



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.

BENEFICE DIARY 26TH MARCH – 2ND APRIL 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>

Benefice Lent Prayer

As the days lengthen and we spend longer in the light of day

Grant that I may spend longer in the Light of Your Presence O Lord

**and may those seeds of Your Word which have been long buried within me
grow like everything around us into love for You and love for all Your people.**

Grant, Lord, that this Lent there may be a Springtime for my life in Christ. Amen

SUNDAY 26TH

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT PASSIONTIDE BEGINS

| | | |
|------------|----------------|------------------------------|
| 9.00 a.m. | Eucharist | St. John's, Padworth |
| 10.00 a.m. | Sung Eucharist | St. John's Mortimer & Online |
| 11.30 a.m. | Choir Practice | Vestry, St. John's Mortimer |
| 6.30 p.m. | Evensong (BCP) | St. Saviour's, MWE |

Readings for Fifth Sunday of Lent

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|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| First Reading: Ezekiel 37.1-14 | Psalm 130 |
| Second Reading: Romans 8.6-11 | Gospel: John 11.1-45 |

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, Fr. Jonathan SSM, Clive, Andy and Sue, Thomas, Dorothy, Nicola, Carol, Roger, Michelle, Mollie, Graham, Delphine, Maureen, Steve, Mary, Joan, Jessica, Roger, Sue, Georgie, Dennis, Peter
**WE COMMEND TO GOD WITH PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING
R.I.P.**

MONDAY 27TH

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|-----------|------------------|------------------------------|
| 9.15 a.m. | Eucharist | St. John's Mortimer & Online |
| 1.15 p.m. | School rehearsal | St. John's Church |

TUESDAY 28TH

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|-----------|-----------|------------------------------|
| 9.15 a.m. | Eucharist | St. John's Mortimer & Online |
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WEDNESDAY 29TH

| | | |
|------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 9.15 a.m. | Eucharist | St. John's Mortimer & Online |
| 10.00 a.m. | School rehearsal | St. John's Church |
| 10.00 a.m. | St. Mary's School Lent Service | St. Mary's School |
| 2.00 p.m. | St. John's School Easter Service | St. John's Church |
| 5.00 p.m. | Personnel & Pay meeting | St. Mary's School |

THURSDAY 30TH School term ends

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|-----------|-----------|------------------------------|
| 9.15 a.m. | Eucharist | St. John's Mortimer & Online |
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FRIDAY 31ST

in honour of John Donne, priest, poet

SATURDAY 1ST

*in honour of Frederick Denison Maurice, priest,
teacher of the faith*

SUNDAY 2ND

PALM SUNDAY

| | | |
|-------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| 9.00 a.m. | Eucharist with giving of Palms | St. Saviour's, MWE |
| 10.00 a.m. | Commemoration of the Lord's entry into Jerusalem, the giving of Palms and Sung Eucharist | St. John's, Mortimer & Online |
| 11.30 a.m. | Choir Practice | Vestry, St. John's Mortimer |
| 6.30 p.m. | Evensong with giving of Palms | St. John's, Padworth |

NOTICES

CONFIRMATION If you would like to explore the next step in the journey & find out more about Confirmation please contact Fr. Paul.

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

CHURCH OF ENGLAND LENT REFLECTIONS 'DUST AND GLORY' begin on Ash Wednesday and end on Easter Day. Go to www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/what-we-believe/lent-holy-week-and-easter/dust-and-glory-resources-lent-2023 for details.

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

Urgently needed: long life fruit juice, UHT long life milk – blue or green, tinned custard, razors – male or female, sanitary towels, cleaning spray

Short supply: tinned tomatoes, cereal bars, healthy snacks for lunchboxes, baby food – all ages

BENEFICE ALTAR SERVERS' LENT MISSION

We are asking for help to raise money for children in urgent need in our link diocese of Kimberley and Kuruman. Donations may be sent to the Benefice Office, payable to Mortimer PCC and marked 'Lent Mission'. Thank you.

ELECTORAL ROLLS for all three parishes will soon be revised. If your name isn't on the current roll and you would like to be, please contact the office – admin@mortimerbenefice.co.uk or 01189 333704.

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

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOXES will be opened between 10 am & 12 noon on Saturday 29th April at St. John's, Mortimer. If you are unable to bring your box on that day contact Nick Munson 07905 617665.

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.

*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 the Parish

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

Joe and Iris Brimley

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