

Forthcoming Services & Events

SERVICES

BURGHILL BENEFICE

9TH	6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER	
10.00am	St Mary the Virgin, Burghill	Joint Benefice Eucharist
16TH	ASCENSION SUNDAY	
8.00am	St Peter's, Pipe-cum-Lyde	Holy Communion
9.30am	St Andrew's, Moreton-on-Lugg	Morning Prayer
9.30am	St Mary Magdalene, Stretton Sugwas	Morning Prayer
11.00am	St Mary the Virgin, Burghill	A Service of the Word
23RD	PENTECOST SUNDAY	
8.30am	St Peter's, Pipe-cum-Lyde	BCP Holy Communion
9.30am	St Andrew's, Moreton-on-Lugg	Morning Prayer
9.30am	St Mary Magdalene, Stretton Sugwas	Morning Prayer
11.00am	St Mary the Virgin, Burghill	A Service of the Word

EXPLORERS GROUP *on Zoom*

A new Zoom group is coming aimed at newcomers and explorers of the faith. If you are interested in exploring Christianity a little more, this is the group for you. Email me at: revpjbrown.777@gmail.com for further details.

ZOOM THURSDAY COFFEE

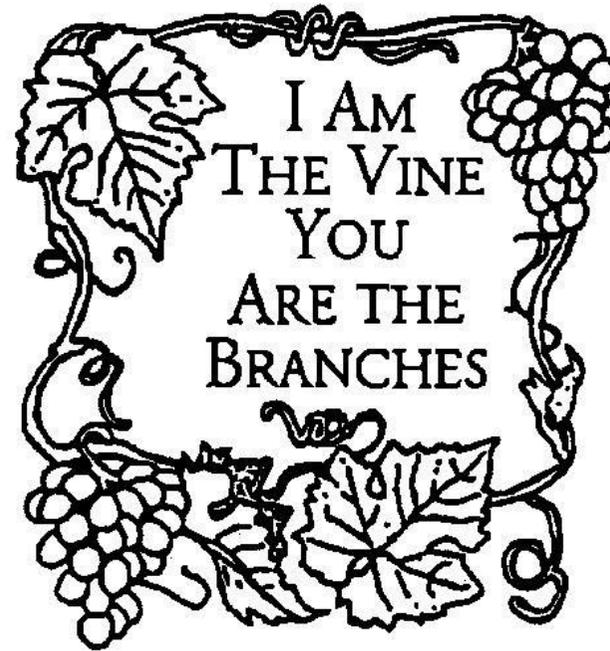
From the May 6th, 10.00am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83726040679?pwd=VGM5QUFNSUZTbi9MbEhSNnp5SVN2Zz09>

Stay Strong—Stay Safe—Stay Faithful

THE BURGHILL BENEFICE

5th Sunday of Easter



READINGS

Acts 8.26-40

John 15.1-8

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Cynthia George

Helen Davies

Kris Perruzza

John Catherall

The Collect

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Reading

“John 15.1-8”

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

Homily

Thinking about today's reading a film springs to mind: *The Lord of the Flies*. A story about how a bunch of boys stranded on a deserted Island split into two groups and compete for a different vision of how to survive. One more cooperative, the other ruled by a brutal dictator. Really, the story is about how human beings stripped of their containment revert to type. It is easy to be consistent when you are surrounded by a certain support structure. Yet, to maintain that when it disappears is much, much harder. In the film, the one leader struggles to maintain his grip on his former self, the other more willingly casts off his previous moral formation. It's a film about human

nature and how we are faced with choices and our environment.

Jesus, knowing the intimate depths of our broken nature is warning his disciples that when the situation changes and He is no longer with them as He has been, that they must remain true. He warns them that if their life is to be fruitful and they are to do the will of their Father in Heaven, they must remain true to His teaching and to who He is. They must continue to follow Him and to declare His Lordship over all things, because He alone is the Way, the Truth and only in Him is their life. They must remain part of Him as He will remain part of them in the Spirit.

Again and again, He tells them to “abide”. To dwell deeply within the community He has made through His body to become extensions of it. As St Paul tells us, the early Church understood their life as grafted into Christ's. That they were members of His very body on earth: “Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it” (1 Cor 12:27). Gathering on a Sunday to worship is an act of “abiding”. It is to cast ones crown before the throne of God and is an act of offering ones self afresh into the service of Christ. It is an act of acknowledging that without Christ we can do nothing and that only as His corporal members do we have a share in His life.

As we slowly re-emerge from our hibernation, let us see this as an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to Him. To have conquered the challenge of our temptation to depart on our own way and seek His fellowship. Let us abide, let us remain, let us bear much spiritual fruit for our Father in heaven. Amen.