

SERVICES

BURGHILL BENEFICE

12TH 15TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

10.00am St Peter's, Pipe-cum-Lyde

**Harvest Benefice
Eucharist**

19TH 16TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

8.30am St Peter's, Pipe-cum-Lyde

BCP Holy Communion

9.30am St Andrew's, Moreton

Harvest Festival

9.30am St Mary Magdalene, Stretton

Morning Prayer

11.00am St Mary the Virgin, Burghill

Parish Eucharist

A Harvest Blessing

May God our creator,
who clothes the lilies and feeds the birds of the air,
bestow on you his care
and increase the harvest of your righteousness;
and the blessing ...

Today we welcome Maive Georgina Blundell-Andrews into the faith today. She is being Christened at St Mary Magdalene, Stretton Sugwas.

For your prayers:

Enid Davies, Dorothy Johnson, Ian Middleton and
Gena & Trevor Whitefoot

THE BURGHILL BENEFICE

Harvest Eucharist



The Collect

Eternal God, you crown the year with your goodness and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season: grant that we may use them to your glory, for the relief of those in need and for our own well-being; 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.

READINGS: Joel 2.21-27, Matthew 6.25-33

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The Reading

“Matthew 6.25-33”

‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?” For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Homily

When I was about sixteen a song in the charts came out: “Don’t worry, be happy”. I have never found it easy just to tell myself not to worry. It is something that you either do or don’t, words often don’t help. Life is a roller-coaster, there are good times and bad and worry is a part of life. So why is Jesus saying this to the people around Him?

We might think that in our won day life is hard, but all things are relative. Today, on the twentieth anniversary of the

invasion of Afghanistan, we see a people clamouring for hope in their lives. To claim back their lives from the Taliban which are now back in power. Our concerns compared to these people are very different. Nevertheless, whatever context and culture we live in, our experience is ours and no one else's. To worry about a gas bill may be small beer to someone fleeing the Taliban, but that is our context. Worry is something that is never going away whenever or wherever we live. It is part of the human experience.

I think what is happening here is that Jesus is recognising their concerns and is teaching all of us in His words that God understands and that He cares for us. That as part of God’s creation we are precious to Him and that there is a Kingdom waiting to be given to us. In essence, this passage is about trust. Ultimately, do we trust God with our lives?

At Harvest time, we reap what has been sown. This is one of my favourite times of the year, to see all that was promised in the sowing come to fruition. It is wonderful to see the fields having been cut and gathered. Harvest is not just a time to share with others what we have received (though it is that), but also a time to remember that everything comes to us as a promise. That everything we have is a gift of God in creation. It’s a time to give thanks, to be joyful in what God has freely given. It is also a time to remember that a time awaits us beyond this world, and we are the fruit of that Kingdom. Harvest is a time we look forward to what God will bring and to be strengthened by His blessing we receive now and those that are still to come. Amen.