin Way	Aiskew		The Grange	Leeming
6	Roman Road	Leeming		The Haven	Bedale
7	Roman Road	Londonderry		The Paddock	Aiskew
8	Rookwith	T/Watlass		The Spinney	RAF Leeming
9	Roughley Bank	Leeming Bar		The Square	RAF Leeming
10	Russel Terrace	Londonderry		The Wynd	Bedale
11	Samwaies Court	Bedale		Thirn Village	T/Watlass
12	Sandhill Lane	Aiskew		Tofts Lane	Exelby
13	Scroggs Lane	T/Watlass		Tom Hall Court	Bedale
14	Sergeant Bank	Charlcot		Tornado Close	Bedale
15	Snape Road	T/Watlass		Tutin Road	Leeming Bar
16	South End	Bedale		Vasey Close	Bedale
17	South End Avenue	Bedale		Victoria Terrace	Bedale
18	South End Terrace	Bedale		Water Lane	Leeming
19	Sparrow Way	Aiskew		Watlass Lane	T/Watlass
20	Spruce Gill Avenue	Aiskew		Watlass Moor Cottages	Bedale
21	Spruce Gill Drive	Aiskew		Watlass Moor Lane	T/Watlass
22	St John's Crescent	Leeming		Wensleydale Close	Bedale
23	St. John's Road	Leeming		Westfield Lane	Exelby
24	Stapleton Close	Bedale		Willow Close	RAF Leeming
25	Stubbing Nook Lane	Burrill		Willow Drive	Aiskew
26	Sussex Close	Bedale		Willow Gardens	Leeming Bar
27	Sussex Street	Bedale		Woodland Drive	RAF Leeming
28	Sussex Terrace	Bedale		Wren Close	Aiskew
29	Swaaledale Drive	Bedale		Wycar	Bedale
30	Sycamore Avenue	Aiskew		Wycar Terrace	Bedale
31	Sycamore Drive	Bedale		Aiskew Bank	Aiskew

1	For our Reader, the Lay Worship Leaders, & Michelle our Family Chaplain.
2	For the house bound and those who are lonely.
3	For all the churchwardens and their commitment.
4	For all who are going on holiday this month.
5	For the doctors, home helps, and the Herriot and Macmillan Hospices and the Marie Curie nurses.
6	For all who help in the maintenance of the church buildings, those who look after the linens, candles, and other elements which assist in our worship.
7	For all who act as servers, intercessors, and read the lessons at the services.
8	For Simon, Caroline, and their family and for their ministry in this benefice.
9	For our Diocesan Bishop and all the Deanery Bishops.
10	The Health Centres and those in private practice who provide health care.
11	For new members to come into our church family and that their welcome.
12	The congregations of the different services at all our churches.
13	For all local study and prayer groups, and that they will grow in number.
14	For all who provide and maintain our utility services.
15	For all serving members of the armed services, especially those at RAF Leeming
16	Local government, town and parish councils and forums and the local councillors – giving time to communities.
17	For the mission and ministry of our churches in their respective parishes and in the benefice.
18	For all who come to the churches to be married.
19	For those who minister and attend the Methodist and Catholic churches.
20	For all the staff and pupils in our schools as the Autumn term begins.
21	Those who care for relatives in their own homes, and for those whom they care.
22	Ministry to children and young persons in the schools & at outside activities.
23	For those we find it difficult to pray for.
24	For all who help to provide the meals on wheels and the food banks.
25	For the tourists who visit the area and for all who work in the tourist industry.
26	All who work at and visit the Leeming Bar industrial estate.
27	The commercial and retail areas in Bedale.
28	For the many countries who are suffering from natural disasters, for their governments & aid workers who bringing help and support to the areas in need.
29	For all the treasurers, secretaries, and other officers of the various PCC's.
30	For the farming community.
31	For your own family and friends.

The Rector Writes:

Can you juggle? Although I am out of practise, I can juggle three objects at once, given a little time to remember how! I want to use the juggling metaphor to focus on this time of year and the theme of generosity.



First of all, with one ball, which I feel anyone can toss into the air and catch. The first ball is our harvest services. They were traditionally called Harvest Thanksgiving in recognition of the God of harvest and saying thank you for all the blessings we receive. We looked to the generosity of nature and how we are so blessed particularly in our country. As ever we will be supporting the food bank at each of our harvest services (see the later article).

