



# 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.**

## A HAPPY AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS

### BENEFICE DIARY 22<sup>ND</sup> – 29<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2024

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.

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>

<b>SUNDAY 22<sup>ND</sup></b>	<b>FOURTH OF ADVENT</b>	
9.00 a.m.	Eucharist	St John's Padworth
10.00 a.m.	Sung Eucharist	St. Johns Mortimer & Online
11.45 a.m.	Vicar's meeting	St. John's Mortimer
2.00 p.m.	Choir Practice	St. Mary's Mortimer
<b>4.00 p.m.</b>	<b>THE CAROL SERVICE AT ST. MARY'S, MORTIMER</b>	
	<b>The Festival of Lessons and Carols</b>	

<b>Readings for Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>		
First Reading: Micah 5.2-5a		Psalm 80.1-8
Second Reading: Hebrews 10.5-10		Gospel: Luke 1.39-45

<b>PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND THE BEREAVED</b>		
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		
<b>WE COMMEND TO GOD WITH PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING</b>		
R.I.P. Arthur Gibbs, Jessica Jacobs, Ivan Nascè		

<b>MONDAY 23<sup>RD</sup></b>	<i>O Emmanuel</i>	
9.15 a.m.	Eucharist	St. John's Mortimer & Online

<b>TUESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b>	
9.15 a.m.	Eucharist	St. John's Mortimer & Online
<b>3.00 p.m.</b>	<b>Christingle</b>	<b>St. John's, Mortimer</b>
<b>4.00 p.m.</b>	<b>Christingle</b>	<b>St. Saviour's, MWE</b>
<b>5.00 p.m.</b>	<b>Christingle</b>	<b>St. John's, Mortimer</b>
<b>11.30 p.m.</b>	<b>Midnight Mass</b>	<b>St. John's, Mortimer &amp; Online</b>

<b>WEDNESDAY 25<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>	
<b>9.00 a.m.</b>	<b>Eucharist</b>	<b>St. John's, Padworth</b>
<b>10.00 a.m.</b>	<b>Sung Eucharist</b>	<b>St. John's, Mortimer</b>

**THURSDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> STEPHEN, DEACON, FIRST MARTYR**

<b>FRIDAY 27<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST</b>	
9.15 a.m.	Morning Prayer	Online

**SATURDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> THE HOLY INNOCENTS**

<b>SUNDAY 29<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>FIRST OF CHRISTMAS</b>	
10.00 a.m.	Sung Eucharist	St. Johns Mortimer & Online

#### NOTICES

**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](mailto:admin@mortimerbenefice.co.uk) all your proposed dates for meetings, activities, events etc., in order that we can avoid unnecessary clashes.

<b>BENEFICE CHRISTMAS SERVICES</b>
<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 4 p.m. at St. Mary's Mortimer</b>
The Carol Service – The Festival of Lessons & Carols
<b>Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December</b>
3 pm & 5 pm Christingle Services at St. John's, Mortimer
4 pm Christingle Service at St. Saviour's, MWE
11.30 pm Midnight Mass at St. John's, Mortimer
<b>Christmas Day</b>
9 a.m. Eucharist at St. John's, Padworth
10 a.m. Sung Eucharist at St. John's, Mortimer

<b>CHRISTINGLE SERVICES ON CHRISTMAS EVE</b>
St. John's, Mortimer at 3 pm & 5 pm and St. Saviour's, Mortimer West End at 4 pm. If you wish to attend, please ring 01189 333704 or email <a href="mailto:admin@mortimerbenefice.co.uk">admin@mortimerbenefice.co.uk</a>

**STEWARDS FOR CHRISTINGLE SERVICES** If you are able to help at the 3 pm or 5 pm (or both) please sign the list at the back of the Church.

**ST. JOHN'S CHURCH CHRISTMAS DECORATION** If you've long pieces of greenery, i.e. yew, variegated ivy & holly etc., we would be grateful if you could leave some in the church porch on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>. Donations towards the cost of flowers also welcome. If you'd like to help decorate, please come to St. John's for 10 am on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>. Thank you.

**WEST BERKS FOOD BANK** See [www.westberks.foodbank.org.uk](http://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](http://www.mortimerbenefice.org.uk)

*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 lives of Mildred Dorothy Westley and Michael Esslemont-Palmer*  
*at St John the Baptist, Padworth – in thanksgiving for the life of the Parish*  
*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.*