

Sunday Worship

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*
also,

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

Week Day Opportunities

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, open for private prayer every Thursday, 10 – 12noon.

ZOOM COFFEE MEETINGS

Every Sunday, 11.30am after Church

The link:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78108090032?pwd=VWo2WUQxdmlGNmYvb1VReINKWUNjZz09>

Meeting ID: 781 0809 0032

Passcode: Pjd1ku

Every Thursday Morning, 10.30am

The link:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/76529969889?pwd=MnF0Nm9QSzI3bHdhdlpJUjdiVVBNdz09>

Meeting ID: 765 2996 9889

Passcode: 333H4t

Stay Strong—Stay Safe—Stay Faithful

BURGHILL BENEFICE

The First Sunday of Lent



"Repent and believe in the Gospel"

Reading:

Mark 1.9-15

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Those who are ill

**John Morrill,
Alan & Val
Blake**

Those who have died

**Gareth
Goodwin**

The Collect

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; 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**

Main Reading

“Mark 1.9-15”

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.”

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent (*Metanoia*), and believe in the good news (Gospel)!”

Homily

On my travels in my car I now use a Sat-Nav. I perhaps trust it too much, but rather than trust myself. I don't have a very good sense of direction. It's been a long fought battle, because this absence of where things are is coupled to a will that often refuses to be wrong. I hasten to add that this is not always the case. Nevertheless, many times in the past I have been convinced that I am going in the right direction and have refused to listen to the advice of my passengers. How could I be wrong, I'm the driver, I'm in control! Yet, after a few times at arriving in the wrong destination, it is hard to keep up the pretence that all is well with my sense of direction. Hence, I now have a Sat-Nav, it saves me time and embarrassment as

well as a greater sense of harmony on our travels.

We say it is irrational to trust any other authority than ourselves. As I have illustrated above, this sense of autonomous individual rationality can also be irrational and costly in terms of time, energy and destination. Trust, for us, is a long fought battle and it takes time to sink in that other authorities know better than we do.

In our reading today, Jesus is Baptised and is revealed as the one in whom God had placed all authority. He is the one who speaks and acts for God. After his time in the desert, Jesus emerges to declare the Gospel (which means “Good News”!) to the people. The message is two-fold, “turn around—believe”. The word we translate into English for “repent” is the word “metanoia” (pronounced met-a-noy-a). It means to have a change of heart. To turn around and go in another direction. The word belief comes here from a word “*pisteúō*” (pronounced pist-ou). It also means to trust, to have faith in. Jesus comes out of the desert, and calls people to trust in Him and turn to Him, and he will get them to where they are meant to be going.

Like me with the Sat-Nav, I trusted in myself and refused to turn and believe what others were telling me as I was stubbornly heading to the wrong place! However, once arrived in the wrong place we are forced to face that we got it wrong and must turn around. Jesus' call is for us to place our lives in His care, to trust in where He is leading us because he has great authority—the greatest! The journey of life is disorientating, but in the presence of Jesus we can be sure we are going in the right direction and we will arrive in the right place on time.