Now, most people can juggle with two balls, probably in a simple circular motion. Perhaps this second focus is how we mark a time of Remembrance. This is the time when we recall those killed in war and their contribution to peace. Such immeasurable generosity and as we gather at the War Memorial to place crosses and wreaths when the generosity of forebears comes to the fore. Let us not though forget the 'All Souls' service when we mark the departed of our own families and acquaintances, love and generosity bequeathed in their lives and relationships. We mark generosity in many subtle ways!

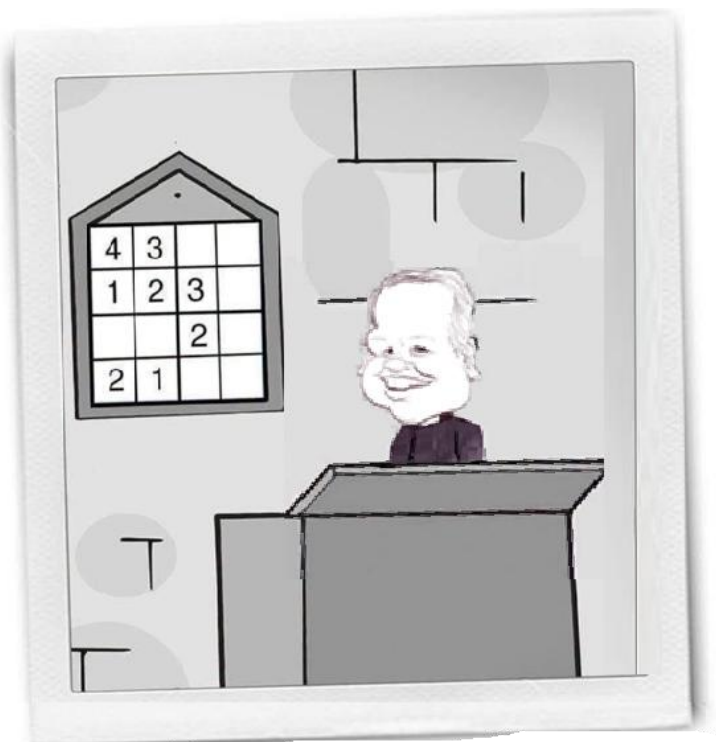
To juggle three balls is a lot more difficult and it takes some practise to juggle in a cascade. So, on the subject of generosity, this is perhaps the hardest part of this article. We are coming to a period when, as church councils, we are looking at stewardship, namely how each parish and church can be sustained. We are asking about generosity in finance and that means on a practical level how can we budget on what we receive already. We can have a shortfall that is plugged by other sources, and this may vary a lot between our churches. Our

challenge therefore is that we find it difficult to budget for a gap. It is the gap that we would like to try and reduce with more planned giving and generosity of those in church regularly and beyond into the community.

The final juggling metaphor is this is to try and juggle with four balls (which I cannot do). Expanding the stewardship campaign, we are also asking individuals to think of what they are able to contribute to the active life of our churches. Asking what can you do within your church; be it reading, preparing and delivering intercessions or preparing the church Sunday by Sunday. Small tasks and roles that simply praying for the vibrancy of your church but perhaps you may be drawn to invite someone to a service, or Tuesday Togetherness, or to partake in our daily round of prayer.

How do you juggle in this season of generosity?

Simon



Sudoku aficionados failed to hear the Rector's fabulous sermon, as they were distracted by the hymn board.

Who's Who Around the Benefice

Rector

Rev'd Canon Simon Moor samoor@bedale.church 01677 988175

Clergy

Rev'd Lee Finnegan Lee.Finnegan@leeds.anglican.org
Rev'd Philip Carrington philipjcarrington@gmail.com 01677 425077
Rev'd Canon Adrian Gatrill adrian.gatrill@gmail.com 07920 837256

Reader and Family Chaplain

Michelle Dearlove michelle@bedale.church 07483 296927

Parish Administrator and Chantry Hall Lets

Sarah Ryder admin@bedale.church 01677 425985

Benefice Safeguarding Officer

Linda Collingwood safeguarding@bedale.church 07944 599351

Bulletin and Magazine Via the Rector or Parish Administrator

St Gregory, Bedale

Church Wardens

Phillip Witty cw.phillip@bedale.church 07891 537082
Linda Collingwood cw.linda@bedale.church 07944 599351

