

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.

Eco-Prayer Calendar for November

We praise God for the awesome majesty of the heavens; for advancing technology which allows us to see it in ever greater detail. We pray for scientists, engineers and technicians, for wisdom and insight, that all their work would be towards the greater good and give glory to the One who made it all. "By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, their starry host by the breath of His mouth."

[Psalm 33:6]



St Mary's
Church Purton

Purton
Churches
Together

"In partnership with
other Christians in Purton"



Purton
Methodist Church

Sunday 9th November 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

John 15: 9-17

Jesus said: Love each other as
I have loved you.

Greater love has no one than
this: to lay down one's life for
one's friends.



Church Events

Sunday 9th November	10.30am	Communion with Act of Remembrance at St Mary's with Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith
	10.30am	Service at Purton Methodist Church led by Rev Shirlyn Toppin
	2.30pm	Remembrance Service at Purton War Memorial with Canon Michael Johnson, Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith & Revd Judith Wells
Mon 10 th	10.00am	Zoom Prayer Group Zoom ID: 907644918 Passcode:918865 Join Zoom Meeting https://us06web.zoom.us/j/907644918
	1.45pm	Bible group at 43 Pear Tree Close
	3.30pm	Communion at Ashgrove House with Paul & Marie Dempsey
Tues 11 th		
Wed 12 th	5.00pm	Lady Chapel Prayer Group
Thurs 13 th		
Fri 14 th	7.30pm	Bellringing practice
Sat 15 th		
Sunday 16th November	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's with Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith
	10.30am	Church for All with the Baptisms of Albert (Bertie) Harris and David Harris at St Mary's with Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith & Richard Harris.
	10.30am	Service at Purton Methodist Church led by Rachel Dowling
	4.00pm	Messy Church at St Mary's

Prayer: In November (in our cycle of prayer for those living and working in the Parish) we pray for those living and working in Church Path, Church Street, Hyde Lane, The Hyde, Parkside, Church End, Manor Hill, (and from Moulden View) Criollo Place and Oldenburg Close. We also pray for the Cedars Care Home on The High Street. Methodist Circuit prayers this week are for Shrivenham 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: 3rd Sunday before Advent

Almighty Father, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the King of all: govern the hearts and minds of those in authority, and bring the families of the nations, divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin, to be subject to his just and gentle rule; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Baptisms and Bring & Share Lunch

There will be two baptisms on Sunday 16th November at 10.30am, of 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 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 16th 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.

Do please support us if you can, either on the day or by providing items for sale - cakes, mince pies, tombola prizes, children's toys, Christmas Hamper items, books (good reads only please), crocks and pots (speak to Libbie) etc. Please do speak to me if you are able to help with cooking/providing food, for the light lunches, before the day. Any monies raised will go towards the running costs of our lovely church here in Purton. Thank you for all your support!

Readers: 9th Brian Gill 16th Godfrey Fowler

Intercessions: 9th Jean Belt 16th David Nettleton

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

