



# 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  
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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 3<sup>RD</sup> – 10<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>

**SUNDAY 3<sup>RD</sup>**  
9.00 a.m. Eucharist St. Saviour's, MWE  
10.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist St. John's, Mortimer & Online  
**6.00 p.m. Advent Procession St. John's, Mortimer**  
followed by the Blessing and Lighting of the Christmas Tree  
on the fairground at 7 pm

### Readings for First Sunday of Advent

First Reading: Isaiah 64.1-9 Psalm 80.1-8  
Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1.3-9 Gospel: Mark 13.24-end

### 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, Helen, Mitchell, Susan  
**WE COMMEND TO GOD WITH PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING**  
R.I.P. Phil Tester, Dennis Noel Leaver, Frances Fuller

**MONDAY 4<sup>TH</sup>** *in honour of John of Damascus, monk & Nicholas Ferrar, deacon*  
9.15 a.m. Eucharist St. John's, Mortimer & Online  
1.30 – 2.30 p.m. MSJ rehearsal St. John's, Mortimer

**TUESDAY 5<sup>TH</sup>**  
9.15 a.m. Eucharist St. John's, Mortimer & Online

**WEDNESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup>** *in honour of St. Nicholas, bishop*  
9.15 a.m. Eucharist St. John's, Mortimer & Online  
10.00 a.m. Vicar attends Collective Worship Schools  
11.15 – 12.10 p.m. MSJ rehearsal St. John's, Mortimer

**THURSDAY 7<sup>TH</sup>** *in honour of St. Ambrose, bishop*  
9.15 a.m. Eucharist St. John's, Mortimer & Online  
10.45 – 12 noon MSJ Rehearsal St. John's, Mortimer

**FRIDAY 8<sup>TH</sup>** **Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**  
9.15 a.m. Morning Prayer Online  
10.45 - 12 noon MSJ Rehearsal St. John's, Mortimer

### SATURDAY 9<sup>TH</sup>

**SUNDAY 10<sup>TH</sup>** **SECOND OF ADVENT**  
9.00 a.m. Eucharist St. John's, Padworth  
10.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist St. John's, Mortimer & Online  
11.30 a.m. Vicar's meeting  
6.30 p.m. Evensong (BCP) St. Saviour's, MWE

### 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.

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER** The season of Advent marks the start of the Christian year & is a season of expectation & hope. It is also the transition from one lectionary cycle to the next. This coming year we will be following the Gospel of Mark. The Advent Procession will take place at 6 pm at St. John's, Mortimer followed by refreshments & then the Blessing & Lighting of the Christmas Tree on the Fairground at 7pm. All welcome.

**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.

### 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

**Urgently needed:** chocolate Advent calendars, tinned meat meals (stew, meatballs, spaghetti bolognese), confectionary (sweets, chocolate, treats), tinned ham or corned beef  
**Short supply:** ambient sponge puddings, tinned fruit, Mug Shots, shaving foam

**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.

**PATHWAYS** The latest edition of the Diocese of Oxford magazine can be viewed at this link <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/pathways/>

**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 life of

Thomas Bailey

at St John the Baptist, Padworth – in thanksgiving for the lives

Bernard & Irene Fishwick

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