Treasurer

Paul Carnell treasurer@bedale.Church 01677 422503

PCC Secretary and Electoral Roll Officer

Sarah Ryder pccsecretary@bedale.Church 01677 425985

Organist

Richard Boyton rickdomino47@aol.com 01677 425800

Bell Ringers

Matthew Bell mi_bell@btinternet.com 07881501878

Mission Church, Burrill

Church Warden

Chris Griffiths chrisandmargie@btinternet .com 01677 422632

Treasurer

John Gill jd.gill@btinternet.com 07549 353696

PCC Secretaries

Elaine Averis elaineaveris@gmail.com 01677 424300

Jonathon Page 077894 36119

St Mary the Virgin, Thornton Watlass

Church Warden

Christopher Carruthers cjcskiwatlass@aol.com 01677 423519

Treasurer

Elizabeth Cross crosselizabeth250@gmail.com 07529 220540

PCC Secretary

Carol Armstrong carol.armstrong21@outlook.com 01677 460063

Organist

Christine Carruthers cjcskiwatlass@aol.com 01677 423519

Electoral Roll Officer

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St John the Baptist, Leeming

Church Warden

Chris Lyon chrislyon_52@hotmail.co.uk 01677 425168

Treasurer and PCC Secretary

Diane Crisp mail@thecrisps.plus.com 01677 426049

Organist

Joan Lyon chrislyon_52@hotmail.co.uk 01677 425168

Electoral Roll Officer

Chris Lyon chrislyon_52@hotmail.co.uk 01677 425168

The Curate's Comments



Mission during new life, life coming together and end of life, in church life, we have many names for those moments when cross our threshold for something significant - Occasional Life Events, Blessings, Pastoral Offices, and with them come familiar remarks whispered in vestries and over kettles: “They only come here for the party.” “We’re being used for the building.” and “I bet we’ll never see them again.”

But beneath those comments lies something we must not miss. It is because when people come to us for weddings, baptisms, and funerals, they are not simply borrowing a pretty space or ticking a cultural box. They are stepping, sometimes tentatively, sometimes desperately, into the presence of God. They are seeking blessing, meaning, mercy, or hope. They are opening their lives, even for a moment, to the Gospel, the sacraments, the fellowship of the Church, and the quiet work of the Holy Spirit. These moments are not interruptions to our mission. They are our mission. Recently, at a funeral in church, just before Simon began his address, a butterfly drifted in on a shaft of light. It glided gently, almost deliberately, and came to rest on his shoulder, only for a heartbeat, before continuing its path upward to the high window, where it stayed for the rest of the service.

