



# Purton Churches - Christmas 2023



St Mary's Church - Church End SN5 4EB — Methodist Church - Play Close SN5 4DP

## Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2023

10.30am Church for All - Christmas Tree Festival

Service of Dedication to God and a Thank You to organisations displaying trees

## Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December

6.00pm Classic Christmas Carols with local School Musicians, Ridgeway Farm & St Mary's School Choirs, St Mary's Church Music Group followed by Refreshments and Mince Pies at St Mary's Church

## Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December

7.30pm Chedworth Band Christmas Concert at Purton Methodist Church followed by Refreshments - Tickets £5 available from Rose 01793 770564

## Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December

4.00pm Christingle Service/Messy Church for children of all ages at St Mary's Church followed by Refreshments - Children please bring an Adult!

## Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December

10.30am Church for All - Featuring "A Purton Christmas Story" by Purton Ballet  
6.00pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols  
Candelight Service with St Mary's Church Choir and Handbells followed by Mulled Wine and Mince Pies - both services at St Mary's Church

## Christmas Eve, Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December

4.00pm United Village Nativity and Carol Service with the Cricklade Band at St Mary's Church

Please bring children with any appropriate costumes for shepherds, angels, stars, kings... We want everyone to join in... come early to guarantee entry

11.30pm Traditional Choral 'Midnight' Communion Service at St Mary's Church

## Christmas Day, Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December

8.00am Traditional Holy Communion at St Mary's Church  
No service at Purton Methodist Church - All are welcome at St Mary's  
10.30am Christmas Day Family Celebration with Holy Communion at St Mary's Church - Come and hear of God's Promises

**If you or any of your family or friends need our prayers please contact:**

Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith 01793 770077 email:

[vicarage@stmaryspurton.org.uk](mailto:vicarage@stmaryspurton.org.uk)

or Revd Judith Wells 01793 770627 for St Mary's Church.

Or Revd Shirlyn Toppin 01793 853197 for Purton Methodist Church

# Happy Christmas to everyone from Purton Churches

## Do you trust a promise?

We live in an age where promises seem to be quickly made and quickly forgotten - circumstances change - what had seemed so sure and certain now is unrealistic and seemingly unreasonable to fulfil. Politicians and advertisers are but two groups amongst many who have a record of unfulfilled promises. Yet before we become critical of others perhaps we need to take a long hard look at ourselves to examine our own record at keeping the promises we have made. Sometimes our response is to demand that others make and keep promises but to do all we can not to make any promises ourselves.

The end result is that promises can become devalued and apparently worthless, in contrast we discover that the events of the first Christmas are all about promises. For those unfamiliar with what took place - God makes promises through His angel messengers to Mary and then to Joseph, and next to a group of shepherds about the birth of His Son - *"I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."* This promise might have seemed too good to be true but for those shepherds it was worth going to find out if it was true. They went and checked it out and then *"returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told."* [Luke chapter 2 verses 10-12 & 20 - The Bible].

This Christmas it is my hope and prayer that we would not dismiss God's promises on the assumption that they are false and worthless but instead that we might all take opportunity to look afresh at the promises God has made, to check them out and to find out if they are true. Please join with us at one of our Christmas services ([details overleaf](#) and on the website below - some Services also accessible online) as together we look at God's promises to see if they can be trusted and what difference they will make to our lives. And if you would like to explore further we are continuing The Bible Course on Thursday evenings after Christmas. Please use the link below for further details or get in touch with me using the contact details overleaf.

Happy Christmas.

Ian Tweedie-Smith (Vicar of St Mary's)

## The services overleaf are our special Christmas Services

### Our normal Sunday pattern at present is as follows:

8.00am Traditional Holy Communion at St Mary's Church (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays)

10.30am Church for All Service (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays) at St Mary's Church

10.30am Parish Holy Communion (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays) at St Mary's Church

10.30am Special Service (5<sup>th</sup> Sundays) at St Mary's Church

10.30am Service at Purton Methodist Church

4.00pm Messy Church (Monthly) at St Mary's Church

**For more Information (including online services) and for details about The Bible Course**

**Use the QR Code or**



**See website [www.stmaryspurton.org.uk](http://www.stmaryspurton.org.uk) Facebook St. Mary's Church, Purton, Wiltshire**