

Forthcoming Services & Events

SERVICES IN CHURCH BUILDINGS

The Church will open for a brief period of private prayer every Thursday, 10 – 4pm.

All worship will continue to be published online
www.burghillchurch.co.uk

24 th December	CHRISTMAS EVE	
9.30pm	St Andrew's, Moreton-on-Lugg	Holy Eucharist
11.00pm	St Mary the Virgin, Burghill	Midnight Mass
25 th December	CHRISTMAS DAY	
8.30am	St Peter's, Pipe-cum-Lyde	BCP Holy Communion
9.30am	St Mary Magdalene, Stretton	Crib Service
	Sugwas	
11.00am	St Mary the Virgin, Burghill	Crib Service
27 th December	1ST Sunday of Christmas	
11.00am	St Mary the Virgin, Burghill	Joint Benefice Worship
3 rd January	EPIPHANY	
8.30am	St Peter's, Pipe-cum-Lyde	BCP Holy Communion
9.30am	St Andrew's, Moreton-on-Lugg	All Age Worship
10.00am	St Mary Magdalene, Stretton	All Age Worship
	Sugwas	
11.00am	St Mary the Virgin, Burghill	All Age Worship

BURGHILL BENEFICE'S

“Carols by Candlelight”

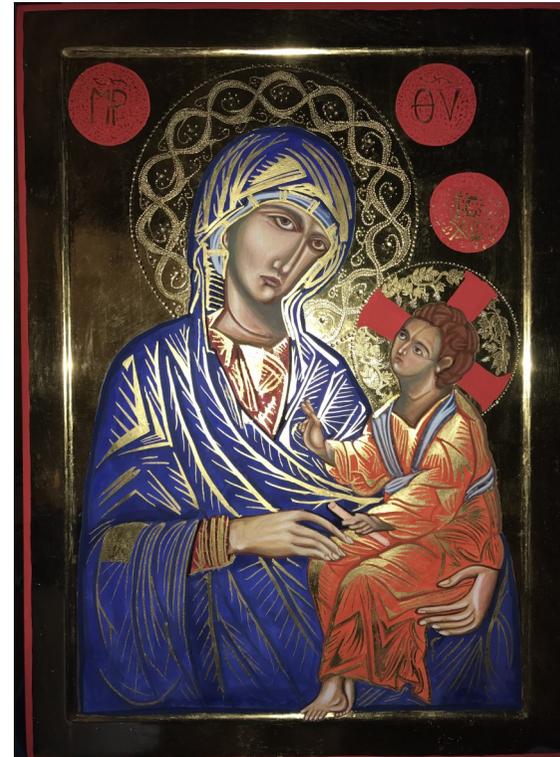
To be published online

Online Services for December
Sunday Worship

Rector Phill away on holiday from 26th - 4th January

BURGHILL BENEFICE

Fourth Sunday of Advent



“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us”



Readings

Psalms 89.1-4, 19-26*

Luke 1.26-38

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FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Those who are ill

Barbara

Those who have died

Peter, David

The Collect

Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Main Reading

“Luke 1.26-38”

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.” But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

Homily

I remember being invited to a post-baptism party. The service had been at Burghill, St Mary the Virgin. Upon arrival I was accosted at the entrance by a couple and their teenage daughter. “What kind of greeting could this be, I wondered?”

The man said: “explain to our daughter why Mary is a virgin: I said it was a little lie that became a bigger lie”. With my theological hackles raised, I prepared to defend the faith of my Lord. However, I was also firmly aware that I was talking to a teenage girl so the answer had to be free from lofty or mind-bending phrases. I said: “well, people are born because of a man and a woman, you can't have a baby without two agents, right?” She agreed. I said: “well, with God it is different, he doesn't need a human agent to become human, only a place to enter into the world”. She was now leaning in with her parent doing likewise! At this point I knew I had their attention. I said: “You see, the virgin birth tell us one thing, that Jesus is divine because he doesn't come from a human being but from God”. I went on to say that the virgin birth says one thing, that Jesus born on earth—but not from it because He is God—born of God. At this point they pulled back perplexed that I had not been foxed and that there was a reasonable explanation as to why we call Mary the virgin.

This is what Luke is telling us, that the birth of Jesus is about the fulfilment of a prophecy: “you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” God has arrived on earth as a human being—not in light filled majesty but in humility. God places Himself in a fragile human being to be cared for and nurtured by a mother, born of her flesh. Indeed she is highly favoured, that glorious virgin from Nazareth.