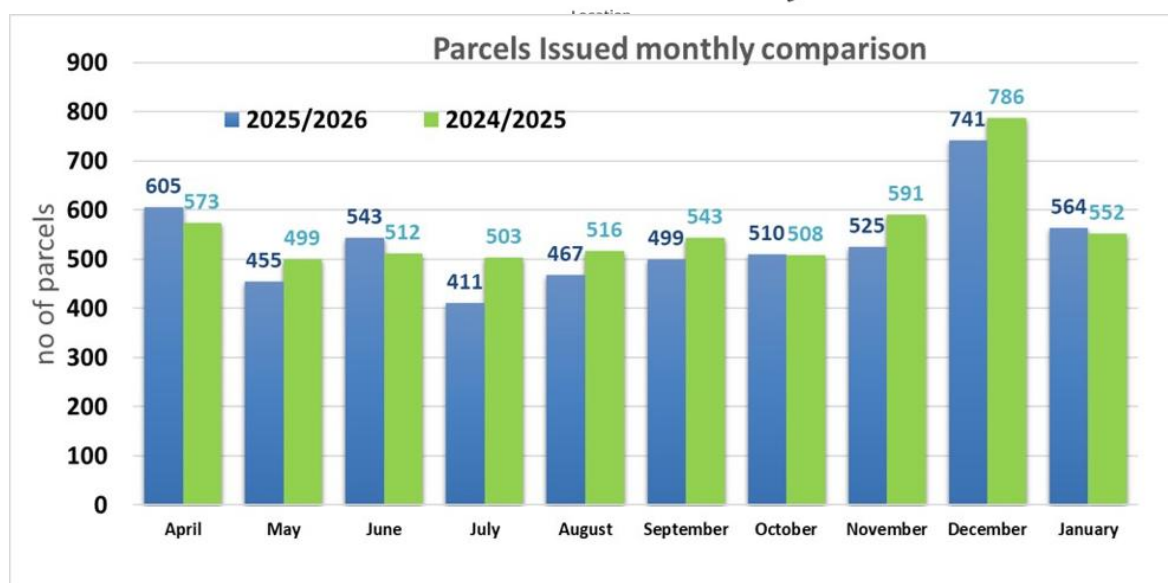
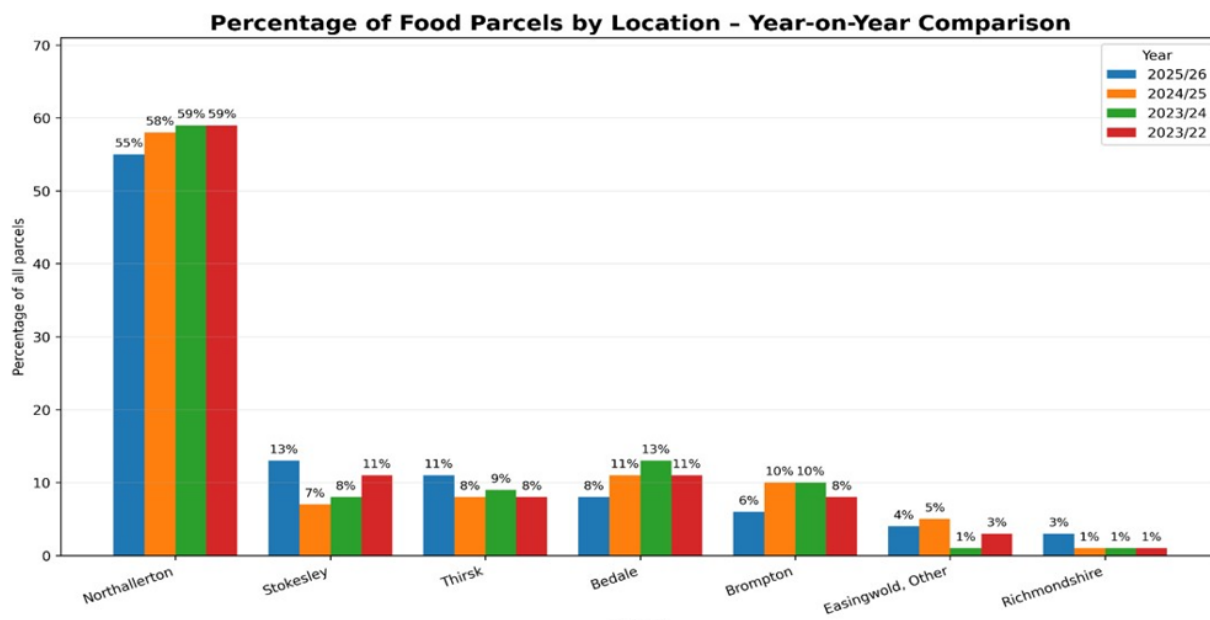
It was a small visitation of beauty in the midst of pain and grief, and grief, as we know, rarely travels alone. It brings nostalgia, mercy, grace, anger, fear, a whole tangle of human feeling that we hold tenderly in those sacred moments.

Our calling is to lift all of that to Christ with care. Because when we do, he receives it. And suddenly the weight is shared. When the pressure eases, even slightly, it is like the tide going out. Where once the waters rose higher and higher, obscuring everything, now the horizon begins to appear. The sun catches our attention and draws it forward, beyond the immediate ache, toward a bearing of hope.

This is what happens in our churches during life’s thresholds. Not just ceremonies, not just gatherings, not just “the party”, but encounters with grace. Moments where Christ meets people, sometimes for the first time in years, sometimes for the first time ever, and offers rest, light, and the possibility of new direction.

So let us honour these occasions for what they truly are: holy interruptions, open doors, glimpses of resurrection, and invitations to hope. May we continue to welcome all who come, whether once, or often, with the gentleness of that butterfly, and the steady light that guided its flight.

As we come to our AGM at Hambleton FoodShare, it's a time to reflect on the continuing need for the foodbank in our community. As these graphs show the need remains high, albeit slightly lower than previous years. Demand has been high this summer during the school holidays.



