

## **Bible reading: John Chapter 11. 17-45**

<sup>17</sup> On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. <sup>18</sup> Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, <sup>19</sup> and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. <sup>20</sup> When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. <sup>21</sup> 'Lord,' Martha said to Jesus, 'if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup> But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.' <sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' <sup>24</sup> Martha answered, 'I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.' <sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; <sup>26</sup> and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?' <sup>27</sup> 'Yes, Lord,' she replied, 'I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.'

<sup>28</sup> After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. 'The Teacher is here,' she said, 'and is asking for you.' <sup>29</sup> When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup> Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. <sup>31</sup> When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there. <sup>32</sup> When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' <sup>33</sup> When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. <sup>34</sup> 'Where have you laid him?' he asked. 'Come and see, Lord,' they replied. <sup>35</sup> Jesus wept. <sup>36</sup> Then the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' <sup>37</sup> But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?' (Please refer to a bible to finish the story... v. 38-45)

## **Diary Dates**

**Sat 16 May** – Faith Alive concert in St Mary's Church 5.00pm

**Mon 18 May** - Annual Parochial Church Meeting in St Mary's Church at 7.00pm. Are you willing to help with the running of the Church this year? Please do ensure that your name is on the Electoral Roll (on the noticeboard in church)

**Sat 11 July** – Sing 4/4 Concert in St Mary's Church 7.00pm



St Mary's  
Church Purton

Purton  
Churches  
Together

"In partnership with  
other Christians in Purton"



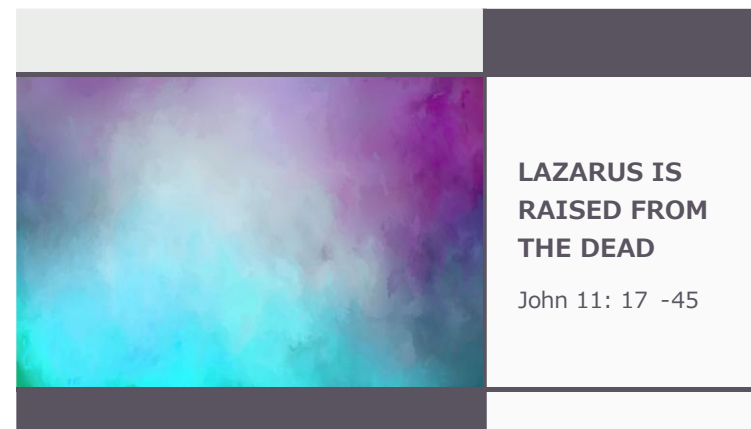
Purton  
Methodist Church

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2026**

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



## Church Events

|  |                   |  |
|--|-------------------|--|
| <b>Sunday<br/>22<sup>nd</sup><br/>March</b>          | 10.30am           | Communion at St Mary's with Revd Sandy Railton   |
|  | 10.30am           | Service at Purton Methodist Church led by Adrian German  |
| Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup>                                 | 10.00am           | Zoom Prayer Group<br>Zoom ID: 907644918 Passcode:918865<br><a href="https://us06web.zoom.us/j/907644918">https://us06web.zoom.us/j/907644918</a> |
|  | 1.45pm            | Bible group at Pear Tree Close – The Gospel of John  |
|  | 2.00pm            | Funeral of the late Jennifer Dibling at St Mary's  |
| Tues 24 <sup>th</sup>                                |                   |  |
| Wed 25 <sup>th</sup>                                 |                   |  |
| Thurs 26 <sup>th</sup>                               |                   |  |
| Fri 27 <sup>th</sup>                                 | 7.30pm            | Bellringing practice   |
| Sat 28 <sup>th</sup>                                 |                   |  |
| <b>29<sup>th</sup><br/>March<br/>Palm<br/>Sunday</b> | 10.30am           | Communion at St Mary's with Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith, with palm crosses and prayers for healing – jointly with All Saints Lydiard Millicent        |
|  | 10.30am<br>1.00pm | Morning Service at Purton Methodist Church<br>Baptism at St Mary's (tbc)   |

**Prayer:** In March (in our cycle of prayer for those living and working in the Parish) we pray for those living and working in Restrop View, Restrop Road, Battlewell, Bagbury Lane, (*and from Ridgeway Farm*) Quarry Field, Lower Mill, Mill View & Cotswolds Rise Care Home on Ridgeway Farm. Methodist Circuit prayers this week are for Methodist Upper Thames Circuit.

We give thanks to God for the lives of those who have recently died. We pray for the families and friends of Marjorie Sansum, Derek Skuse, Robert Scott, Revd Trevor Day, Terence Hedges, Barbara Mills, Jennifer Dibling and Mark Wightman.

## **Eco-Prayer Calendar for March 2026**

Give thanks to God for the gift of water which sustains all life. Pray for those who do not have access to clean water and communities who are facing drought or floods due to climate change.

### **Collect: Lent 5**

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

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### **Spring Cleaning and Maintenance day at St Mary's**

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March from 9.30am – 4.30pm

We would be grateful for any offers of help, even if only for a couple of hours. Please speak to Howard Smith or the churchwardens for more information.

*Not to be missed! -*

### **Murder Mystery Evening with PADS in St Mary's Church 'Death on the Home Front'**

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April, 7.00pm for 7.30pm start.

Tickets £12.00 each to include a light supper + Raffle.

Please bring your own glasses and drinks.

For tickets contact Sandra 01793 770157 or Marie 07455046815

Look forward to seeing you there.....

**Readers:** 22<sup>nd</sup> Godfrey Fowler 29<sup>th</sup> Sandra Horsnall

**Intercessions:** 15<sup>th</sup> Celia Tweedie-Smith 29<sup>th</sup> Jane Smith

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