

Bible reading: Luke 15: 11-32 The parable of the lost son

¹¹ Jesus continued: 'There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger one said to his father, "Father, give me my share of the estate." So he divided his property between them. ¹³ 'Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. ¹⁴ After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

¹⁷ 'When he came to his senses, he said, "How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸ I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants." ²⁰ So he got up and went to his father.

'But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms round him and kissed him. ²¹ 'The son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son." ²² 'But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found." So they began to celebrate.

²⁵ 'Meanwhile, the elder son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ²⁷ "Your brother has come," he replied, "and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound." ²⁸ 'The elder brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, "Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!"

³¹ "My son," the father said, "you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found."



St Mary's
Church Purton

Purton Churches Together

"In partnership with
other Christians in Purton"



Purton
Methodist Church

29th October 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
- The Curate, Rev Judith Wells on 01793 770627
judithwells36@googlemail.com
- The Methodist Minister, Rev Shirlyn Toppin on 01793 853197
shirlys8@hotmail.com
- If you have any Church Safeguarding concern:
Marie Dempsey: 07455046815
Email: safeguarding@stmaryspurton.org.uk

Dates for your diaries

Sunday 12th November 4.00pm **Messy Church**

Sunday 19th November at 2.30pm in St Mary's Church – a talk with slides on '**Parish churches of North Wiltshire**', by retired headteacher and church organist Michael Rumsey of Box Methodist Church.

Saturday 25th November - **St Mary's Church Christmas Market** from 11.00am to 3.00pm in the Church.

New Bible Course coming up: "Looking and Longing" by David Adam. A course to rekindle the spirit of Advent (7 weeks). Tuesdays at 7.30pm on Zoom, beginning 28th November, and in person, as a group, on Wednesdays at 7.30pm, beginning 29th November. Richard Harris will be leading the Zoom group, Paul Dempsey the house group. All welcome!

Church Events

Sunday 29th October	10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church with Rev Chris Hunter. Luke 15:11-32
	10.30am	Service at Purton Methodist Church led by Adam Longhurst
	2.00pm	Baptism of William Woodward with Rev Judith Wells
Mon 30 th	10.00am	Zoom Prayer group ID: 907 644 918 Password: 918865
	1.00pm	Bible group at St Mary's Church
Tues 31 st	7.30pm	Choir practice
Wed 1 st	5.00pm	Lady Chapel Prayer Group
Thurs 2 nd		
Fri 3 rd	12 noon	Funeral of Michael Hull at St Mary's Church with Rev Sandy Railton
	7.30pm	Bellringing practice
Sat 4 th		
Sunday 5th November	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church with Rev Dr John Railton
	10.30am	'Church for All' at St Mary's Church with Rev Judith Wells
	10.30am	Service at Purton Methodist Church
	6.00pm	All Soul's Service at St Mary's Church with Rev Canon Michael Johnson, Rev Ian Tweedie-Smith & Rev Judith Wells

Prayer: In our Prayer list for October we pray for Witfield Close, Glevum Close, The Common, Locks Lane, (*and from Moulden View*) Bretton Close and Bashkir Close. Methodist Circuit prayers this week are for Cricklade United Church.

We give thanks to God for the lives of those who have recently died, and we pray for the families of Michael Housley, Jean Edwards, Janice Giles, Jean Blakey, May Griffin and Michael Hull.

All Soul's Service: 5th November 6.00pm

If you would like anyone remembered by name at this service, please write their name(s) on the list in church, or alternatively email Rosie Harris administrator@stmaryspurton.org.uk by Thursday 2nd November.

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. Pray for the work of 'Africa Naturally' in Mozambique (a charity supported by St Mary's). <https://africanaturally.com/>

Collect: Last Sunday after Trinity

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: help us so to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Jigsaws and other Puzzles for sale

Jigsaws and other puzzles will be on sale at Silver Threads Hall on Saturday November 4 from 10.30am. If you have any puzzles to donate please let me know. I can come and collect them if that helps or please bring them to Silver Threads Hall on Thursday afternoon 2nd November or from 9.30 on the morning of the 4th Nov. Money raised will be for the DEC fund via Christian Aid for victims of recent natural disasters including flooding and earthquake. Come and have coffee and cake in Pips from 10am and then buy your puzzles from 10.30 onwards. Thank you so much for your support. Libbie: 771018

Cake Sale for Christmas Fayre

This is an early warning appeal for help at the Church Christmas Fayre coming up at the end of November. Glenys and I are running the Cake Table. Please can we ask you all to make something for our table...scones, buns, cookies, sweets, cakes, ...Absolutely anything edible would be so gratefully accepted. Thank you so much!
Libbie and Glenys

Readers: 29th Libbie Sheppard 5th Nov Jean Belt 12th Marie Dempsey
Intercessions: 29th Libbie Sheppard 5th Val Walker 12th Jean Belt
If you have anything to include in the Church Notices, contact administrator@stmaryspurton.org.uk by first thing Thursday mornings.
St Mary's Church website is: www.stmaryspurton.org.uk

