

# FORTHCOMING SERVICES

## 24<sup>TH</sup> THURSDAY

9.30am St Mary the Virgin, Burghill Celtic Worship

## 27<sup>TH</sup> ADVENT SUNDAY

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

## DECEMBER

## 1<sup>ST</sup> THURSDAY

9.30am St Mary the Virgin, Burghill Celtic Worship

## 4<sup>TH</sup> 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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 All Age Worship

## 8<sup>TH</sup> THURSDAY

9.30am St Mary the Virgin, Burghill Celtic Worship

## 11<sup>TH</sup> 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10.00am St Mary the Virgin, Burghill Joint Benefice Eucharist

“Of this world therefore is humanity, created indeed by the true God, generated from Adam as a impaired and condemned stock; yet they are made into a kingdom no longer of this world, but from now all have been regenerated in Christ. God therefore rescued us from the powers of darkness, and transferred us all into the kingdom of the Son of His love”

*The Saint*

# THE BURGHILL BENEFICE

## *Christ the King*



## This Sunday's Services

### 20<sup>TH</sup> CHRIST THE KING

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

**READINGS:** Jeremiah 23.1-6; John 18.33-37. 944-

## 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

# 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

Kingdoms rise and fall, for history is littered with the corpses of kingdoms past. It should not surprise us, because the nature of all things is to be contingent and temporal. Everything that begins must end, for such is the nature of all things. A good example from a personal perspective is that when I was at school, we had geography books from ages past and I still remember the maps in them of the world with all the countries of the British Empire coloured in pink. The common phrase being that, “the sun never sets on the British Empire” due to its coverage of all time zones upon the earth. By that time, what was left of the Empire was the Commonwealth and not much else including those books. All Empires and Kingdoms fade and fall.

As a scholar of the past these fallen kingdoms can be a

dangerous thing because they can stop us embracing a future, because we are distracted by what has been rather than focus upon what is. In the story in the gospel today, Pilate is a good example of this because he is so entrenched in the Roman Empire and cannot see beyond it. To him it is everything and he believes it will last forever. I don’t condemn him for this, we are all extremely wedded to our own times, that it is almost impossible to breath outside of it. Nevertheless, we also have another consideration in Christ. Here we have two people representing two entirely different kingdoms. One is temporal and time-bound and the other is timeless and eternal. In this scene we are presented with a choice of which do we invest the stock of our lives; the kingdom of our own times or that of eternity? Which are we casting our lots for (let the reader understand)?

There is a natural tension here in that we are called to embrace the kingdom of God over and above the kingdom of the world. This can lead to a wholesale abandonment of this world and of this life and its responsibilities. That isn’t what I think we are being asked to do. But rather I think it is about what we live for now! What values do we hold in our hearts for our life in the temporal that we carry over into the eternal. I think the main point comes at the end. It comes down to listening to the truth and living for that. Pilate thought the same, but he believed that the Roman Empire was the truth of all things. Yet, ironically, the truth was stood in front of him in the person of Jesus the King of the eternal kingdom. Let us today celebrate our king living for Him in the world of today. Amen