



# 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](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 1<sup>ST</sup> – 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 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>

### SUNDAY 1<sup>ST</sup>

9.00 a.m. Eucharist St. Saviour's MWE  
10.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist St. Johns Mortimer & Online  
11.00 a.m. Choir Practice Vestry  
11.30 a.m. Risk assessment meeting St. John's Mortimer  
5.30 p.m. Rehearsal for Advent Procession St. John's  
**6.00 p.m. Advent Procession St. John's, Mortimer**  
**followed by the Blessing and Lighting of the Christmas Tree**  
**on the fairground at 7 pm**

### Readings for Advent Sunday

First Reading: Jeremiah 33.14-16 Psalm 25.1-9  
Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3.9-end Gospel: Luke 21.25-36

### PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND THE BEREAVED

Christa, Richard, Chris, Heather, 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, Geoff  
**WE COMMEND TO GOD WITH PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING**  
**R.I.P. Heather Gibbs, Colleen Beare**

### MONDAY 2<sup>ND</sup>

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

### TUESDAY 3<sup>RD</sup>

**Francis Xavier, missionary**  
9.15 a.m. Eucharist St. John's Mortimer & Online  
1.15 p.m. School rehearsal St. John's Mortimer

### WEDNESDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> *John of Damascus, monk, teacher of the faith, Nicholas Ferrar, deacon, founder of the Little Gidding Community*

9.15 a.m. Eucharist St. John's Mortimer & Online  
10.00 a.m. Vicar attends Collective Worship Schools

### THURSDAY 5<sup>TH</sup>

9.15 a.m. Eucharist St. John's Mortimer & Online  
10.00 a.m. Vicar's meeting  
1.15 p.m. School rehearsal St. John's Mortimer

### FRIDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> *Nicholas, bishop*

9.15 a.m. Morning Prayer Online  
11.00 a.m. School rehearsal St John's Mortimer

### SATURDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> *Ambrose, bishop, teacher of the faith*

### SUNDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> SECOND OF ADVENT

9.00 a.m. Eucharist St. John's Padworth  
10.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist St. Johns Mortimer & Online  
11.00 a.m. Choir Practice Vestry  
11.15 a.m. Advent Workshop planning meeting St. John's  
6.30 p.m. Evensong (BCP) 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** Please make sure you send to the office [admin@mortimerbenefice.co.uk](mailto:admin@mortimerbenefice.co.uk) all your proposed dates for meetings, activities, events etc., in order that we can avoid unnecessary clashes.

**CHRISTMAS BAZAAR** Thank-you to all those that gave generously of their time, talents and treasure to support the Christmas Bazaar. *Churchwarden*

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - 1<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER** The season of Advent marks the start of the Christian year & is a season of expectation & hope. It is also the transition from one lectionary cycle to the next. This coming year we will be following the Gospel of Luke. The Advent Procession will take place at 6 pm at St. John's, Mortimer followed by the Blessing & Lighting of the Christmas Tree on the Fairground at 7pm. All welcome.

**ADVENT EXTRAS** £2.60. See Roger Jones or telephone 01189 333 136.

### ADVENT WORKSHOP AT ST. JOHN'S, MORTIMER FRIDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 9.45 – 11.45 A.M.

Children are invited to participate in songs/carols & craft. To register telephone 01189 333704 or email [admin@mortimerbenefice.co.uk](mailto:admin@mortimerbenefice.co.uk)

### CHRISTINGLE SERVICES ON CHRISTMAS EVE

St. John's, Mortimer at 3 pm & 5 pm and St. Saviour's, Mortimer West End at 4 pm. If you wish to attend, please ring 01189 333704 or email [admin@mortimerbenefice.co.uk](mailto:admin@mortimerbenefice.co.uk)

**WEST BERKS FOOD BANK** See [www.westberks.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.westberks.foodbank.org.uk) for full details. Collection from Tesco Burghfield, Co-Op Mortimer or ring 07955 626621. See Food Bank website for Reverse Advent Calendar details.

**Urgently needed:** UHT milk, long life orange juice, cooking oil, toilet roll, toilet cleaner, non-bio washing powder, cleaning sprays for kitchen or bathroom

**Short supply:** savoury biscuits, tins of biscuits, stuffing, gravy, cranberry, sauce, Pringles/sharing crisps, tins of sweets, Christmas cake (long dates)

**FAMILY LIST** Our Family List of all connected with the benefice is being updated. Please take a form from the back of the church, complete and return it to the office, even if you have signed a form previously. If you wish to be sent a form, please email [admin@mortimerbenefice.co.uk](mailto:admin@mortimerbenefice.co.uk).

**CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP FINANCIAL GIVING** Please donate regularly to support the Church's mission & work. 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.

**PATHWAYS** The latest edition of the Diocese of Oxford magazine can be viewed at this link <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/pathways/>

*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 Ron Johnson*

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

*Bernard and Irene Fishwick*

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