



### **Advent Books 2023**

Many people use the season of Advent as merely a time of preparation for "Christmas" as if it was only about getting the house ready, buying presents and meeting family and friends. There is nothing wrong with that. However, it is my prayer that we will be able to use this Advent Season also as a time to reflect on what God might be saying to us from His Word and whether we are prepared to remember Jesus' first coming and look forward to His second coming. Please consider reading one of our Advent Books: Comfort and Joy, To a Different Drum, The Coming of the King – see church website (or the sheet by the main door) for more details. Please also consider joining one of our Advent Courses – more details on the notice sheets or on the website. Rev Ian Tweedie-Smith



St Mary's  
Church Purton

**Purton  
Churches  
Together**

"In partnership with  
other Christians in Purton"



Purton  
Methodist Church

**10<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

**Welcome to our two Churches.**

For more information about the service please see the welcome page inside the order of service. If you would like a visit from a Church member, or would value prayer or an opportunity to find out more about the Christian faith please contact

- The Vicar, Rev Ian Tweedie-Smith on 01793 770077  
[vicarage@stmaryspurton.org.uk](mailto:vicarage@stmaryspurton.org.uk)
- The Curate, Rev Judith Wells on 01793 770627  
[judithwells36@googlemail.com](mailto:judithwells36@googlemail.com)
- The Methodist Minister, Rev Shirlyn Toppin on 01793 853197  
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- If you have any Church Safeguarding concern:  
Marie Dempsey: 07455046815  
Email: [safeguarding@stmaryspurton.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@stmaryspurton.org.uk)



## Church Events

<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December</b>	10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church with Rev Ian Tweedie-Smith
	10.30am	Holy Communion Service at Purton Methodist Church led by Rev Shirlyn Toppin
	6.00pm	'Classic Carols' with school choirs & St Mary's Church music group at St Mary's Church, with Rev Ian Tweedie-Smith
Mon 11 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Zoom Prayer group ID: 907 644 918 Password: 918865
	1.30pm	Bible group at Pear Tree Close
	2.30pm	Communion at Ashgrove House
Tues 12 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Choir practice
	7.30pm	Zoom Advent Course led by Richard Harris: <a href="https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83879543705">https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83879543705</a>
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup>	1-5pm	Electrical testing in church
	5.00pm	Prayer Group
	7.30pm	Advent Course led by Paul Demsey
Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	'Explorers' at the Vicarage
Fri 15 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Bellringing practice
Sat 16 <sup>th</sup>	1-2.30pm	Ballet rehearsal in church
	4.00pm	Messy Church Christingle
<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December</b>	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church with Rev Ian Tweedie-Smith
	10.30am	Church for All with Liz & David Martin and special guests, Purton Ballet
	10.30am	Service at Purton Methodist Church led by Mark Dowling
	2.30pm	Peartree Pealers Handbell Ringers will be playing in St Mary's Church for an hour
	6.00pm	Nine lessons & carols at St Mary's Church, by candlelight, with church choir and handbells, with Rev Judith Wells

**Prayer:** In our Prayer December we pray for The Fox, The Pry, Collins Lane, (and from Moulden View) Arabian Avenue, Palamino Place & Eriskay Place. Methodist circuit prayers this week are for Toothill Church. We give thanks to God for the lives of those who have recently died, and we pray for the families of Michael Hull, Tony Thombs, Frank Strange and Duncan Joslyn (k/a Joss)

## Eco-Prayer Calendar for December

Pray for all world leaders, politicians and business leaders, that God would grant them wisdom in making decisions on matters related to the environment and climate. Pray for COP 28 taking place 30 November – 12 December 2023. Ask God for personal wisdom and guidance in how we as individuals can be more respectful of our natural world, including how to have an 'eco-friendly' Christmas.

## Collect: Advent 2

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

## Bible reading: Luke 21: 25-36

<sup>25</sup> 'There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. <sup>26</sup> People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. <sup>27</sup> At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup> When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.' <sup>29</sup> He told them this parable: 'Look at the fig-tree and all the trees. <sup>30</sup> When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. <sup>31</sup> Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near.' <sup>32</sup> 'Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. <sup>33</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.' <sup>34</sup> 'Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. <sup>35</sup> For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup> Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.'

**Readers:** Gill 10<sup>th</sup> Sandra Horsnall 17<sup>th</sup> David Martin

**Intercessions:** 10<sup>th</sup> Jane Smith 17<sup>th</sup> Paul Dempsey

St Mary's Church website is: [www.stmaryspurton.org.uk](http://www.stmaryspurton.org.uk)



