



# 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 28<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY – 4<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2024

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 28<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE - CANDELMAS</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
6.00 p.m.	Afternoon Tea followed by	
6.30 p.m.	Songs of Praise	St. John's, Padworth

### Readings for Candlemas

First Reading: Malachi 3.1-5      Psalm 24.(1-6)7-end  
Second Reading: Hebrews 2.14-end      Gospel: Luke 2.22-40

### 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, Sarah  
**WE COMMEND TO GOD WITH PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING**  
R.I.P. Janet Alexander

**MONDAY 29<sup>TH</sup>**      *Ordinary Time begins today*  
9.15 a.m.      Eucharist      St. John's Mortimer & Online

**TUESDAY 30<sup>TH</sup>**      *in honour of Charles, king and martyr*  
9.15 a.m.      Eucharist      St. John's Mortimer & Online

**WEDNESDAY 31<sup>ST</sup>** *in honour of John Bosco, priest, founder of the Salesian Teaching Order*  
9.15 a.m.      Eucharist      St. John's Mortimer & Online  
10.00 a.m.      Clergy join Collective Worship      Schools  
6.00 p.m.      Baptism Preparation      St. John's, Mortimer

**THURSDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY** *in honour of Brigid, abbess*  
9.15 a.m.      Eucharist      St. John's Mortimer & Online

**FRIDAY 2<sup>ND</sup>**  
9.15 a.m.      Morning Prayer      Online

**SATURDAY 3<sup>RD</sup>**      *in honour of Anskar, archbishop, missionary*

**SUNDAY 4<sup>TH</sup>**      **SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT**  
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  
11.15 a.m.      Mortimer PCC meeting      St. John's, Mortimer  
6.30 p.m.      Evensong (BCP)      St. John's, Padworth

### 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 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](mailto:admin@mortimerbenefice.co.uk)

**PALM CROSSES** Please bring to St. John's, Mortimer, any Palm Crosses you may have so that preparations can be made for Ash Wednesday. Thank you.

### CANDELMAS SUNDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY

St. John the Baptist, Padworth will celebrate Candlemas 'Songs of Praise' on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January at 6.30 p.m. Afternoon tea will be served at 6.00 pm. All welcome.

### BENEFICE SHROVE TUESDAY SUPPER 13<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY

You are warmly invited to food & fellowship at the Benefice Shrove Tuesday Supper at 7.30 pm in St John's Church, Mortimer. There will be homemade dishes & pancakes will be served with a variety of toppings followed by tea & coffee. Fruit juice & water will be available but bring your own drinks if you prefer. A basket will be available for donations. If you are able to come, it would help with catering if you would please let the Benefice Office know by 5<sup>th</sup> February. [admin@mortimerbenefice.co.uk](mailto:admin@mortimerbenefice.co.uk) or 01189 333704.

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>

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - FRIDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2 P.M. AT BURGHFIELD COMMON METHODIST CHURCH** The theme this year is 'I beg you, bear with one another in love'. All welcome.

### 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 From the Food Bank: 'Thank you for your amazing support, we are fully stocked'. Please make 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](http://www.mortimerbenefice.org.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.

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  
Hollie Andrews and June Woods  
at St John the Baptist, Padworth – in thanksgiving for the life of Bernice Cooper  
and at St Saviour's, Mortimer West End – in thanksgiving for the life of the Parish*