



Cotswold Edge

February 2026

The Church Newsletter for
Marshfield, Cold Ashton,
Tormarton and West Littleton

Benefice Contacts

For information about baptisms, weddings, funerals or pastoral visits
please contact **the Benefice Curate:**
Rev Sharon Roberts 07903 011030 s.roberts5454@outlook.com

Parish Administrator: Rachel O'Mahony: Monday and Thursday mornings
Email: marshfield.benefice@gmail.com

Lay Ministers	Aurea Hart (LLM)	01225 891453
	Mike Strathdee (LLM)	01225 891001
	Andrew Gammie	01225 892392

Safeguarding Officer Linda Lamb llsafeguarding@gmail.com

St Mary the Virgin Church, Marshfield

Churchwardens	Eric Pullin	01225 891351
	Paul White	01225 891765
PCC Secretary	Rachel O'Mahony	marshfield.benefice@gmail.com
PCC Treasurer	Kate Brain	01225 892582
Gift Aid/Giving Officer	Peter Brunyate	01225 891508
Bell Tower Captain	Anthony Chiddy	07563 961649
Church Bookings		marshfield.benefice@gmail.com

Holy Trinity Church, Cold Ashton

Churchwarden	Monica Green	01225 891669
PCC Secretary	Scarlett Wyatt	07432 050503
PCC Treasurer	Georgina Perceval-Maxwell	07771 776290

St Mary Magdalene Church, Tormarton

Churchwardens	Richard Lawrence	01454 218730
	Stewart Waters	01454 218393
PCC Secretary	Vacant	
PCC Treasurer	Janet Wells	01454 218549

St James' Church, West Littleton

Churchwardens	David Adams	01225 891100
	Beccy Derry-Evans	
PCC Treasurer	Michael Horgan	01225 891486

Marshfield Chapel	David Spence	01225 891115
Cotswold Edge Items:	Peter Woodward	07973 157587
Tormarton Newsletter:	Janet Wells	01454 218549

Benefice website www.marshfieldchurch.org

To put items on website please contact Richard Shreeve 01225 891169

Tormarton www.tormarton.org West Littleton www.stjamesmonuments.org

Bristol Diocese www.bristol.anglican.org/

Church of England www.churchofengland.org

For information on Christian Faith: www.christianity.org.uk

Cotswold Edge Ministry Team Letter

Welcome to a season of change and opportunity

It's been a couple of months since Sally's retirement and we are now engaging in the process of managing a vacancy. How do you feel it is going? At one level it's business as usual as we continue to prepare rotas and make sure our services continue in our four churches but at another, we have begun the process of preparing the ground to find a new vicar.

We have been blessed with help from the diocese with ministerial support particularly for communion services. We are also being guided in the task of finding a future vicar. The process is different from the previous two vacancies I have experienced in that this time I feel we are being encouraged to spend time in prayerful preparation to discern what God has in mind for our future as a church. What, in other words, is Christ's call upon us as individuals and collectively as a church?

As I write we have just received a short guide book from the diocese which we can email to you if you would like to see it. I find it very encouraging that the front page reads "Welcome to a season of change and opportunity – Flourishing in a time of vacancy". Welcome, change, opportunity and flourishing. Do these words or some of them resonate with you? I hope so. I am being encouraged to realise that this is a time in which we can indeed flourish. Some of us find change a challenge but when it comes in an answer to Christ's call you can be sure it will be full of goodness. In last month's letter Aurea quoted "*I have plans for you declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future*" (Jeremiah 29 v 11).

The reality is that God is ALWAYS calling us into a future BUT a future with Him. The words that follow in Jeremiah from the earlier quote read '*Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart*' (Jeremiah 29 v12-13).

As we press forward with plans for our future churches it is tempting to rely on our own plans and ideas and 'just get on with it'. But we have a God who wants to share everything with us . One of my guiding scriptures has been Proverbs 3 v 5 – 6: '*Trust in the Lord with all your heart, lean not on your own understanding, acknowledge Him in all your ways and He will make your paths straight*'.

