



# 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](mailto:admin@mortimerbenefice.co.uk) Website: [www.mortimerbenefice.org.uk](http://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.

## BENEFICE DIARY 17<sup>TH</sup> – 24<sup>TH</sup> 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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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>

<b>SUNDAY 17<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>THIRD OF ADVENT</b>	
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
11.45 a.m.	Holy Baptism	St. Mary's, Mortimer
2.00 p.m.	Choir practice	St. Mary's, Mortimer
<b>4.00 p.m.</b>	<b>THE CAROL SERVICE AT ST. MARY'S, MORTIMER</b>	
	<b>The Festival of Lessons and Carols</b>	

### Readings for Third Sunday of Advent

First Reading: Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-end Psalm 126  
Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5.16-24 Gospel: John 1.6-8, 19-28

### PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND THE BEREAVED

Christa, Chris, Richard, Heather, Niamh, the Bowyer Family, Jenny, Joan, 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, Helen, Mitchell

### WE COMMEND TO GOD WITH PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

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

<b>MONDAY 18<sup>TH</sup></b>		
9.15 a.m.	Eucharist	St. John's, Mortimer & Online
<b>TUESDAY 19<sup>TH</sup></b>		
9.15 a.m.	Eucharist	St. John's, Mortimer & Online
2.00 p.m.	St. Mary's School Christmas Service	St. Mary's, Mortimer
<b>WEDNESDAY 20<sup>TH</sup></b>		
9.15 a.m.	Eucharist	St. John's, Mortimer & Online
<b>THURSDAY 21<sup>ST</sup></b>		
9.15 a.m.	Eucharist	St. John's, Mortimer & Online
<b>FRIDAY 22<sup>ND</sup></b>		
9.15 a.m.	Morning Prayer	Online
<b>SATURDAY 23<sup>RD</sup></b>		
9.30 a.m.	Christmas flower arranging	St. John's, Mortimer
10.30 a.m.	Christingle making	Vestry
<b>SUNDAY 24<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>FOURTH OF ADVENT/CHRISTMAS EVE</b>	
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
<b>3.00 p.m. Christingle Service</b>		<b>St. John's, Mortimer &amp; Online</b>
<b>4.00 p.m. Christingle Service</b>		<b>St. Saviour's, MWE</b>
<b>5.00 p.m. Christingle Service</b>		<b>St. John's, Mortimer &amp; Online</b>
<b>11.30 p.m. Midnight Mass</b>		<b>St. John's, Mortimer &amp; Online</b>

### 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 17<sup>th</sup> December at 4 p.m. at St. Mary's Church**

The Carol Service – The Festival of Lessons & Carols

Please stay for mulled wine, juice & mince pies after the service

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 2 p.m.**

St. Mary's School Christmas Service at St. Mary's Church

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> 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

**ST. JOHN'S CHURCH CHRISTMAS DECORATION** If anyone has long pieces of greenery, i.e. yew, variegated ivy & holly or similar, we would be very grateful if you could leave some in the church porch on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> or early morning, Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> for decorating the church. Donations towards the cost of flowers also welcome. If you would like to help decorate, please come to St. John's for 9.30 am on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup>. Thank you.

**CHRISTINGLE SERVICES** will take place on Christmas Eve at St. John's, Mortimer at 3 pm & 5 pm & at St. Saviour's, Mortimer West End at 4 pm. If you wish to attend, please contact the parish office on 01189 333704 or email [admin@mortimerbenefice.co.uk](mailto:admin@mortimerbenefice.co.uk) to request a form.

**STEWARDS FOR CHRISTINGLE SERVICES** If you are able to help at the 3 pm or 5 pm (or both) please sign the list at the back of the Church. *Thank you.*

**WEST BERKS FOOD BANK** [www.westberks.foodbank.org.uk](http://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](http://www.mortimerbenefice.org.uk)

**BENEFICE PLANNER** Please make sure all dates for services, meetings, events, etc., for the year ahead are in the planner to avoid clashes. Send details to the benefice office or by email to [admin@mortimerbenefice.co.uk](mailto:admin@mortimerbenefice.co.uk)

Notices for inclusion in the newsletter 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.

*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 lives of Sidney Draper and Susan Williams*

*at St John the Baptist, Padworth – in thanksgiving for the life of Raymond Keep*

*and at St Saviour's, Mortimer West End – in thanksgiving for the life of the Parish*