



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 17TH – 24TH MARCH 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>

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 17TH FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT - PASSIONTIDE BEGINS

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
6.30 p.m.	Evensong (BCP)	St. John's, Padworth

Readings for Fifth Sunday of Lent

First Reading: Jeremiah 31.31-34	Psalm 51.1-13
Second Reading: Hebrews 5.5-10	Gospel: John 12.20-33

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, Michelle, Mollie, Graham, Delphine, Jill, David, Mitchell, Colleen, The Bowyer Family

**WE COMMEND TO GOD WITH PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING
R.I.P.**

MONDAY 18TH in honour of Cyril, bishop, teacher of the faith

9.15 a.m.	Eucharist	St. John's Mortimer & Online
10.00 a.m.	Vicar's meeting	St. John's, Mortimer
10.30 a.m.	MSJ rehearsal	St. John's, Mortimer
5.00 p.m.	Personnel & Pay meeting	St. Mary's School

TUESDAY 19TH Joseph of Nazareth

9.15 a.m.	Eucharist	St. John's Mortimer & Online
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WEDNESDAY 20TH in honour of Cuthbert, bishop, missionary

9.15 a.m.	Eucharist	St. John's Mortimer & Online
10.00 a.m.	Clergy join Collective Worship	Schools
1.15 p.m.	MSJ Foundation Stage to visit	St. John's, Mortimer

THURSDAY 21ST in honour of Thomas Cranmer, archbishop, Reformation martyr

9.15 a.m.	Eucharist	St. John's Mortimer & Online
10.30 a.m.	MSJ rehearsal	St. John's, Mortimer
11.00 a.m.	Burial of ashes	St. Mary's, Mortimer

FRIDAY 22ND

9.15 a.m.	Morning Prayer	Online
10.30 a.m.	MSJ rehearsal	St. John's, Mortimer

SATURDAY 23RD

SUNDAY 24TH PALM SUNDAY

9.00 a.m.	Eucharist with giving of Palms	St. John's, Padworth
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10.00 a.m. Commemoration of the Lord's entry into

Jerusalem, the giving of Palms and Sung Eucharist

		St. John's, Mortimer & Online
11.00 a.m.	Choir Practice	Vestry, St. John's Mortimer
11.30 a.m.	Marriage Preparation	St. John's, Mortimer
5.45 p.m.	Tea and cake followed by	
6.30 p.m.	Evensong with giving of Palms	St. Saviour's, MWE

NOTICES

CONFIRMATION If you would like to explore the next step in the journey, please contact Fr. Paul or telephone the office 01189 333704.

BENEFICE PLANNER To avoid clashes, please send to the benefice office, all dates for services, rehearsals, meetings, events, work, etc., for the year ahead. admin@mortimerbenefice.co.uk

GOOD FRIDAY WORKSHOP

29th 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 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>

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.

BENEFICE GARDEN FELLOWSHIP We are planning a trip to The Savill Garden, Windsor on Tuesday 7th May 2024. Please speak to Lorna Jones or telephone 01189 333136 for more details.

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

WEST BERKS FOOD BANK See 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

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.

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 Sue Rothera

at St John the Baptist, Padworth – in thanksgiving for the life of Shirley Lull

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