



# The Stratfield Mortimer Benefice of

St Saviour                      St Mary and St John                      St John the Baptist  
Mortimer West End                      Stratfield Mortimer                      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

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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 26<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY – 2<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY 2025

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 26<sup>TH</sup>

9.00 a.m.	Eucharist	St. John's Padworth
10.00 a.m.	Sung Eucharist	St. Johns Mortimer & Online
11.15 a.m.	Workshop review meeting	St. John's Mortimer
12 noon	Vicar's meeting	St. John's Mortimer
6.30 p.m.	Evensong (BCP)	St. Saviour's MWE

### Readings for Third of Epiphany

First Reading: Nehemiah 8.1-3, 5-6, 8-10	Psalm 19
Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12.12-31a	Gospel: Luke 4.14-21

### 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, Mary, Roger, Nicola

### WE COMMEND TO GOD WITH PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

R.I.P. Bob Twist, Margaret Rudland

### MONDAY 27<sup>TH</sup>

9.15 a.m.	Eucharist	St. John's Mortimer & Online
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### TUESDAY 28<sup>TH</sup>

<b>Thomas Aquinas, priest, philosopher, teacher of the faith</b>		
9.15 a.m.	Eucharist	St. John's Mortimer & Online
3.00 p.m.	Funeral of Margaret Rudland	West Berks Crematorium

### WEDNESDAY 29<sup>TH</sup>

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

### THURSDAY 30<sup>TH</sup>

9.15 a.m.	Eucharist	St. John's Mortimer & Online
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### FRIDAY 31<sup>ST</sup>

<b>John Bosco, priest, founder of the Salesian Teaching Order</b>		
9.15 a.m.	Morning Prayer	Online

### SATURDAY 1<sup>ST</sup>

<b>Brigid, abbess</b>		
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### SUNDAY 2<sup>ND</sup>

<b>PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE</b>		
<b>CANDLEMAS</b>		
9.00 a.m.	Eucharist	St. Saviour's MWE
10.00 a.m.	Sung Eucharist	St. Johns Mortimer & Online
5.45 p.m.	Afternoon Tea	St. John's Padworth
6.30 p.m.	Songs of Praise for Candlemas	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 lives of*

*Hollie Andrews & June Woods*

*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*

### 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.

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

### CANDLEMAS SUNDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY

St. John the Baptist, Padworth will celebrate Candlemas 'Songs of Praise' on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February at 6.30 p.m. Afternoon tea will be served at 5.45 pm. All welcome.

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

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FRIDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> 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](http://www.westberks.foodbank.org.uk) for full details. Collection from Tesco B'field, Co-Op Mortimer or 07955 626621.

**Urgently needed:** dried powdered milk, long life fruit juice, baby food age 10 months, razors male or female, cleaning products

**Short supply:** uht milk full fat, tinned carrots or peas, rice, toothpaste, non-bio washing powder/pods

**BURGHFIELD & MORTIMER VOLUNTEER BUREAU** are looking for volunteers. 0118 9831814 or [bureauorganiser@gmail.com](mailto:bureauorganiser@gmail.com).

**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/>

**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.

**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.**