

SERVICES

9TH THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

10.00am St Peter, Pipe-cum-Lyde Joint Benefice Eucharist

16TH 2ND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

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

9.30am St Andrew, Moreton-on-Lugg Morning Prayer

9.30am St Mary Magdalene, Stretton Parish Eucharist

11.00am St Mary the Virgin, Burghill Parish Eucharist

23RD 3RD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

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

9.30am St Andrew, Moreton-on-Lugg Parish Eucharist

9.30am St Mary Magdalene, Stretton Morning Prayer

11.00am St Mary the Virgin, Burghill Parish Eucharist

30TH CANDLEMAS

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

9.30am St Andrew, Moreton-on-Lugg Morning Prayer

9.30am St Mary Magdalene, Stretton Parish Eucharist

11.00am St Mary the Virgin, Burghill Parish Eucharist



This year is the queen's platinum jubilee year. The 6th February is the anniversary of her accession with celebration happening from Thursday 2nd June.

READINGS: Isaiah 43.1-7; Luke 3.15-17, 21-22.

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THE BURGHILL BENEFICE

The Baptism of Christ



“For the blessed Apostle makes manifest and proves that it is baptism in which the old man dies and the new man is born, saying: 'He saved us through the bath of regeneration.'”

St Cyprian

The Collect

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; 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.

The Reading

“Luke 3.15-17, 21-22”

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” ... Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

Homily

It's not been long since Christmas finished. Indeed the season continues until Candlemas (30th of this month). My favourite day is Christmas Eve. It still conjures up all that excitement I felt as a child. It was the hardest night to go to sleep on as we shook with excitement of what was coming. Before going to bed, we put water out for the reindeer and carrots. We then picked out a pillowcase, mine was one with a turtle on; we all had our own for that night. When I woke up, I would push my foot down the bed to tap the pillowcase to see if he had been! As soon as any of us hit a full pillowcase the night was over and the day had begun, even if it was 2.30am. We then all paraded into mum and dad's bedroom to open our presents to see what we had. I still remember the feeling. We didn't wait long to see who the present was from or what the wrapping

paper was. We just wanted to get to the thing inside.

Today is the Baptism of Christ and in essence it is a bit like Christmas Eve night, it is the time when we peer beyond the wrapping paper that is presented before us. What I mean by this, is that of the flesh. Jesus looks like every other person who is in themselves a gift from God. Yet, Jesus is much more than what he looks like. The Baptism of Christ is the day that we peer into who this man is. The voice of the Father comes from heaven: “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” Jesus, unlike us doesn't become a son or a daughter of God, as Paul says by adoption, but rather Jesus is by nature what we become by our own Baptism. In the Baptism of Christ God reveals Himself on earth in flesh. God reveals God, the Father and Son united in the Spirit.

From this point on Jesus is driven out into the desert by the same Spirit to confront the powers that confront and contain human beings. The going into the desert is the beginning of God's work on earth in Christ. For in flesh God comes to overcome for us the limits of it and make humanity in himself acceptable to the Father as a gift. The chaff of our lives will be purged away so that we will be a perfect offering of prized wheat. A pearl beyond price. All of us come in the same wrapping paper of the flesh and are baptised into flesh at our birth. Through the Baptism of the Trinity, which are all revealed in Christ's Baptism, we are made by grace, children of God through the Spirit. We not only recall Christ's Baptism today, but also our own. To be His faithful children and heirs of the coming Kingdom. Amen.