



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 Dr 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 13TH TO 20TH APRIL 2025 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.

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 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

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 13TH 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

11.00 a.m. Choir Practice Vestry St. John's Mortimer

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: Luke 22.14-end of 23

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND THE BEREAVED

Christa, Richard, Chris, Jenny, Julia, Rita, Catherine, James, Joanne, Fiona, Julie, Alissia-Rose, Rosey, Sally, Gary, Charles, Mya, Thomas, Dorothy, Nicola, Mollie, Graham, Delphine, Jill, David, Mitchell, The Bowyer Family, Anne, Pam, Margaret, Jazz, Mary, Roger, Nicola, Kevin, Vera, Pope Francis, Roy

WE COMMEND TO GOD WITH PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

R.I.P. Derek Wallis

MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK – 14TH

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

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

TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK – 15TH

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

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

WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK – 16TH

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 – 17TH

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 – 18TH

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 Mortimer & 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 – 19TH

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 St. John's Mortimer & Online

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 – 20TH

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

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

NOTICES

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

THE DIOCESE OF OXFORD invites everyone to join 'Come and See' each Lent. The theme this year is baptism. Resources are available at <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see>

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND'S Lent theme for 2025 is 'Living Hope'. Daily resources are available at <https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-life/what-we-believe/lent-holy-week-and-easter/living-hope-lent-reflections>

GOOD FRIDAY WORKSHOP 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.

WEST BERKS FOOD BANK See www.westberks.foodbank.org.uk for full details. Collection from Tesco B'field, Co-Op Mortimer or 07955 626621.

Urgently needed: tinned fruit, long life juice, ambient sponge puddings, cereal bars **Short Supply:** UHT milk, tinned meat meals, non-bio washing powder/tablets, anti-bac spray

ELECTORAL ROLL This year an entirely new Roll must be prepared & the old Roll withdrawn. All who wish to be included in the new Roll must complete an application form. Application forms will be sent out to all those on the current Roll & there is also a supply of forms at the back of the church for those not on the existing Roll but who would like to apply to be included. Forms should be returned to the Benefice Office by **24th April**.

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP FINANCIAL GIVING Please donate regularly to support the Church's mission & work. Please see www.mortimerbenefice.org.uk

BENEFICE PLANNER Please make sure you send to the office admin@mortimerbenefice.co.uk all your proposed dates for meetings, activities, events etc., in order that we can avoid unnecessary clashes.

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*

Ted and Bertha Underwood

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