

SERVICES

21ST CHRIST THE KING

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| 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 | Morning Prayer |
| 11.00am | St Mary the Virgin, Burghill | Parish Eucharist |

DECEMBER

5TH SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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|---------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| 8.30am | St Peter, Pipe-cum-Lyde | BCP Holy Communion |
| 9.30am | St Andrew, Moreton-on-Lugg | All Age Worship |
| 10.00am | St Mary Magdalene, Stretton | All Age Worship |
| 11.00am | St Mary the Virgin, Burghill | Crib Service |

11TH CONFIRMATION SERVICE

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| 11.30am | St Mary Magdalene, Stretton | Confirmation Service |
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12TH THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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| 10.00am | St Mary the Virgin, Burghill | Joint Eucharist |
| 5.00pm | St Peter, Pipe-cum-Lyde | Carol Service |

19TH FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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| 8.30am | St Peter, Pipe-cum-Lyde | BCP Holy Communion |
| 9.30am | St Andrew, Moreton-on-Lugg | Eucharist Service |
| 9.30am | St Mary Magdalene, Stretton | Morning Prayer |
| 11.00am | St Mary the Virgin, Burghill | Eucharist Service |
| 5.00pm | St Mary the Virgin, Burghill | Carols by Candlelight |

PRIZES NEEDED for the Burghill Christmas Draw. Prizes from the value of £1.00 upwards would be greatly appreciated! Please contact Max Jenman to make your donations. Thank you!

THE BURGHILL BENEFICE

Christ the King



The Collect

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

READINGS: Daniel 7.9-10,13,14; John 18.33-37

Pages - 670-

The Reading

“John 18.33-37”

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus answered, “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?” Pilate replied, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?” Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.” Pilate asked him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.”

Homily

I love a good film. I'm not that keen on ordinary television, but I used to love going to the Cinema. Even now, the first thing I look for on the TV at night is a good film. Yet, most films have in essence the same plot. Good vs Evil, but that isn't the most striking thing, it's how the hero, or anti-hero has to struggle to get there. For example, In Tolkien's Lord of the Rings, Frodo is charged with getting the ring of power into the fire at Mount doom. After a long saga of a journey, he is just about to throw the ring in and then changes his mind and keeps it for himself. Just then, the ring is taken from him by a helper (who loves the ring) and in his joy falls into the fire with the ring. The moral of the story, power and selfish desires consume us, just like the

fires of Mount Doom. The real story is in that the hero has to battle with themselves over what they want, with what is right and good. Most films are about this inner struggle.

Today is the feast of Christ the King, a day to remind us that in the end all of us answer to one Lord and master of all, Jesus. It's a day to remember that we should not lose focus concerning the end, and that in the end, we shall be confronted with our journey. A day of recognition for our life. However, it is far more than that. It is also about the fact that we are called to serve Him and not ourselves. In every instance what do we choose, whom do we serve. Ourselves or the one we journey with?

This day comes before we embark upon our new journey through Advent and prepare again to meet the Christ child on Christmas day. Days like today are little reminders that we not only will face God in Christ at the end, but that He walks with us along the way. We are called to share in His life, just as He shares in ours. Love incarnate Himself has made himself know to us in the person of Jesus. The question is, today and every day, are we choosing what is good, or are we choosing what we want? In every instance this is what we are to be called to do. However, we must also know that failure is always an option, as it was for Frodo and that we are not perfect. Yet we are held in love and Christ is king of a kingdom that has no end. Love will see us through, goodness has prevailed, the war has been won. Yet there are many battles to fight, the hardest ones with ourselves on who do we serve and am I doing good or simply what I want? Amen