



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

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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 23RD FEBRUARY – 2ND MARCH 2025

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.

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>

SUNDAY 23RD

9.00 a.m.	Eucharist	St. John's Padworth
10.00 a.m.	Sung Eucharist	St. John's Mortimer & Online
11.15 a.m.	Good Friday Workshop planning meeting	
		St. John's Mortimer
12 noon	Baptism Preparation	St. John's Mortimer
6.30 p.m.	Evensong (BCP)	St. Saviour's, MWE

SECOND BEFORE LENT

NOTICES

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

GOOD FRIDAY WORKSHOP PLANNING MEETING will be held on Sunday 23rd February 11.15 am at St. John's Mortimer. All welcome.

LENT EXTRAS are now available. Please see Roger Jones or ring 01189 333136 to reserve a copy.

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

BISHOP-DESIGNATE MARY GREGORY'S SERVICE OF WELCOME is planned for Sunday 2nd March at 3pm in Reading Minster. All welcome.

BENEFICE SHROVE TUESDAY SUPPER 4TH MARCH 7.30 PM You are warmly invited to food & fellowship in St John's church, Mortimer. There will be homemade dishes & pancakes will be served 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 let the Benefice Office know by Friday 28th February please. Email admin@mortimerbenefice.co.uk or telephone 01189 333704 or sign the list at the back of church.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FRIDAY 7TH MARCH 2 P.M. AT ST. OSWALD'S BURGHFIELD COMMON The theme this year is *'I made you wonderful'*. Psalm 139:14. All welcome.

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

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: UHT milk, long life fruit juice, baby food 4-6 & 12 months, meat meals with ring pulls, mug shots, toothbrushes, adult & children, nappies sizes 5/6/7/8, non-bio laundry tablets, toilet cleaner

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. All application forms should be returned to the Benefice Office.

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

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.

Readings for Second Sunday before Lent

First Reading: Genesis 2.4b-9, 15-end Psalm 65
Second Reading: Revelation 4 Gospel: Luke 8.22-25

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, Mary, Roger, Nicola, Kevin, Vera

WE COMMEND TO GOD WITH PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

R.I.P. Wendy Darlison, Don Cupit

MONDAY 24TH

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

TUESDAY 25TH

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

WEDNESDAY 26TH

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

THURSDAY 27TH

9.15 a.m. *in honour of George Herbert, priest, poet*
Eucharist St. John's Mortimer & Online

FRIDAY 28TH

9.15 a.m. Morning Prayer Online

SATURDAY 1ST

in honour of David, bishop, patron of Wales

SUNDAY 2ND D

9.00 a.m.	Eucharist	St. Saviour's MWE
10.00 a.m.	Sung Eucharist	St. Johns Mortimer & Online
3.00 p.m.	Bishop-Designate Mary Gregory's Service of Welcome	Reading Minster
6.30 p.m.	Evensong (BCP)	St. John's Padworth

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 Basil Beale

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