We regularly order 4 supermarket deliveries per week. In the month of July alone this year we spent £3,443 keeping on top of stock in the store. In order to prevent our reserves running dangerously low, we've had to cut back on what we are providing, and we have reduced the number of self-referral deliveries to 2 per household. So, your donations of both food and money are greatly appreciated and vital to keeping this service running. For more information and to donate go to <https://hambletonfoodshare.org.uk/> or speak to Linda Collingwood, David Summers, or Mike Lowe.

Tuesday Chatterings

The weather is turning more autumnal and there's a distant smell of bonfires on the air. We are now back for the next part of our Tuesday journeys together.

We have decided to start our Soup and Pud menu as the weather changes, and this will be the case throughout Autumn and Winter. We have a lot of things planned, including the annual Macmillan Coffee morning on the 29th September.

There will be a charity support morning on the 20th October when there will be a couple of Charities sharing their wares. One being Preloved handbags, shoes and scarves raising money for Christian Aid, the other being Alley Cats, a local Ripon/Bedale cat rescue who will have a Tombola, Teddy-bola, and super gift ideas including their amazing valerian Cat Kickers.

We have musical afternoons planned when we are hoping to have performances from The Yorkshire Decibels (date TBC) and our own Thornton Watlass Choral Group who will be entertaining us with Christmas favourites and more on the 8th December. Both events are free but we ask for donations if you are able with 100% of which will go straight to the 2 groups concerned. Seasonal refreshments will be served. We are also planning a Traditional Christmas Fare Luncheon on 15th December, and full details will be available from the 10th November. Please watch out for other things happening in the meantime.

We are always looking out for volunteers to help cover the regular volunteers' absences, and regularly from lunchtime until 1.15pm when we are clearing away and tidying up, as well as for holiday cover. If you feel you would like to help please speak to a member of the team. Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to meeting with friends old and new.



RE-JOYCE,

RE-JOYCE!!!

Tuesday Togetherness
and our two Joyce's,
along with an unusual
birthday cake for 92 year
young Joyce Ward.

Mary's Meals

In advent 2025 we supported Mary's Meals; we are going to do so again this Advent. It costs you nothing to get involved, just donate your foreign or obsolete currency to Mary's Meals by leaving it in an envelope at the back of any of our churches, or bringing it to the Church office on a Tuesday or Thursday morning.



The vision of Mary's Meals is that every child receives one daily meal in their place of education and that all those who have more than they need, share with those who lack even the most basic things. Working together with people who share our ideals, we believe that this vision can be achieved in this world where there is enough food for everyone.

Mary's Meals grew out of a charity called Scottish International Relief (SIR), which was set up after Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow & his brother Fergus took aid from their home in Argyll, Scotland, to Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina, during the conflict in 1992. Over the next 10 years, SIR expanded. It began building homes for abandoned children in Romania, helped returning refugees in Liberia by setting up mobile clinics, and continued to deliver material aid to Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina as well as funding many additional projects. SIR relied heavily on the generosity of local people in the village of Dalmally in Argyll, Scotland, who diligently donated food, blankets & other items of aid, which were then stored in the family shed. That same shed still serves as the global headquarters of Mary's Meals to this day.

The Mary's Meals campaign was born in 2002 when Magnus visited Malawi during a famine and met a mother dying from AIDS. When Magnus asked her eldest son Edward what his dreams were in life, he replied simply: "I want to have enough food to eat and to go to school one day." That moment was a key part of the inspiration which led to the founding of Mary's Meals, which began by feeding just 200 children in Malawi in 2002. The charity is named in honour of Mary, the mother of Jesus, who brought up her own child in poverty.

In 2025 Mary's Meals marked the milestone of serving more than 3 million children a nutritious meal in their place of education, every school day.

Be a part of supporting this amazing charity by donating your foreign or obsolete currency during advent 2026. Please leave contributions at the back of the churches or in the office Tuesday and Thursday mornings. During advent.



Keep Thursdays Special!

A note from churchwarden Phillip.

As some of you are aware this year has been a very difficult year for Anne and myself.



