



# 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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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 30<sup>TH</sup> MARCH – 6<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 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 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>

### Benefice Lent Prayer

As the days lengthen and we spend longer in the light of day

Grant that I may spend longer in the Light of Your Presence O Lord

and may those seeds of Your Word which have been long buried within me

grow like everything around us into love for You and love for all Your people.

Grant, Lord, that this Lent there may be a Springtime for my life in Christ. Amen

### SUNDAY 30<sup>TH</sup>

### MOTHERING SUNDAY/ FOURTH OF LENT

10.00 a.m.	Sung Eucharist	St. John's Mortimer & Online
11.00 a.m.	Choir practice	St. John's Mortimer
11.45 a.m.	Marriage Preparation	St. John's Mortimer

### Readings for Mothering Sunday

First Reading: Colossians 3.12-17 Gospel John 19.25b-27

### Readings for Fourth Sunday of Lent

First Reading: Joshua 5.9-12 Psalm 32  
Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5.16-end Gospel: Luke 15.1-3,11b-end

### PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND THE BEREAVED

Christa, Richard, Chris, 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, Pope Francis, Roy

### WE COMMEND TO GOD WITH PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

R.I.P. Terry Davis, John Wells

### MONDAY 31<sup>ST</sup>

### John Donne, priest, poet

9.15 a.m.	Eucharist	St. John's Mortimer & Online
1.20 p.m.	School rehearsal	St. John's Mortimer
5.00 p.m.	Personnel & Pay Committee	St. Mary's School

### TUESDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> Frederick Denison Maurice, priest, teacher of the faith

9.15 a.m.	Eucharist	St. John's Mortimer & Online
2.00 p.m.	St. John's School Lent Service	St. John's Mortimer

### WEDNESDAY 2<sup>ND</sup>

9.15 a.m.	Eucharist	St. John's Mortimer & Online
10.00 a.m.	St. Mary's School Lent Service	St. Mary's School
6.00 p.m.	Vicar's meeting	St. Mary's Mortimer

### THURSDAY 3<sup>RD</sup>

9.15 a.m.	Eucharist	St. John's Mortimer & Online
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### FRIDAY 4<sup>TH</sup>

### School term ends

9.15 a.m.	Morning Prayer	Online
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### SATURDAY 5<sup>TH</sup>

### SUNDAY 6<sup>TH</sup>

### FIFTH OF LENT

### PASSIONTIDE BEGINS

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	St. John's Mortimer
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.

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

**THE DIOCESE OF OXFORD** invites everyone to join 'Come and See' each Lent. The theme this year is baptism. Resources are available at

<https://www.oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see>

**THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND'S** Lent theme for 2025 is 'Living

Hope'. Daily resources are available at

<https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-life/what-we-believe/lent-holy-week-and-easter/living-hope-lent-reflections>

**GOOD FRIDAY WORKSHOP 9.45 am to 12 noon** at St. John's Mortimer To book a place, telephone the office 01189 333704 or email [admin@mortimerbenefice.co.uk](mailto:admin@mortimerbenefice.co.uk) with your child's name, age, emergency contact numbers & any additional needs.

**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:** tinned fruit, long life juice, ambient sponge puddings, cereal bars **Short Supply:** UHT milk, tinned meat meals, non-bio washing powder/tablets, anti-bac spray

**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. Forms should be returned to the Benefice Office by 24<sup>th</sup> April.

**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.**

*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 Sarah Theaker  
at St John the Baptist, Padworth – in thanksgiving for the life of Doris Keep  
and at St Saviour's, Mortimer West End – in thanksgiving for the life of the Parish*