

## **Advent Book Review - Hallelujah - Journeying through Advent with Handel's Messiah**

by Dave & Sally Gobbett - RRP 4.99 St Mary's price £2.99

Maybe you have heard the Messiah, perhaps you have sung in the Messiah, maybe you are planning to come and sing on 6th December 2025, but have you ever stopped to consider the meaning behind those wonderful words and beautiful music. This book is a helpful guide to the Messiah and what it can mean to us today, yes there is some musical terminology but please do not be put off - even if you are not a musician. The words are all from the Bible selected by Charles Jennens, then George Frideric Handel composed the music in a marathon 24 days back in 1741. We have the opportunity to spend two more days than Handel spent - 26 days going through the words of the Messiah (and listening to a recording each day of that section through a link) with Dave & Sally Gobbett helping us to understand the meaning behind the words. If you are planning to attend the performance of the Messiah on 6th December, or better still if you are planning to join us in singing the Messiah that day, what better way than to prepare by spending those 26 days from 9th November to 5th December reading a section each day. Alternatively, you can use it as your Advent readings from 30th November to 25th December. Or if you really want to make the best of this opportunity why not spend the time in advance each day from 9th November, follow that with the performance of the Messiah on the 6th December, and follow that with going through the book a second time up until Christmas day. Then you can combine all of that with the Advent Study course with three sessions in December and one at Epiphany in January - see the separate sign up sheet in Church for the course - please give your details in Church to order a copy of the book for collection on 9th November.

### **Luke 18: 9-14**

<sup>9</sup>To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: <sup>10</sup>'Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. <sup>11</sup>The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: "God, I thank you that I am not like other people – robbers, evildoers, adulterers – or even like this tax collector. <sup>12</sup>I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get."

<sup>13</sup>'But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, "God, have mercy on me, a sinner."

<sup>14</sup>'I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.'



St Mary's  
Church Purton

Purton  
Churches  
Together

"In partnership with  
other Christians in Purton"



Purton  
Methodist Church

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October 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](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)

## Luke 18: 9~14

Are we confident in our  
own righteousness?

Or do we admit to  
being sinners before  
God?



## Church Events

|                                       |         |                                                                                |
|---------------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October</b> | 10.30am | Communion at St Mary's with Revd Norma McKemey                                 |
|                                       | 10.30am | Service at Purton Methodist Church led by Joseph Musungu                       |
| Mon 27 <sup>th</sup>                  |         |                                                                                |
| Tues 28 <sup>th</sup>                 |         |                                                                                |
| Wed 29 <sup>th</sup>                  | 5.00pm  | Lady Chapel Prayer Group                                                       |
| Thurs 30 <sup>th</sup>                |         |                                                                                |
| Fri 31 <sup>st</sup>                  | 6.00pm  | BASH youth group 'Party of Light' at All Saints Church, Lydiard Millicent      |
|                                       | 7.30pm  | Bellringing practice                                                           |
| Sat 1 <sup>st</sup>                   |         |                                                                                |
| <b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November</b> | 8.00am  | Communion at St Mary's with Revd Sandy Railton                                 |
|                                       | 10.30am | Church for All at St Mary's with Liz & David Martin                            |
|                                       | 10.30am | Holy Communion Service at Purton Methodist Church led by Rev Dr Marcus Torchon |
|                                       | 6.00pm  | All Soul's Service at St Mary's – Archdeacon Christopher Bryan to preach       |
|                                       | 6.00pm  | Sunday Evening Music at Purton Methodist Church                                |

**Prayer:** In our street prayer cycle for October, we pray for Witfield Close, Glevum Close, The Common, Locks Lane, (*and from Moulden View*) Bretton Close and Bashkir Close & Quarrydene (Care Home) on Pavenhill.

Methodist Circuit prayers this week are for Purton Methodist Church. We give thanks to God for the lives of those who have recently died. We pray for the families and friends of Nigel May, Simon Osborne, Claude Indge, Graham Quincey and Jim Summerfield.

### **Collect: Last Sunday after Trinity**

Merciful God, teach us to be faithful in change and uncertainty, that trusting in your word and obeying your will we may enter the unfailing joy of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Eco-Prayer Calendar for October**

Give thanks to God for his provision of the harvest. Pray for farmers and the challenges they face, especially with climate change. Please also pray for 'Africa Naturally' in Mozambique (a charity supported by St Mary's). <https://africanaturally.com/>

### **Baptisms and Bring & Share Lunch**

There will be two baptisms on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> November at 10.30am, of baby Albert (Bertie) Harris, who was recently prayed for by the church family after his very early arrival, and David Harris, who is the son of Michael and Angharad. The families have strong links with the church, the babies' fathers, Peter and Michael Harris, having been both choirboys and members of the music group over the years. They would like to invite the church family to stay on after the service on 16<sup>th</sup> for a Bring & Share lunch as a baptism celebration– everyone welcome!

### **St Mary's Church Christmas Market -**

**Sat 29 November 2025 in the Church, from 11.00am - 3.00pm.**

We are looking for new, different activities. Are you able to help on the day or run a stall? Do you know someone, a friend or neighbour who might be interested in booking a table? Let's make this a really exciting Community event this year!

For more information please contact Sandra - 01793 770157

**Readers:** 26<sup>th</sup> Jean Belt 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov Howard Smith

**Intercessions:** 26<sup>th</sup> Madeleine Harvey 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov Sandra Horsnall

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)

