

# SERVICES

## 8<sup>TH</sup> 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

## 12<sup>TH</sup> THURSDAY

9.30am St Mary the Virgin, Burghill Celtic Eucharist

## 15<sup>TH</sup> 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER

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 + APCM

## 19<sup>TH</sup> THURSDAY

9.30am St Mary the Virgin, Burghill Celtic Eucharist

## 22<sup>ND</sup> 6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

## 26<sup>TH</sup> THURSDAY

9.30am St Mary the Virgin, Burghill Celtic Service



## *Sally Robertson*

On the 14th May at:

St Mary the Virgin church, Burghill

Will be presented with a

## **BRITISH EMPIRE MEDAL**

**(B.E.M)**

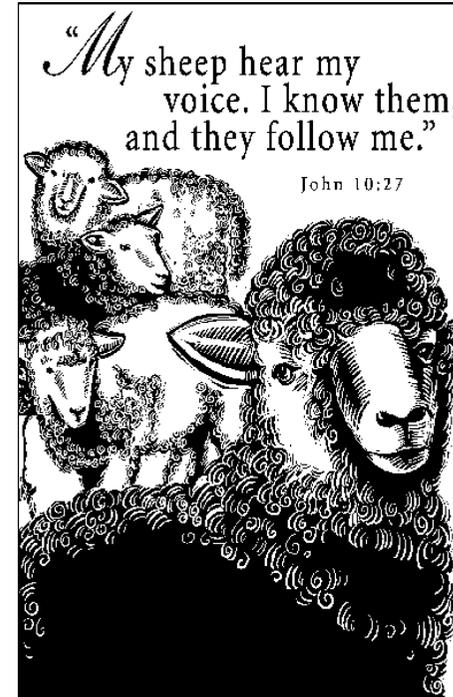
by Mr Edward Harley, OBE.

Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Herefordshire

10.00AM

# THE BURGHILL BENEFICE

*4th Sunday of Easter*



## **POST COMMUNION**

Merciful Father, you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd, and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again: keep us always under his protection, and give us grace to follow in his steps; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**READINGS:** Acts 9.36-43; John 10.22-30 . Page 776-

## **THE COLLECT**

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

# The Reading

“John 10.22-30”

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, ‘How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.’ Jesus answered, ‘I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father’s hand. The Father and I are one.’

## Homily

The old strapline in the Church used to be: Believe, Behave, Belong. When I became part of the Church the line had changed: Belong, Believe, Behave. The first implied that you had to get your life in order before participation, the second emphasised that faith and practice flow from belonging. I agree, because belonging to the Church is the first step in becoming a follower of Jesus. I remember watching an interview with Richard Holloway who was the Archbishop of the Episcopal Church in Scotland. After making shipwreck of his faith and leaving the Church he returned. When asked why, he said, “where else can you listen to the words of Jesus”. I thought it was interesting because anyone can pick up a Bible and read but it isn’t the same as belonging to Jesus. When I

hear phrases like, “I can pray at home” what I hear is someone who has and despite cheering from the sidelines, left the game.

When I first became a Christian, I wanted Jesus, but I did not want to belong to the Church. It was a place with stuffy judgmental people with arm patches on their jackets, no place for a rather obstinate young man. One day I picked up my Bible (I use the term *my* deliberately) and opened it. I can’t remember what passage it was, but I remember its sentiments: “now you believe, you must belong”. I didn’t want to, but I heard the Master’s voice and I did. I was also wrong on my assessment of the people who went. They were less judgmental than myself and more understanding than I had imagined. I was welcomed and nurtured by them as we journeyed with Jesus together.

In this passage, the Jews “gather” around Jesus, but not to listen but to condemn. They are not there to journey with Jesus, like His Church, but to get Jesus to be something other than He was. They wanted a human Messiah because that is what they had read about. What they got was a divine Son in flesh who shares in the life of God with the Father in the Holy Spirit. So what is going on here? The passage tells us that as His Church we can know the truth because we belong to Him, those who do not, cannot hear the truth, because they do not belong to Him. They are bystanders in a show, but they do not participate in the game. If we are to be the true people of Jesus, we must not forget this. To believe and to behave yes! But we must belong, if we are to hear His voice and follow Him into His kingdom. Amen