



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

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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.

BENEFICE DIARY 14TH – 21ST JANUARY 2024

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 14TH	SECOND OF EPIPHANY	
9.00 a.m.	Eucharist	St. John's, Padworth
10.00 a.m.	Sung Eucharist	St. John's, Mortimer & Online
11.00 a.m.	Choir Practice	Vestry
6.30 p.m.	Evensong (BCP)	St. Saviour's, MWE

Readings for Second of Epiphany

First Reading: 1 Samuel 3.1-10 Psalm 139.1-5, 12-18
Second Reading: Revelation 5.1-10 Gospel: John 1.43-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, Mitchell

WE COMMEND TO GOD WITH PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

R.I.P. Janet Alexander, Susan Awbery

MONDAY 15TH		
9.15 a.m.	Eucharist	St. John's Mortimer & Online

TUESDAY 16TH		
9.15 a.m.	Eucharist	St. John's Mortimer & Online

WEDNESDAY 17TH	<i>in honour of Antony of Egypt, hermit, abbot</i>	
9.15 a.m.	Eucharist	St. John's Mortimer & Online
10.00 a.m.	Clergy join Collective Worship	Schools

THURSDAY 18TH	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins	
9.15 a.m.	Eucharist	St. John's Mortimer & Online
2.00 p.m.	St. Mary's School Epiphany Eucharist	St. Mary's Church

FRIDAY 19TH	<i>in honour of Wulfstan, bishop</i>	
9.15 a.m.	Morning Prayer	Online

SATURDAY 20TH

SUNDAY 21ST	THIRD OF EPIPHANY	
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
5.00 p.m.	Padworth PCC meeting	St. John's, Padworth
6.30 p.m.	Evensong (BCP)	St. John's, Padworth

NOTICES

THE CRIB Why is the Crib still here? It may seem strange that as Christmas is apparently over we keep our Crib in place in the Church. However, for Christians the celebration of Christmas does not end on Boxing Day, it goes on until the beginning of February when we keep the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple. This feast is often called "Candlemas" because at the service on that day worshippers are given candles in light in remembrance that Christ is called the Light of the world. So we keep our Crib for the whole Christmas period to remind us that we are in a season which remembers the coming of Christ.

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.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2024 This is an annual initiative traditionally observed 18 - 25 January - the octave of St. Peter and St. Paul - whereby Christian communities throughout the world are invited to pray for one another and for greater Christian Unity. The chosen theme is 'You shall love the Lord your God... and your neighbour as yourself' (Lk 10:27). Daily resources can be found at www.ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer

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

From the Food Bank: 'Thank you for your amazing support, we are fully stocked'.

Please donations when you are able to help maintain stock levels.

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.

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

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

Kitty Walton and Becky Watts

at St John the Baptist, Padworth – in thanksgiving for the life of Ruby James

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