

### **Bible reading: Isaiah 9: 2-7**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

### **Advent Home Groups – Join Us This December**

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](mailto:richard@harris-family.co.uk) or 07740029148

**Readers:** 7<sup>th</sup> Dec Christine Gill 14<sup>th</sup> Julia Knowles

**Intercessions:** 7<sup>th</sup> Dec Val Walker 14<sup>th</sup> Howard 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.

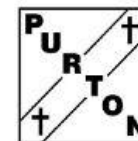
[administrator@stmaryspurton.org.uk](mailto:administrator@stmaryspurton.org.uk)



St Mary's  
Church Purton

Purton  
Churches  
Together

“In partnership with  
other Christians in Purton”



Purton  
Methodist Church

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> 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](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 7<sup>th</sup> December</b>	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's with Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith
	10.30am	Church for All at St Mary's with Revd Ian & Celia Tweedie-Smith
	10.30am	Service at Purton Methodist Church led by Robin Phoenix-Stone
	6.00pm	Sunday Evening Music at Purton Methodist Church
	6.00pm	Community Christmas Carols at St Mary's Church with school choirs, with Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith
Mon 8 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Zoom Prayer Group Zoom ID: 907644918 Passcode:918865 <a href="https://us06web.zoom.us/j/907644918">https://us06web.zoom.us/j/907644918</a>
	1.45pm	Bible group at 43 Pear Tree Close
Tues 9 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Christmas Carol Concert with Chedworth Band at Purton Methodist Church
Wed 10 <sup>th</sup>	5.00pm	Lady Chapel Prayer Group
	7.30pm	Advent Group at Ringsbury Close
Thurs 11 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm-9.30pm	Choir rehearsal (Sing 4/4) at St Mary's
	7.30pm	Advent Group at College Road
Fri 12 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Bellringing practice
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup>	4.00pm	Christingle at St Mary's
<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December</b>	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

**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 Cricklade United 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 and Trevor Maxfield.

The funeral for the late Sheila Fowler will be at St Mary's on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 2.00pm with Revd Judith Wells.

### **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.

### **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 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **Handel's Messiah at the Vicarage**

You are invited to come along to the vicarage on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December at **4.00pm** to watch a DVD of the choir of Kings College, Cambridge performing Handel's Messiah in the beautiful surroundings of Kings College Chapel. The whole performance lasts around two-and-a-half hours, but tea and coffee will be served during an interval. You are welcome to bring cake along with you!!