Because of the stress and anxiety caused by everything that has been going on, I have had to face the fact that I am not as able, (physically or mentally) as I used to be. Whether this is temporary or permanent I don't yet know. What I do know is that it is very frustrating! It had come to the point in recent weeks where I have seriously questioned whether I ought to continue as a churchwarden! I have appointments with practitioners booked, so I will see what the professionals suggest before I make that decision. I share this because I think it only fair that you all know a little of where I am at the moment.

A couple of things have helped me keep going throughout all this, and have gotten me thus far.

First is the understanding and support of everyone I've shared my troubles with over the past few months. Thank-you to everyone who has listened to my woes and offered support and prayers. It really does mean a lot!

The second has been able to continue with the routines of church life, by attending our regular services, and performing my duties for services. This is especially the case with the Thursday morning Book of Common Prayer service in St Gregory's. There is something so special about being able to slow down, and quietly go about the business of setting up the altar etc. No rush. No fuss. And then share a simple, said, service. By the end of a Thursday morning, I feel grounded, reconnected with God, and more able to cope with the pressures of life. I often comment that it is a bit like hitting a reset switch midweek. I know many of the regular Thursday congregation have a similar feeling.

So, I pray that this service continues well into the future, and that I can continue to attend and serve the small and faithful congregation who attend week after week.

That is why I titled this piece "Keep Thursday Special!", because to me Thursday is very special indeed!

With Blessings

Phillip

Tuesday 4th August 2026

Parish Trip to York



It was by the most generous invitation from York Minster that we, as a parish, were invited to spend a day exploring York Minster, a place of worship and of great Anglican connection that the sage Canon Legard would have styled “a Mother Church”. We all gathered, a coachload of parishioners, outside the Chantry Hall for a 9 o’clock departure, and with a wave and a blessing from Simon our Rector we were on our way.

I had an old guidebook from when I first visited York Minster with my parents, and in later life my cousin commented that “history is the same, it never changes”, so with confidence I clung to my 1950’s “Official guide to York Minster”. Upon arriving in York, coffee was mentioned and for that moment became the most important requirement; so after a ‘cuppa’ we made our way to the towering Minster just as the first and very heavy shower of rain fell. The first rain in what, 2 months? So that was claimed a blessing. We entered at the appointed hour as “the Bedale party” and were given an entrance all of our own, free for the day to come and go as we pleased.

The little company of friends I was with, and we did seem to divide ourselves up, had an initial and extensive exploration, and then a break for a remarkably excellent lunch at the Treasurers House, returning to the minster with the valid code word ‘Bedale’. A final trail round the Minster shop and the time for final departure came, a last sit down to admire from a pew the majesty of this remarkable place it really was overwhelming as an architectural magnificence and a spiritual atmospheric bewilderment of what at been chieved so many hundreds of years ago.

An ice cream van was parked as we left the Minster and another one at the station where we were to re-join our coach, a very interesting ending to such a remarkable day simply eating and tucking into ice creams .

Thank you to Michelle and all others responsible for arranging this amazing parochial day out for us all.

Eileen Jackson.

Operation Christmas Child



When you turn on the news, it is easy to get discouraged with all of the challenging things that are happening in the world. But God is still good, and He is still at work! Simple shoebox gifts are changing the lives of so many children. Last year alone, Samaritan's Purse delivered millions of Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes to children around the world. God used these simple gifts to change the lives of many boys and girls and their families, people like Rebeca & this is her story.



I'm Rebeca and I'm one of the millions of children who has received a shoebox. I hope my experience will encourage you to pack a shoebox, as you understand some of how the power of God impacted my life through this simple gift.

I was born and raised in Communist Romania, in the town of Alexandra. I'm the eldest of three children and the only girl. My family lived modestly; we did not have a lot, but we had enough. My dad was a Sunday school teacher and planted churches in neighbouring villages

around my hometown. It was a great privilege to be born into a Christian family however it also had repercussions for me. Being part of a protestant family in Communist Romania resulted in rejection from both the communists and the majority orthodox church. This meant that I was an outcast in school and society. It was really difficult to integrate, and I had no friends; instead, I spent all my time with my siblings. Being an outcast affected me profoundly.

I remember the times I waited in long queues to receive the rations of food that my family were allowed. Each ration we received consisted of one litre of oil, a kilogram of sugar and a limited amount of bread. Electricity was rationed too, I remember vividly having to do my homework by the candlelight and staying in the cold apartment, because we didn't have any way to heat it. One striking memory is of the tanks that would drive past our home. Both my parents were out working, and my brother and I hid behind a couch because we were so scared. Experiences like this can have a lasting impact. At this time Christians were persecuted directly by being denied access to higher education or responsible positions or promotions in Romania.

