



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: 01189 333704

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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 21ST – 28TH FEBRUARY 2021

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**

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.

Sunday 21st February 2021 - First Sunday of Lent

10.00 a.m. Eucharist – lives-streamed via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6931233940>

Readings for First Sunday of Lent

First Reading: Genesis 9.8-17

Psalm: 25.1-9

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3.18-end

Gospel: Mark 1.9-15

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

WE COMMEND TO GOD WITH PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

R.I.P. Bryan Chaumeton, June Woods, Michael Dowling

'STATIONS OF THE CROSS - THEN AND NOW' on Thursdays in Lent at 8.00 pm online at Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6931233940>

There are fourteen 'stations' but we shall zoom two each week for our weekly reflection, which should last no more than ten minutes.

The way of the cross is not confined to a lonely road in Jerusalem two thousand years ago: it is a busy highway winding through every village, town and city in our modern world. Fr Denis McBride guides us along the way. Some of the images he has chosen may shock you but they will demonstrate how the passion story of Jesus continues in our own time. The Gospel, the Christian message, best comes alive when the story of Jesus resonates within our hearts and our personal experience. Let 'The Stations of the Cross - Then and Now' shine new light on your own journey and share the experience with the wider parish community. God bless.

If you have any difficulties with getting online with Zoom please do not hesitate to contact the tech team at 01189333136.

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

The Archbishops invite us to set aside time every evening to pray, particularly at 6 pm. More than ever, this is a time when we need to love each other. Prayer is an expression of love. Prayers can be found at: <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/prayer-nation>

Lord Jesus Christ, in these dark & difficult days, we turn our hearts to you. In ages past, you have delivered our nation from disaster. Do it again, we pray. Give wisdom beyond human wisdom to our leaders, Give strength beyond human strength to the NHS & all our frontline workers. Give comfort beyond human comfort to the elderly & all who grieve. Lord Jesus Christ, in these dark & difficult days, turn your face towards us, have mercy upon us, & heal our land, we pray. Amen.

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 continue to support the parishes - see www.mortimerbenefice.org.uk for details.

FOOD BANK is experiencing greater demand than normal. Please continue to donate as you are able: all types of tinned & packeted foods, but please no more pasta. Urgently needed items: tomato ketchup, kitchen roll, beef OXO cubes, long-life milk & long-life fruit juice. In short supply: shampoo, deodorant, pasta sauce, cooking sauce, washing up liquid, floor/general purpose cleaner & non-bio washing powder. To make giving easier it's now possible to give via collection points in Budgens, Mortimer & Tesco, Burghfield, or to arrange collection from your doorstep – ring 07955 626621.

LIVE LENT Resources for Lent from the Church of England can be found at this link: <https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/what-we-believe/lent-holy-week-and-easter/livelent-gods-story-our-story-our-lent>

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/>

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 Basil Beale

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