Purton Churches - Christmas 2026

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

Thursday 3rd December 2026

7.30pm Carol Concert with Chedworth Band at Purton Methodist Church

In aid of Prospect Hospice

Sunday 6th December

10.30am Church for All - Star Festival at St Mary's Church

5.00pm Ridgeway Farm Christingle Service at St Mary's Church

With Ridgeway Farm School Choir and St Mary's Music Group,

followed by Refreshments & Mince Pies - Children please bring an Adult!

Sunday 13th December

10.30am Carol Service at Purton Methodist Church

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

Sunday 20th December

10.30am "The Lorax, The Shrek and The Promised Star"

- with the young people from "BASH" at St Mary's Church

6.00pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols - Candelight at St Mary's Church with Church Choir and Handbells followed by Mulled Wine and Mince Pies



Christmas Eve, Thursday 24th 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, Friday 25th December



No service at Purton Methodist Church

All are welcome at St Mary's

10.30am Christmas Day Family Holy Communion at St Mary's Church *(also on YouTube)*

Come and hear of God's Good News

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

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

Or Revd Tony Brookes 01793 853197 for Purton Methodist Church

Happy Christmas to everyone from Purton Churches

What's in a name? - Good News for All!

All around shops are promoting Christmas Fayre. Adverts have begun to tempt us into buying things we 'cannot do without.' It is the nature of human beings to want what they do not have, to be dissatisfied with the present and to grasp after a brighter, perhaps glittering future. Of course ambition, drive and determination are not entirely wrong, but often we find that the glitter does not sparkle for long, and was not fulfilling.

The reality of the Christmas story, the really Good News is that the God we may often ignore has answered this longing. Not by fulfilling our material desires but by demonstrating love and inviting us to believe. Fulfilment is not ultimately about what we *have* but about what we *can become*; about the character we can develop (that shows love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness and self control).

We see such things in Mary and Joseph. A young woman and her intended husband beginning a new life together, finding themselves blessed and challenged as the first Christmas unfolded. Faced with a choice they chose obedience over rebellion, faithfulness over faithlessness, trust over fear. In so choosing they saw God fulfil His promise, enter into the world, in human form, become known to us in Jesus, alongside us - Immanuel. Just as had been predicted by the prophet 700 years earlier,



"The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, (which means 'God with us')" [Matthew chapter 1 verse 23 The Bible]

There is much more to say, for now we celebrate that at Christmas from a simple, humble beginning glorious possibilities flowed. We are invited at Christmas to *"Taste and see that the Lord is good"* [Psalm 34 verse 8 The Bible]. For some, family, friends, feasts and fun, may seem out of reach. For others they may mask the reality and simplicity of Christmas. However, the Christmas story is **Good News for All.** Why? Because, if we listen, God Himself will speak through it, of God made human, knowable, and revealing generosity, grace and love to us, so we all may know that – God is with us! Immanuel.

Happy Christmas! Tony Brookes *(Methodist Minister)*

Please join with us at one of our Christmas services. Please use the link below for further details or get in touch using the contact details overleaf.

The services overleaf are our special Christmas Services

(details also on the website below - some Services also accessible online)

Our normal Sunday pattern at present is as follows:

8.00am Traditional Holy Communion at St Mary's Church *(1st & 3rd Sundays)*

10.30am Church for All Service *(1st & 3rd Sundays)* at St Mary's Church *(+ YouTube)*

10.30am Parish Holy Communion (2nd & 4th Sundays) at St Mary's Church *(+ YouTube)*

10.30am Special Service *(5th Sundays)* at St Mary's Church *(+ YouTube)*

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 Bible Groups Use QR Code or

See website www.stmaryspurton.org.uk **Facebook** St. Mary's Church, Purton, Wiltshire