



# Purton Churches - Christmas 2024



St Mary's Church - Church End SN5 4EB — Methodist Church - Play Close SN5 4DP

## Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2024

6.00pm Classic Christmas Carols, Ridgeway Farm & St Mary's School Choirs, St Mary's Music Group, followed by Refreshments & Mince Pies at St Mary's Church

## Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December

4.00pm Village Christingle Service/Messy Church for children of all ages at St Mary's Church followed by Refreshments - Children please bring an Adult!

## Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December

10.30am Church for All with a Christmas Story in dance by Purton Ballet at St Mary's

## Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December

5.30 for 6.00pm Movies@Mary's special children's movie - Popcorn available!

## Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December

10.30am Carol Service at Purton Methodist Church

6.00pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols - Candelight at St Mary's Church with Church Choir and Handbells followed by Mulled Wine and Mince Pies

## Christmas Eve, Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December



4.00pm United Village Nativity and Carol Service with the Cricklade Band at St Mary's Church



Please bring children with any appropriate costumes for shepherds, angels, stars, kings...We want everyone to join in...come early to guarantee entry

11.30pm Traditional Choral 'Midnight' Communion Service at St Mary's Church

## Christmas Day, Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December



8.00am Traditional Holy Communion at St Mary's Church

No service at Purton Methodist Church - All are welcome at St Mary's

10.30am Christmas Day Family Celebration with Holy Communion

at St Mary's Church (also on YouTube) - Come and hear of God's Promises

## Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December

10.30am Carols, Coffee & Cake at Purton Methodist Church

No service at St Mary's - All are welcome at Purton Methodist

10.30am St Mary's on Zoom - Reflections on Christmas - A time to connect with each other online - Zoom Link on Website [www.stmaryspurton.org.uk](http://www.stmaryspurton.org.uk)

## If you or any of your family or friends need our prayers please contact:

Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith 01793 770077 email [vicarage@stmaryspurton.org.uk](mailto:vicarage@stmaryspurton.org.uk)

or Revd Judith Wells 01793 770627 for St Mary's Church.

Or Revd Shirlyn Toppin 01793 853197 for Purton Methodist Church

# Happy Christmas to everyone from Purton Churches

## Jesus the Light of the World

*"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."* [John chapter 1 verses 1-5 The Bible]

In this scared season, let us reflect on the profound truth of John's words, words that gives us a glimpse of the holy festival of Christmas - the feast of the incarnation of the Son of God - *"the Word became flesh and dwelt among us"*. As we celebrate the significance of the birth of Jesus, we are reminded of the light He brings into our lives. His light shines in the darkness, offering hope and a promise that His coming is the entry point of salvation for all of humanity. In a world that often feels overshadowed by darkness and filled with challenges, the light of Christ remains steadfast and true, guiding us like a beacon, with love and grace.



As we celebrate Jesus the 'Light of the World', may peace, joy and a renewed spirit fill us again and again. It is another opportunity to transcend the obvious that lies in the celebration of reflecting on the prophetic readings of the promised Messiah, singing carols, feasting and sharing of gifts. Yet not so obvious is the desire to be open and responsive by allowing the Holy Spirit presence to deepen further our understanding that *"the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."*

In this season of light and love, let us embrace the hope and joy that Christmas brings. Please join with us at one of our Christmas services. May the light of Christ shine bright, guiding us through the darkness, reminding us of the unending love and grace that God bestows upon each person. The season will pass, but the readings and carols should remain as we carry the light of Christ within us and reflect it in our actions, extending peace, kindness and compassion to all. May this time of year be more than a ritual celebration, but a fresh expectancy that Jesus the Light of the World will return to reign supremely and eternally.

Blessed Christmas

Revd Shirlyn Toppin (Methodist Minister)

If you would like to explore further about Jesus the Light of the World we are starting a new Bible Course on the book of Romans after Christmas. Please use the link below for further details or get in touch using the contact details overleaf.

## The services overleaf are our special Christmas Services

(details also on the website below - some Services also accessible online)

### Our normal Sunday pattern at present is as follows:

8.00am Traditional Holy Communion at St Mary's Church (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays)

10.30am Church for All Service (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays) at St Mary's Church (+ YouTube)

10.30am Parish Holy Communion (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays) at St Mary's Church (+ YouTube)

10.30am Special Service (5<sup>th</sup> Sundays) at St Mary's Church (+ YouTube)

10.30am Service at Purton Methodist Church

4.00pm Messy Church (Monthly) at St Mary's Church

For more Information (including online services) and for details about The Bible Course Use QR Code or



See website [www.stmaryspurton.org.uk](http://www.stmaryspurton.org.uk) Facebook St. Mary's Church, Purton, Wiltshire