



# 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 Derek Spears  
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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 31<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY – 7<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2021

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.*

**Morning Prayer & Night Prayer are offered each weekday at 9 am & 9 pm respectively & 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.**

### Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> January

**Presentation of Christ in the Temple - Candlemas (trans)  
10.00 a.m. Eucharist - livestreamed via Zoom  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6931233940>**

### NOTICES

**NEW BENEFICE WEBSITE** go to: [www.mortimerbenefice.org.uk](http://www.mortimerbenefice.org.uk)

#### Readings for Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)

First Reading: Malachi 3.1-5                      Psalm: 24  
Second Reading: Hebrews 2.14-end              Gospel: Luke 2.22-40

**CONFIRMATION** If you would like to explore the next step in the journey & find out more about Confirmation please contact Fr. Paul.

**CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP FINANCIAL GIVING.** Please continue to support the parishes - see [www.mortimerbenefice.org.uk](http://www.mortimerbenefice.org.uk) for details.

#### PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND THE BEREAVED

Christa, Chris, Richard, Heather, Niamh, the Bowyer Family, Jenny, Gwen, Alan, David, Julia, Terry, Rita, Christopher, Catherine, James, Jay, Joanne, Lucas, Kay, Tom, David, James, Fiona, Pat, Julie, Fr. Alan, Grace, Alissia-Rose, Rosey, Craig and Sally, Brian, Gary, Charles, Susan, Mya, Rob, Sarah, Frances, Eddie, Shirley, Steve, Fr. Jonathan SSM, Clive, Andy and Sue, Margaret, Thomas, Dorothy, Keith, June

**WE COMMEND TO GOD WITH PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING  
R.I.P. Frank Gregory, Graham Sloper**

**FOOD BANK** is experiencing greater demand than normal. Please continue to donate as you are able: all types of tinned and packeted food especially sugar, baked beans, tinned fish, instant mash, tinned potatoes, tinned vegetables, chilli mix and soup, tinned fruit, rice pudding, sponge puddings and custard. Also in short supply: shampoo, deodorant, sanitary and cleaning products. To make giving easier it's now possible, as well as giving via collection points in Budgens, Mortimer and Tesco, Burghfield, to arrange collection from your doorstep. To arrange collection ring 07955 626621.

Welcome to Join in Stratfield Mortimer, Mortimer West End & Padworth

#### DAILY PRAYER & WORSHIP RESOURCES

**The Benefice is live-streaming services via Zoom.**

Parish Morning Prayer at 9 am & Night Prayer at 9 pm  
Monday to Friday.

Parish Sunday Eucharist at 10 am each Sunday

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

The invitation to join with the Parish church here in Morning & Night prayer is an invitation to make a 'sacred' space & time in our day to pause to reflect & pray together with the help & guidance of scripture & to pray together with one heart & mind. *Fr. Paul Chaplin*

**DIOCESE OF OXFORD** Live-streamed and 'as live' worship and resources are available for everyone across the Diocese of Oxford - complementing the prayers, meditations and worship offered by local churches. The principal Diocesan service takes place each Sunday and 10 am. Go to: <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/coronavirus-covid-19-2/livestream/>  
For various online help for prayer and worship, go to: <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/coronavirus-covid-19-2/prayer-and-worship/>

**In response to reaching the terrible milestone of 100,000 deaths from COVID-19, the Archbishops invite all to call on God in Prayer. Starting on 1<sup>st</sup> February we are invited to set aside time every evening to pray, particularly at 6pm. More than ever, this is a time when we need to love each other. Prayer is an expression of love. Prayer resources for the coming days & weeks are available at: <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/prayer-nation#n>**

**DAILY HOPE FROM THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND** offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services at the end of a telephone line and is available 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044.  
**Daily Prayer services** in both contemporary and traditional forms and for all times of day can be viewed at: <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>  
To listen to or read to the *Prayer for the Day* and join in with thousands others saying these words each day go to: <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer/todays-prayer>

*Gracious God, as we remember before you the thousands who have died, surround us and all who mourn with your strong compassion. Be gentle with us in our grief, protect us from despair, and give us grace to persevere and face the future with hope in Jesus Christ our risen Lord. Amen.*

*The Eternal Lights before the Blessed Sacrament burn to the Glory of God and this week*

*Watch, O Lord, with those who wake, or watch, or weep tonight, and give Your angels and saints charge over those who sleep. Tend Your sick ones, O Lord Christ. Rest Your weary ones. Bless Your dying ones. Soothe Your suffering ones. Pity Your afflicted ones. Shield Your joyous ones, and all for Your love's sake. Amen.*  
*Attributed to St. Augustine*

*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*