



Purton Churches - Christmas 2022



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

Thursday 8th December 2022

7.30pm Chedworth Band Concert at Purton Methodist Church followed by Refreshments Tickets £5.00 from Rose 01793 770564 or Sylvia 770686

Sunday 11th December

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

Friday 16th December

7.30pm Wessex Choir and Purton Village Voices at St Mary's Church £12.50

Saturday 17th 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 18th December

10.30am Carol Service with mince pies at Purton Methodist Church
6.00pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at St Mary's Church
Candelight Service with St Mary's Church Choir and Handbells followed by Mulled Wine and Mince Pies

Christmas Eve, Saturday 24th December

4.00pm United Village Carol and Nativity 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, Sunday 25th December

8.00am Traditional Holy Communion at St Mary's Church

10.30am Christmas Day Service at Purton Methodist Church

10.30am Family Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
Come and hear of God's Hope for us

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 Shirlyn Toppin 01793 853197 for Purton Methodist Church

Happy Christmas to everyone from Purton Churches

Some of us may not be looking forward to Christmas because there are big problems to solve. We need something or someone to save us from: Climate Change, the Cost of Living Crisis, another Covid spike, the war in Ukraine. We have looked to national and world leaders, to scientists and economists, to celebrities and broadcasters. Many will be quick to point the finger as to why someone else's solution will not work. Few seem able to come up with their own solution, because it is normally/always "someone else's fault".

At the first Christmas there were also big problems. The Good News of Christmas is that God sent a solution, something or rather someone to save us from the "real" problem. When we go to the doctor, it is most important to get the right diagnosis. We might hope for a prescription saying we need an all expenses paid month in the sun. Yet the "real" problem, the "real" diagnosis might be much harder to hear and the prescription much harder to swallow. God says in the Bible that the "real" or right diagnosis is not "someone else's fault", it is our fault individually and corporately. The "real" problem is what the Bible describe as "sin" - not a popular word in today's society. In brief SIN applies when we say by our thoughts, words or actions: Shove off God, I am in charge, No to your rules.

Now that does not let international leaders off the hook if they have, for example invaded another country. Nor does it let us personally off the hook for the things that we are responsible for. So if that is God's "real" diagnosis then what do we do? Well the Good News is that with the diagnosis God freely gives the all expenses paid solution. God says through His angel that a young woman (Mary) "will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." If we can accept God's diagnosis, there is Someone to save us. There is a way forward, which gives hope. There is a different way to live, in friendship with God.

If you want to find out more, please join us for one of our Christmas Services (details overleaf - some also accessible online). And if you would like to explore further we are starting "Hope Explored" a free, three week course after Christmas (again this may be available online or in person). 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 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

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

10.30am Special Service (5th 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 Hope Explored

Use the QR Code or



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

