

SERVICES

2ND THURSDAY

9.30am St Mary the Virgin, Burghill Celtic Worship

5TH Jubilee Sunday (Pentecost Sunday)

11.00am St Mary the Virgin, Burghill
Joint Jubilee
All Age Service

9TH THURSDAY

9.30am St Mary the Virgin, Burghill Celtic Worship

12TH TRINITY SUNDAY

10.00am St Andrew, Moreton-on-Lugg Joint Benefice Eucharist

JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

Thursday - 2nd June

Church Windows decorated by village groups may be viewed every day from 9.30am - 5.00pm.

Celtic Service. 9.30am followed by coffee and cake 10.00am - 12.00am.

Jubilee Peal followed by the switching on of lights on the Church Tower. 5.45pm - 8.45pm.

Saturday - 4th

Queens Jubilee Tea Party, Stretton Sugwas Village Hall, 2pm.

Friday - 3rd June

Jubilee Tea Party - Tea, Cakes and the Coronation. 3.00pm - 5.00pm.

Sunday - 5th June

Coffee, tea and cold drinks will be available all day.
Children's trails, a prize for every child!

Benefice All Age Service followed by Jubilee Tree planting ceremony in the Churchyard. 11.00am.

Picnic Lunch in the Churchyard (bring your own picnic including drinks and a rug/chair to sit on). 12.30pm.

A short handbell recital by Burghill and Tillington Handbell Ringers and Tintinnabulis. 2.00pm.

Hymns and Pimms. 5.00pm.

THE BURGHILL BENEFICE

7th Sunday of Easter



The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one

READINGS: Acts 16.16-34; John 17.20-26. Page 787-

THE COLLECT

O God the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

The Reading

“John 17.20-26”

‘I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. ‘Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.’

Homily

In numbers there is strength so they say, but this can only be true if those who are counted are pulling together. I am reminded of the story of the Spartans at Thermopylae, where 300 defeated the Persian army of at least a few hundred thousand. The moral of that story is often about bravery, but I think equally it is about unity, being of one body. If this is true, then it isn't about numbers but unity that counts in the long run. I think this is what in today's war in Ukraine is making the difference, the Ukrainians have a unity of purpose that the Russian invaders do not. As we see, it makes a huge difference to the outcome. Nevertheless, a sense of togetherness is what lies at the heart of the reading from

John's gospel today. Jesus is reminding the disciples that as long as they are united, they will make it through whatever the world throws at them. Indeed, it is the unity that Jesus shares with the Father as Son, that enables Him to overcome the world because He is in the life of God who can do all things. Jesus is reminding the disciples that being in unity with one another as well as God, makes them indestructible.

The tragedy of the Church of course is that it has often failed in its obligations, and none more so than this: that we be one. The Church throughout history has at times torn itself apart in schism. The very word, “schism” means to rend-apart, to tear. There have been numerous examples of this and for various reasons. We have all lost something in not being together as one visible unity. Though we may be one in Christ, there are visible scars of our tearing ourselves apart. In our own context, the Church of England is a Church that has its own history. The scars of the reformation, though in many ways justified, has left us all in western Christendom weaker and more vulnerable. If only we were more together, we would find the challenges of our own day less frightening and far more resilient. All of us must see beyond the pain of the past. The Church in the western world must forgive and be forgiven of its past if we are to have a future. For Catholics, Protestants and the reformed Churches, we have no future without each other. My message to you, is that of Christ's Himself, that if we are to bear witness to the love of God and to convincingly convey ourselves as His people, we must fight to become one, not just invisibly, but visibly. I call the Church to its ecumenical obligations, myself as much as you all, to fulfil the command of being one, eating together at the Lord's table and sharing in the glory of His name. Amen.