

SERVICES

10TH 19TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

10.00am St Andrew, Moreton *Joint Benefice Eucharist*

17TH 20TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

8.30am St Peter's, Pipe-cum-Lyde BCP Holy Communion

9.30am St Andrew's, Moreton Morning Prayer

9.30am St Mary Magdalene, Stretton Parish Eucharist

11.00am St Mary the Virgin, Burghill Parish Eucharist

24TH BIBLE SUNDAY

8.30am St Peter's, Pipe-cum-Lyde BCP Holy Communion

9.30am St Andrew's, Moreton Parish Eucharist

9.30am St Mary Magdalene, Stretton Parish Eucharist

11.00am St Mary the Virgin, Burghill Parish Eucharist

31ST 4TH SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT

8.30am St Peter's, Pipe-cum-Lyde BCP Holy Communion

9.30am St Andrew's, Moreton Morning Prayer

9.30am St Mary Magdalene, Stretton Morning Prayer

11.00am St Mary the Virgin, Burghill Parish Eucharist

Confirmation

The deadline for applications will be **5th November**. Confirmation classes will be on Saturday mornings at **Stretton Sugwas Church 11.00am**. Each week we will look at a slightly different topic relating to what it means to be Confirmed.

The classes will be on: **6th, 13th, 20th & 27th of November, 11th December, Confirmations Service - 11.30am St Mary Magdalene, Stretton Sugwas**

For your prayers: Enid Davies, Gena & Trevor Whitefoot

THE BURGHILL BENEFICE

19th Sunday After Trinity



Collect for the 18th Sunday After Trinity

O God, forasmuch as without you we are not able to please you; mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; 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: Job 23.1-9,16,17; Mark 10.17-31
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The Reading

“Mark 10.17-31”

As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.’” He said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.” Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” They were greatly astounded and said to one another, “Then who can be saved?” Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.”

Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.” Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

Homily

Many years ago before I was ordained, I was on a placement at the Cathedral. This was the reading for that service which I had the privilege to read. After the service, I was accosted by a rather spiky retired priest. He said to me: “where are you training (to be ordained)?”. I said, “on a local course”. He said, “Why don’t you go to a proper collage”. I knew then that this was going to get interesting. He followed up by saying, “I hope you know that in the Church you have to start at the bottom and work your way up?”. Subtext “I’m your senior!”. Now, shyness has never been my issue. I replayed: “well that’s okay, because according to the reading today, the first will be last and the last first”. I met him a few weeks later, he was a really lovely man, he just wanted to pull my chain at the time.

The crux of this passage is presumption. He presumed that his efforts of keeping the Law of Moses was enough. But we, being unlike God, which means were not that good (only God is good), presumed that Jesus would give him something to do, rather than challenge him to give something up. His possession was his life (or so he thought). This answer challenged the disciples also, how on earth can we get to heaven, they thought. “Who can be saved?”. Well, we must not presume that we can save ourselves. Heaven isn’t a right to be claimed, it is a gift to be received. You can’t buy heaven or be pious or charitable enough to gain heaven. It’s a gift, *gratis*, freely given. If you think you’re worth it or deserve it, you can’t enter it in that state, you will end up being last rather than first. The humble, though new to Christ may get in before you because they receive gifts, and this is what it is to follow Jesus. To not presume to think that the gifts of God are ours by right. They are ours only by grace. Amen