

# What's On?

## Sunday Worship

As you may already be aware, due to the lockdown worship will only be available online. The Sunday service will be available from 11.00am. These are the ways in which you can access the service:

YouTube: Search for *Burghill Benefice*,  
Facebook: Search for *St Mary's church, Burghill*

Or

To fully engage with the service you will need a Service Booklet for the service and a Hymn sheet which can be downloaded via our website:

[www.burghillchurch.co.uk](http://www.burghillchurch.co.uk)

(if you press **CTRL+left** click on you mouse on the link above it will take you to the website)

## Week Day Opportunities

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Burghill will open for a brief period of private prayer every Thursday, 10 – 12noon.

*Thursday Webinars*

*A Series of Reflections through Lent*

*Stay Strong—Stay Safe—Stay Faithful*

## BURGHILL BENEFICE

### *The Baptism of Christ*



*"You are my beloved Son, with you I am well pleased."*



### Reading:

Mark 1.4-11

### FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Those who are ill

**Trevor**

Those who have died

**Peter, David, Steve**

### The Collect

Heavenly Father, at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son: may we recognize him as our Lord and know ourselves to be your beloved children; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen**

# Main Reading

“Mark 1.4-11“

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

## Homily

In our strange times we are discovering afresh the value of health. Talking to the local butcher not so long ago, he said he is busier than ever. He said: “people no longer care about what they spend”. I think this is because people are beginning to realise that the money and the things we have aren't worth anything in comparison to health, and in particular life and to live. We often take things for granted when they become just routine and every day. I remember being in the Middle East in a hotel on the Mount of Olives (an Arab area of Jerusalem). As

I lay in bed machine gun fire erupted outside my bedroom window. It doesn't make for a good night's sleep! A little while later, in the distance, I heard the tolling of a bell and I was comforted by the sound of the familiar. It was to me the sound of not being alone. I later found out it was a wedding party. Yet, moment like these remind us of what life means when the normality of its routine is disturbed.

Covid has certainly done this, and it will go down in history as the year our world changed. It must have been the same for those who suffered such pandemics before. Nevertheless, it reminds us that life is what we cling to, what we crave, what we all truly treasure. If you understand this, you understand the purpose of Jesus. In Him God isn't concerned with saving the stuff. He sent His Son in order that we may have life—that we can truly give ourselves over to life because of the promise that it has no end in Christ. The phrase St. Paul uses often is “being in Christ”. What does he mean? Well, it is about belonging to Him as the one in whom souls are deposited for safekeeping. Carl Jung, the pioneer of psychology said: “man only lives when he has a future to look forward to”. In other words, in setting aside our fear of death, then we are free to truly live and embrace life. Today, is the Baptism of Christ, it marks the arrival of Jesus as the Son of God onto the public scene of salvation in history. It is the beginning of the end of death itself and the arrival of a future with God unending. Just as we look for a future beyond Covid with a focus upon the arrival of the vaccines for all, so to we look towards the future beyond the limits of this life. What the vaccines are for the flesh, Christ is for the soul.