



# 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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**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 24<sup>TH</sup> TO 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2024 HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

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.

Morning Prayer & Night Prayer are offered each weekday at 9 am & 9 pm respectively & 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>

### 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 24<sup>TH</sup> PALM SUNDAY

9.00 a.m. Eucharist with giving of Palms St. John's, Padworth

**10.00 a.m. Commemoration of the Lord's entry into Jerusalem, the Giving of Palms and Sung Eucharist**  
St. John's, Mortimer & Online

5.45 p.m. Tea followed by St. Saviour's, MWE

6.30 p.m. Evensong with giving of Palms St. Saviour's, MWE

### Readings for Palm Sunday

First Reading: Isaiah 50.4-9a Psalm: 31.9-16

Second Reading: Philippians 2.5-11 Gospel: Mark 14.1-end of 15

### PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND THE BEREAVED

Christa, Richard, Chris, Heather, Jenny, Julia, Rita, Catherine, James, Joanne, Fiona, Julie, Grace, Alissia-Rose, Rosey, Sally, Gary, Charles, Mya, Thomas, Dorothy, Nicola, Mollie, Graham, Delphine, Jill, David, Mitchell, Colleen, The Bowyer Family

**WE COMMEND TO GOD WITH PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING**

**R.I.P.** Michelle Raath, John Doe

### MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK – 25<sup>TH</sup>

9.15 a.m. Eucharist St. John's & Online

11.00 a.m. School Lent Service St. Mary's School

1.45 p.m. St. John's School rehearsals St. John's Mortimer

7.30 p.m. Stations of the Cross & Eucharist St. John's & Online

### TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK – 26<sup>TH</sup>

9.15 a.m. Eucharist St. John's & Online

2.00 p.m. St. John's School Lent Service St. John's Mortimer

7.30 p.m. Stations of the Cross & Eucharist St. John's & Online

### WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK – 27<sup>TH</sup> School term ends

9.15 a.m. Eucharist St. John's & Online

7.30 p.m. Stations of the Cross & Eucharist St. John's & Online

9.00 p.m. Compline sung by the Choir St. John's Mortimer

### THE TRIDUUM – THE GREAT THREE DAYS

#### MAUNDY THURSDAY – 28<sup>TH</sup>

#### 7.30 p.m. SUNG EUCHARIST OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

**FOLLOWED BY THE WATCH UNTIL MIDNIGHT** St. John's & Online

(Please put your name on the list at the back of the church for the Vigil).

**Maundy Thursday** – the Great Thanksgiving and Holy Communion, ending with the procession to the "altar of repose", recalling the agony and prayer of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane on the night before his Passion, and an opportunity to spend some time in prayer with our Lord.

#### GOOD FRIDAY – 29<sup>TH</sup>

9.45 – 12 noon **Children's Stations of the Cross &**

**Good Friday Workshop** St. John's Mortimer

12 noon **Good Friday Devotions** St. John's Padworth

**2.00 p.m. Good Friday Liturgy** St. John's & Online

The Solemn Good Friday Liturgy consists of readings, hymns, the proclamation of the Passion account from John's gospel, a meditation, solemn prayers for the Church and for the world, veneration of the cross, and Communion from the reserved Sacrament of the evening before; this ancient and beautiful service penetrates deeply into the mystery of the love of God offered freely for us.

8.00 p.m. Tenebrae St. John's Mortimer

### HOLY SATURDAY – 30<sup>TH</sup>

9.15 a.m. Morning Prayer St. John's Mortimer

5.30 p.m. Evening Prayer St. John's Mortimer

**8.00 p.m. Easter Vigil of the Resurrection**  
& Online St. John's Mortimer

The Great Vigil of Easter – the primary and richest Easter celebration. The first Eucharist of Easter is celebrated with great joy and festivity. It begins the Church's fifty days of Easter gladness.

### EASTER DAY – 31<sup>ST</sup>

**9.00 a.m. Eucharist** St. John's Padworth

**10.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist** St. John's & Online

### NOTICES

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

**GOOD FRIDAY WORKSHOP 29<sup>th</sup> March 9.45 am to 12 noon at St. John's Mortimer.** To book a place, telephone the office 01189 333704 or email [admin@mortimerbenefice.co.uk](mailto:admin@mortimerbenefice.co.uk) with your child's name, age, emergency contact numbers & any additional needs.

The Diocese of Oxford invites everyone to join 'Come and See' each Lent. The theme this year is 'The Way of Love'. Resources can be found at <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see>

**WEST BERKS FOOD BANK** See [www.westberks.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.westberks.foodbank.org.uk) for full details of how & what to donate. Collection from Tesco Burghfield, Co-Op Mortimer or ring 07955 626621.

**Urgently needed:** shower gel, egg noodle nests, ladies razors UHT milk, long life fruit juice, custard/rice pudding pots, lunchbox drinks for children, dog food wet, cat food wet or dry, shampoo,  
**Short supply:** sugar, deodorant, tinned meat meals (stew, chicken, hotpot), tinned ham or corned beef

**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](mailto: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](http://www.mortimerbenefice.org.uk)

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