



The Stratfield Mortimer Benefice of

St Saviour
Mortimer West End

St Mary and St John
Stratfield Mortimer

St John the Baptist
Padworth

St Mary's Church of England School

St John's Church of England School

Diocese of Oxford

Vicar: The Reverend Paul Chaplin

Associate Priest: The Reverend Derek Spears

The Benefice Office: St John's Church Mortimer, RG7 3SY Tel.: 0118 9333704

Email: admin@mortimerbenefice.co.uk

Website: www.mortimerbenefice.org.uk

Our vocation as individuals and together as the Body of Christ is:

**to love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our mind, with all our soul and with all our strength;
and to love our neighbours as ourselves. (Mark 12.29-31)**

Called to be Christ-like; contemplative, compassionate and courageous.

A HAPPY AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS

BENEFICE DIARY 24TH – 31ST DECEMBER 2023

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter by email, please let us know by sending an email to admin@mortimerbenefice.co.uk.

To be kept informed of our life and worship here, please complete one of the forms on our website – www.mortimerbenefice.org.uk

To maintain the life and worship of the Church in this community and to share and extend the love God has shown for us in Jesus Christ, the Church depends on the Christian giving and generous contributions of members and friends. To set up a regular payment by Standing Order, please see our website where full details are available. To make the most of your giving please use the Gift Aid scheme by placing your donation in one of the orange envelopes, adding your name and address or number or completing the Gift Aid form also available on the website. The Church can reclaim for its use the tax paid on the money given.

The Eucharist is offered daily at 9.15 am & Night Prayer each weekday at 9 pm & the Eucharist each Sunday at 10 am via Zoom. See below for link details.

Everyone is welcome to join with the clergy and to take part in these services. Details are also available on the website: www.mortimerbenefice.org.uk

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Confessions – please telephone The Vicar, Fr. Paul Chaplin 01189 331718.

Zoom link for services <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6931233940>

SUNDAY 24TH		FOURTH OF ADVENT / CHRISTMAS EVE	
9.00 a.m.	Eucharist	St. Saviour's, MWE	
10.00 a.m.	Sung Eucharist	St. John's, Mortimer & Online	
11.00 a.m.	Choir Practice	Vestry	
3.00 p.m.	Christingle	St. John's, Mortimer	
4.00 p.m.	Christingle	St. Saviour's, MWE	
5.00 p.m.	Christingle	St. John's, Mortimer	
11.30 p.m.	Midnight Mass	St. John's, Mortimer & Online	

Readings for Fourth Sunday of Advent

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7.1-11, 16 Psalm 89. 1-4, 19-26
Second Reading: Romans 16.25-end Gospel: Luke 1.26-38

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND THE BEREAVED

Christa, Chris, Richard, Heather, Niamh, the Bowyer Family, Jenny, Gwen, Alan, Julia, Terry, Rita, Christopher, Catherine, James, Jay, Joanne, Lucas, Kay, Tom, David, James, Fiona, Pat, Julie, Grace, Alissia-Rose, Rosey, Sally, Brian, Gary, Charles, Susan, Mya, Rob, Sarah, Frances, Eddie, Shirley, Clive, Andy and Sue, Thomas, Dorothy, Nicola, Carol, Roger, Michelle, Mollie, Graham, Delphine, Maureen, Steve, Mary, Joan, Dennis, David, Jill, Mary, Fr. Derek, David, Mitchell

WE COMMEND TO GOD WITH PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

R.I.P. Maureen Briggs, Jenny Martin, Susan, Dennis Noel Leaver

MONDAY 25TH		CHRISTMAS DAY	
9.00 a.m.	Eucharist	St. John's, Padworth	
10.00 a.m.	Sung Eucharist	St. John's, Mortimer	

TUESDAY 26TH ST. STEPHEN, DEACON, FIRST MARTYR

WEDNESDAY 27TH ST. JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST
9.15 a.m. Eucharist St. John's, Mortimer & Online

THURSDAY 28TH THE HOLY INNOCENTS
9.15 a.m. Eucharist St. John's, Mortimer & Online

FRIDAY 29TH in honour of Thomas Becket, archbishop, martyr
9.15 a.m. Morning Prayer Online

SATURDAY 30TH

SUNDAY 31ST FIRST OF CHRISTMAS
10.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist St. John's, Mortimer & Online

NOTICES

CONFIRMATION If you would like to explore the next step in the journey & find out more, please contact Fr. Paul or telephone the office 01189 333704.

BENEFICE CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 24th December

3 pm & 5 pm Christingle Services at St. John's, Mortimer
4 pm Christingle Service at St. Saviour's, MWE
11.30 pm Midnight Mass at St. John's, Mortimer

Christmas Day

9 a.m. Eucharist at St. John's, Padworth
10 a.m. Sung Eucharist at St. John's, Mortimer

WEST BERKS FOOD BANK www.westberks.foodbank.org.uk

Please visit the Food Bank website for full details of how and what to donate. Collection from Tesco Burghfield, Co-Op Mortimer or ring 07955 626621 for collection

Urgent: headlice lotion (urgently required), yule log or Christmas cake, selection boxes (confectionary), mince pies, cranberry sauce, gravy granules or stuffing, sharing crisps/Pringles, Christmas confectionary for adults.

Short supply: tinned meat meals (curry, stew, spaghetti bolognese), tinned ham or corned beef, tinned fruit, Mug shots

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP FINANCIAL GIVING Please donate regularly to support the Church's mission & work. The church here needs your help in order to serve our villages, our diocese, our nation & our world in the future. Please see www.mortimerbenefice.org.uk

BENEFICE PLANNER Please make sure all dates for services, rehearsals, meetings, events, etc., for the year ahead are in the planner to avoid clashes. Send details to the benefice office by email to admin@mortimerbenefice.co.uk

ETERNAL LIGHT at St. John's, Mortimer – if you would like to have the eternal light lit in memory of a loved one anytime throughout the year, please contact the office to book a date – each week £5.00.

Notices for inclusion in the newsletters should be submitted in writing/by email to the Benefice Office no later than the Wednesday of the week in which they are to appear.

The Benefice Office will be closed until 9 am on Tuesday 2nd January. For all urgent matters during that time, please send an email to admin@mortimerbenefice.co.uk or telephone 01189 333704 and leave a message.

Eternal Lights before the Blessed Sacrament burn to the Glory of God and this week

*at St John the Evangelist, Mortimer – in thanksgiving for the life of Michael Esslemont Palmer
at St John the Baptist, Padworth – in thanksgiving for the life of Josie Jones
and at St Saviour's, Mortimer West End – in thanksgiving for the life of the Parish*



Light a candle in Thanksgiving at Christmas

*The Light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.*

John. 1.5.