Communism fell in 1989 and soon Western aid and support began to come into the country. The country was still recovering from the years of oppression and despite the liberties that were granted to people, the economy was hit hard and the country thrown into greater poverty. Factories were closed, people lost their jobs and their life long savings. During this difficult time for many families, my Dad left Romania to go

to Germany to work as an electrician. The resulting impact of a poor economy also meant that because of inflation it cost a lot to buy the simplest things, even the basics.

On Christmas Day 1991 we went to church. We did this every year; however, this Christmas morning was going to be different. We had been told that the church had gifts for the children, shoebox gifts. I went to church that morning with a heart full of excitement to sing in the children's carol concert and to receive our shoebox gift afterwards. Once our concert had finished, we were asked to line up and one by one we received a shoebox from the huge pile of shoeboxes that dominated the front of our church. I eagerly waited for what seemed like years to get my shoebox. When I received it, I noticed how beautifully packed it was with wonderful colourful wrapping paper – blue with little white snowmen. I had never received a wrapped Christmas present before!

At Christmas we did not give and receive gifts; only the fruit that the church usually gave us. My family hurried home to open our shoebox gifts. I remember holding it so tightly with my frozen little hands as I walked home through the snow, shaking it and sniffing it to get a clue of what was inside, my heart pounding with excitement and anticipation. When I got home and finally got to open it, the first thing that struck me was the smell – one I had never smelled before, – it smelt like freedom. I recall many wonderful items inside, but my favourite was the Crayola crayons and marker pens. I used to be a very artsy child, and these gifts helped me and my brothers create our own comic book.

In my shoebox was a photo of a family that packed my shoebox. It was so special to see their faces – I still remember their warm smiles. Knowing that across the ocean, thousands of miles away, were other Christians like me that were thinking of me and sent me this amazing present. This made me feel included and accepted! It gave me a sense of belonging and hope and reminded me that God's love has no boundaries or borders. It reminded me that in Christ we are all a big family. Despite the difficulties I faced, of being treated like an outcast, this small shoebox demonstrated to me that I was not alone, that the world might alienate me but Jesus and his church all around the world were standing firm with me, demonstrating the love Jesus had for me. I finally realised that I was no longer an outcast!

Operation Christmas Child - 9th- 16th November. Drop shoeboxes at the back of church any day, or in the office Tuesday or Thursday mornings

SOME SEASONAL THOUGHTS **from the Watlass Warden**

**All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice and with us sing,
Alleluia, alleluia!**



This week, as I write on the 20th of September, sees the start of Autumn as we experience the Autumn Equinox when we move to days and nights when there are more hours of darkness than there are of light. Thoughts turn to Harvest Festivals, and you will see elsewhere in the magazine when each of our churches is celebrating this year's harvest. As the colours of autumn begin to appear we come to celebrate the many blessings that God bestows on us. Harvest season reminds us to say "thank you" to God for all the gifts of His created world and for the love, generosity and community we share together. Harvest reminds us that all we have ultimately come from God and so it is right and proper that we should set some time aside to say thank you for all His gifts. We don't always realise it but our days are filled with the gifts the Lord showers on us. We should be thankful and grateful to God all that He gives us.

"Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father, there is no shadow of turning with thee; Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy hand has provided. Great is the faithfulness, Lord, unto me Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessing all mine, with ten thousand beside!" Some words from a hymn which I am sure many of you will know yet a reminder of all the things we should be thankful for. A harvest festival is a time when we can give thanks for the beauty of creation all around us as well as everything He provides for us. We come together to give thanks for all peoples of the earth, for our daily food, for the skill of those who work to bring us our food and all the things we need to survive. But, also to say thank you for the life we have been given and for all those whom we have been given to share it with. So, even if you don't attend any of our harvest festivals, I encourage you to take a few minutes to quite simply say thank you, to a God who has been there since the beginning of time. To say thank you for all the good things that the Lord has provided us with this year, to say thank you that we live in a wonderful world created by a God who loves and care for us all.

