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
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.

HAPPY AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS

BENEFICE DIARY 24TH DECEMBER 2021 – 2ND JANUARY 2022

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.

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

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

CHRISTMAS EVE

5.00 p.m.	Christingle Service – **by Zoom only**	
11.30 p.m.	Midnight Mass	St. John's, Mortimer

CHRISTMAS DAY

9.00 a.m.	Eucharist	St. John's, Padworth
10.00 a.m.	Sung Eucharist	St. John's, Mortimer

SUNDAY 26TH **FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**

10.00 a.m.	Eucharist	St. John's, Mortimer

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, Chris, Richard, Heather, Niamh, the Bowyer Family, Jenny, Gwen, Alan, Julia, Terry, Rita, Christopher, Catherine, James, Jay, Joanne, Lucas, Kay, Tom, David, James, Fiona, Pat, Julie, Fr. Alan, Grace, Alissia-Rose, Rosey, Sally, Brian, Gary, Charles, Susan, Mya, Rob, Sarah, Frances, Eddie, Shirley, Steve, Fr. Jonathan SSM, Clive, Andy and Sue, Thomas, Dorothy, Nicola, Carol, Roger, Michelle, Mollie, Graham, Delphine, Maureen, Steve
WE COMMEND TO GOD WITH PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING R.I.P.

The Stratfield Mortimer Benefice Services
Coronavirus guidance will be followed e.g. masks must be worn, hands sanitised & distancing maintained. Directions will be given to enable people to move safely through the church.
The 10.00 a.m. service will also be zoomed at: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6931233940

Christingle Service 5 p.m. on Christmas Eve
by Zoom only https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6931233940

BENEFICE CHRISTMAS SERVICES
Christmas Eve
5.00 p.m. Christingle Service **by Zoom only**
11.30 p.m. Midnight Mass at St. John's, Mortimer and by Zoom
Christmas Day
9.00 a.m. Eucharist at St. John the Baptist, Padworth
10.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist at St. John's, Mortimer and by Zoom

NOTICES

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 donate regularly to support the Church's mission and work. The church here needs your help in order to serve our villages, our diocese, our nation and our world in the future. Our doors have been closed due to Covid 19 and with no regular Government or Church of England funding we have lost significant income. Please see the website to see how to give efficiently. www.mortimerbenefice.org.uk

FOOD BANK
Urgently needed: long life UHT milk, long life fruit juice, dog food wet or dry, feminine hygiene tampons, male & female razors, shaving gel, bin liners,
In short supply: super noodles/instant noodles, stock cubes, confectionary, washing up liquid, cleaning products, non-bio washing powder (we decant).
There is a collection point in Tesco, Burghfield, or to arrange collection from your doorstep – ring 07955 626621.

The Benefice Office will be closed from noon on Thursday 23rd December until 9 am on 4th January. For urgent matters during this time please email admin@mortimerbenefice.co.uk or ring 01189 333704 and leave a message.

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

Light a candle in Thanksgiving at Christmas

The Light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.
John.1.5.