



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 12TH – 19TH JANUARY 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 12TH

9.00 a.m.	Eucharist	St. John's Padworth
10.00 a.m.	Sung Eucharist	St. Johns Mortimer & Online
11.30 a.m.	Mortimer PCC meeting	St. John's Mortimer
12.15 p.m.	Vicar's meeting	St. John's Mortimer
5.30 p.m.	MWE PCC meeting	St. Saviour's MWE
6.30 p.m.	Evensong (BCP)	St. Saviour's MWE

BAPTISM OF CHRIST

Readings for Baptism of Christ

First Reading: Isaiah 43.1-7 Psalm 29
Second Reading: Acts 8.14-17 Gospel: Luke 3.15-17, 21-22

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, Francis

WE COMMEND TO GOD WITH PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

R.I.P. Margaret Rudland

MONDAY 13TH

Hilary, bishop, teacher of the faith, Kentigern (Mungo) missionary bishop, George Fox, founder of the Society of Friends (Quakers)

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

TUESDAY 14TH

9.15 a.m. Eucharist St. John's Mortimer & Online
12 noon Chapter Upper Basildon

WEDNESDAY 15TH

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

THURSDAY 16TH

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

FRIDAY 17TH

Antony of Egypt, hermit, abbot, Charles Gore, bishop, founder of the Community of the Resurrection

9.15 a.m. Morning Prayer Online

SATURDAY 18TH

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Amy Carmichael, spiritual writer

SUNDAY 19TH

9.00 a.m.	Eucharist	St. Saviour's MWE
10.00 a.m.	Sung Eucharist	St. Johns Mortimer & Online
3.00 p.m.	Unity Service	Mortimer Methodist Church
5.00 p.m.	Padworth PCC meeting	St. John's Padworth
6.30 p.m.	Evensong (BCP)	St. John's Padworth

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 CRIB Why is the Crib still here? It may seem strange that as Christmas is apparently over we keep our Crib in place in the Church. However, for Christians the celebration of Christmas does not end on Boxing Day, it goes on until the beginning of February when we keep the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple. This feast is often called "Candlemas" because at the service on that day worshippers are given candles in light in remembrance that Christ is called the Light of the world. So we keep our Crib for the whole Christmas period to remind us that we are in a season which remembers the coming of Christ.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2025 This is an annual initiative traditionally observed 18 - 25 January - the octave of St. Peter and St. Paul - whereby Christian communities throughout the world are invited to pray for one another and for greater Christian Unity. This year we are invited to reflect on the story of Martha's confession of faith in Jesus as narrated in John 11:17-27. Each is called to sit with Jesus' provocative question to Martha: "Do you believe this?" Daily resources can be found at www.ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer. **The Unity Service will be held at Mortimer Methodist Church on Sunday 19th January at 3 pm.** All welcome.

SUNDAY 26TH JANUARY There will be a meeting at 11.15 am in church to review the Advent Workshop and Christingle services.

WEST BERKS FOOD BANK See 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: sugar, stuffing/gravy/cranberry sauce, tins of biscuits, tins of sweets/chocolates, cooking oil, toilet paper

Short supply: savoury biscuits, uht milk, milk powder, Pringles or sharing crisps, cooked meat with ring-pull, custard/rice pudding pots, Christmas cake (long dates), non-bio washing powder

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.

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 Bill Sibley

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

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