

Bible reading: Mark 1: 1-8

The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: 'I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way' – 'a voice of one in the wilderness, "Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him."'

And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptised by him in the River Jordan. John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt round his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And this was his message: 'After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptise you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

Advent Home Groups

This Advent we are running two home groups exploring "**Hallelujah: Journeying through Advent with Handel's Messiah.**" Each session includes a short Bible reading, listening to a section of *Messiah*, a reflection, and gentle group discussion — a simple and meaningful way to prepare for Christmas.

Wednesdays: 3, 10, 17 December at **7.30pm** (Ringsbury Close)

Thursdays: 4, 11, 18 December at **7.30pm** (College Road)
(plus each group also meets for an Epiphany session in January.)

Please contact Richard Harris if you would still like to join a group.
richard@harris-family.co.uk or 07740029148

Readers: 14th Julia Knowles 21st David Nettleton

Intercessions: 14th Howard Smith 21st Jane Smith

St Mary's Church website is: www.stmaryspurton.org.uk

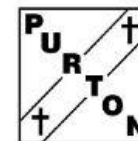
If you want to add an article into the church notices, please email Parish Administrator, Rosie Harris, by first thing Thursday mornings.
administrator@stmaryspurton.org.uk



St Mary's
Church Purton

Purton
Churches
Together

"In partnership with
other Christians in Purton"



Purton
Methodist Church

Sunday 14th December 2025

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
- The Methodist Minister, Rev Shirlyn Toppin on 01793 853197
shirlys8@hotmail.com
- If you have any Church Safeguarding concern:
Marie Dempsey on 07455046815
Email: safeguarding@stmaryspurton.org.uk
For general enquiries: Parish Administrator, Rosie Harris
01793 773035 (Tues/Thurs mornings)
Email: administrator@stmaryspurton.org.uk



Church Events

Sunday 14th December	10.30am	Communion at St Mary's with Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith
	10.30am	Holy Communion Service at Purton Methodist Church led by Rev Shirlyn Toppin
	3.00pm	Christmas Concert at St Mary's with Sing 4/4 Community Choir & Voces Mates
Mon 15 th	10.00am	Zoom Prayer Group Zoom ID: 907644918 Passcode:918865 https://us06web.zoom.us/j/907644918
	12-4pm	Security Alarm Inspection and Testing at St Mary's Church
Tues 16 th	2.00pm	Funeral of the late Sheila Fowler at St Mary's with Revd Judith Wells
Wed 17 th	5.00pm	Lady Chapel Prayer Group
	7.30pm	Advent Group at Ringsbury Close
Thurs 18 th	7.30pm	Advent Group at College Road
Fri 19 th	1.00pm	Funeral of the late Trevor Maxfield at St Mary's with Revd Judith Wells
	7.30pm	Bellringing practice
Sat 20 th		
Sunday 21st December	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's with Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith
	10.30am	Church for All at St Mary's with Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith, the BASH Youth group and Bev Kauppinen
	10.30am	Carol Service at Purton Methodist Church led by Rev Ian Mead
	6.00pm	Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols at St Mary's

Prayer: In December (in our cycle of prayer for those living and working in the Parish) we pray for those living and working in The Fox, The Pry, Collins Lane, (*and from Moulden View*) Arabian Avenue, Palamino Place and Eriskay Place and White Lodge Care Home on Braydon Road.

Methodist Circuit prayers this week are for Highworth Methodist Church.

We give thanks to God for the lives of those who have recently died. We pray for the families and friends of Jim Summerfield, Roma Dodson, Sheila Fowler, Trevor Maxfield and Patricia Fryer.

Collect: Advent 3

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

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. 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.

Christmas Flowers

If anyone would like to help with Christmas Flowers for St Mary's please contact Libbie 771018 or Jane Smith 772422. We need flowers and greenery from Dec 4th onwards for the rest of the month, so that the church looks welcoming throughout Advent and the Christmas Festival. Please do come and decorate with us; or bring us flowers and we'll arrange them for you, if you prefer.



Nine Lessons & Carols by candlelight

Sunday 21st December 6.00pm

with St Mary's Church Choir

& Handbells by the 'Peartree Pealers'

Followed by Mulled Wine and Mince Pies