"How shall we show our love for thee, Who givest all?
Thou didst not spare thine only son but gave him for a world undone.
For souls redeemed, for sins forgiven, for means of grace and hopes of heaven.
Where harvests ripen, thou art there, thou givest all.
Father all praise to thee be given, Who givest all."

Chris Carruthers

SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: EVENTS IN THORNTON WATLASS.

OCTOBER

Sat 3rd Soups and Puds lunch in the Village Hall 12noon - 1.30pm
 Proceeds for the Village Hall

Sun 4th HARVEST FESTIVAL in St. Mary's Church 4pm. Followed by a bring and share tea. Thornton Watlass Choral Group in attendance

Fri 9th Pie and Peas Supper with Quiz in the Village Hall 7pm
Proceeds for St. Mary's Church

Tues 13th TUESDAY CLUB 7.30pm. Talk by Dr. Ben Ryan, a general practitioner in Northallerton, Details for Christine Carruthers

Wed 14th Thornton Watlass School Harvest Festival 2pm in St. Mary's

Tues 20th Gardening Club meets in the Village Hall 7.30pm
Organic Gardening, a talk by Mike Mc Quade

NOVEMBER

Mon 2nd Parish Council 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Sun 8th Remembrance Sunday Service 10.45am St. Mary's

Tues 10th Tuesday Club 7.30pm in the Buck Inn
A Christmas Decoration with Ruth Rising

Tues 17th Gardening Club AGM in the Village Hall 7.30pm

Sunday 29th No Service at St. Mary's. Join us at Bedale and District Methodist Church at 1030am for an Advent Service.

[Flowers in St. Mary's Church. If anyone would like to help with flowers in Church either by arranging them on an occasional basis or by giving a donation to buy flowers, please speak to Chris or Christine Carruthers 01677423519]

Words from Leeming



Not a good period for our church community I'm afraid as we have recently lost two members of our congregation.

Firstly, we had the passing of Miriam. I think this whole article could be about her. Such a lovely character, always with a smile on her face (especially when having a "forbidden" cake at our coffee mornings!!). A former Churchwarden, and long-standing member of the congregation, she would, when she was able, be frequently found cleaning, Hoovering, polishing the brasses, arranging flowers, distributing hymn books etc and generally doing anything that she could to assist in the running of church and its various activities. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her. RIP Miriam.

Secondly, John Brewster passed away last month having spent his last years in a care home in Thirsk, having moved there following the death of his wife Carol. It was my pleasure to count John as a good friend. A lovely, softly spoken, guy who had a wide-ranging list of talents and former occupations. He was, I'm led to believe, a very talented and well

respected, horse trainer, and had managed horses for numerous high-profile owners. One of John's hobbies was the making of Walking Sticks, he was well known for this and he exhibited them countrywide. They are works of art, and I'm so proud to have two that he specially selected for me. John's funeral will be held in St John's church on 2nd October at 13:00. RIP John, I and many others, mourn your passing.

Looking to the future, there will be a meeting in church (provisionally 4th October, following a service) where Simon will be explaining the ideas behind the Stewardship scheme and how we as a congregation can assist and participate in promoting our church in particular. An article will be produced and included in a website promoting churches in the Diocese. Details will be announced soon and posted on both Notice Boards.

Please put a note in your diaries for our Harvest Festival, that will be held on Sunday 18th October.

As always, I like to end on something completely different!! With the ever-changing weather patterns, it has been a brilliant season(?) for blackberries!! I'm really surprised (as our brambles are adjacent to the public footpath by the church main entrance) that so

many have remained unpicked. I have picked at least 2.5kg and there is still at least that amount ripening, so if you enjoy blackberries why not get them before the birds!!



That's it for now, I include a picture of the two sticks that John's gave to me. Take care, God bless, and please keep Miriam and John in your prayers. Chris L

Burrill News

You may read this after our harvest weekend has past, although I write with a week or so before our service of thanksgiving has occurred followed by our usual Sunday service will all decorations in place.



We, as a congregation supported the running of car boots in the benefice, with two of three attempts happening in fine weather, and one accretion cancelled because of rain.

As ever we were proud to host benefice service at the end of August which was well attended. A full church and a guest speaker was appreciated.

Finally, you may notice more sunlight within church. Northern Electric have been at work trimming trees near power line and helpfully cut some branches down for us at east end of church. A subtle but welcomed task.

Chris