



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.

A HAPPY AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS

BENEFICE DIARY 29TH DECEMBER 2024 – 5TH 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 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

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Confessions – please telephone The Vicar, Fr. Paul Chaplin 01189 331718.

Zoom link for services <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6931233940>

SUNDAY 29TH

10.00 a.m.

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

Sung Eucharist

St. Johns Mortimer & Online

NOTICES

We are all thankful for all the love, care and hard work which has gone into preparing the Benefice for Christmas. Vicar.

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 all your proposed dates for meetings, activities, events etc., in order that we can avoid unnecessary clashes.

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.

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 life of Ruby James

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

Readings for First Sunday of Christmas

First Reading: 1 Samuel 2.18-20, 26

Psalm 148

Second Reading: Colossians 3.12-17

Gospel: Luke 2.41-end

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. Arthur Gibbs

MONDAY 30TH

9.15 a.m.

Eucharist

St. John's Mortimer & Online

TUESDAY 31ST

9.15 a.m.

in honour of John Wyclif, reformer

Eucharist

St. John's Mortimer & Online

WEDNESDAY 1ST

Naming and Circumcision of Jesus

THURSDAY 2ND

in honour of Basil the Great and Gregory of Nazianzus, bishops and teachers of the faith, Seraphim, monk, spiritual guide and Vedanayagam Samuel Azariah, bishop, evangelist

FRIDAY 3RD

9.45 a.m.

Funeral for Arthur Gibbs

St. Saviour's, MWE

SATURDAY 4TH

SUNDAY 5TH

9.00 a.m.

Eucharist

St. Saviour's MWE

10.00 a.m.

Sung Eucharist

St. Johns Mortimer & Online

6.30 p.m.

Evensong (BCP)

St. John's Padworth



Light a candle in Thanksgiving at Christmas

*The Light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.*

John.1.5.