I hope you and I can take these words and the guidance we are offered to heart and take time to discern Christ's call on our lives and thence, collectively, our churches. We can do this with personal and collective prayer and by spending time in God's word again on our own but also in a bible group and in church together. I finish with another quote from a prayer in the Diocesan guidance which I hope you find helpful:

'Enable us to be brave, open, creative and generous, as together we discern who you are calling to join us to follow Jesus, serve others and transform our communities.'

If you would like to share time in prayer or just to chat about Christ's call on our lives for the future, we would be very happy to spend time with you. Just contact one of the ministry team whose details are in the front cover of this Cotswold Edge.

Mike Strathdee

FROM THE BENEFICE REGISTERS

Wedding & Baptisms: There were none in December

Funerals: *Patrick Gent* on 5 January at Tormarton Church

Benefice Events this month

Village Prayer Group Tuesday mornings, 10.00 to 10.30am at the Chapel (except the 2nd Tuesday of the month, when there is Village Communion instead see below!)

Village Midweek Communion for Church and Chapel together:
10am Tuesday 10th February in the Chapel.

Breakfast Church – 1st and 3rd Sundays in February (1st and 15th). This is our popular service for all ages and works well for those who have sport or other commitments later in the morning. We meet from **8.30-9.15am** in Marshfield Church for a 'thought for the day', Bible reading, activity and songs. Please join us for this, along with an amazing breakfast to fuel you for the day ahead!.

Candlemas February at 4pm in St Mary's Marshfield

A celebration of Baptism – for all who have been baptised, however long ago! Cakes, candles and all age celebrations for the journey we are on together. Families of those christened in the last few years are especially invited.

Ash Wednesday February 18 7.00pm

A Benefice Service of Holy Communion with Ashing will take place in St Mary's, Marshfield. All welcome as we mark the beginning of a Lent.

Lent Lunches in March Held on five alternating Saturdays in Lent between Marshfield Chapel and St Mary's Church beginning Saturday 28th February in St Mary's, Marshfield. Soup, bread, cheese and fruit. Donations toward the work of Christian Aid and TearFund.

Thinking about doing something different for Lent?

The Diocese have created a whole series of resources to help people explore their RHYTHM OF LIFE. There are videos to watch, detailed instructions to explore Christian practices, ideas for retreats and pilgrimages, monthly online Zoom events, and signposts to other resources and communities who are living out their faith through established rhythms and patterns. All the resources can be used on your own or with others. Go <https://www.bristol.anglican.org/churchlife/resourcesforparishes/rhythm-of-life/> to find out more. We hope to be advertising some Lent groups too – but are still trying to finalise these.

Good Friday: The choir, with soloists, accompanied by the organ, will be performing Stainer's Crucifixion (with congregational hymns included) on Good Friday at 7.30- 8.30 pm. This beautiful oratorio narrates the final days of Jesus' life. If you would like to join the choir to sing, you are most welcome. Speak to Frances Gammie for more details. Otherwise, please do come and listen to this stunning work

Further details about Holy Week and Easter will be available in our March Edition.

A prayer for parishes in times of change

As we navigate this period of vacancy in our parish, here is a prayer that comes from a short guidebook provided by the Diocese. It encourages us to spend time and take comfort from prayer in our path to determining what God has in mind for future.

Dear Lord, our God and Father, in this time of change give us eyes to see your presence in our lives, ears to listen to your will, lips to speak your words, and hands to do your work.

Grant us grace and go before us as we seek your Holy Spirit's counsel, as we encourage each other in our fellowship, and as we reflect on your call on our community.

Enable us to be brave, open, creative and generous, as together we discern who you are calling to join us to follow Jesus, serve others and transform our communities.

We pray this through Jesus Christ, and for the sake of his kingdom, in sure and certain hope of your promises to us. Amen

Benefice Prayer Diary February 2026

Marshfield with Cold Ashton and Tormarton with West Littleton

A Benefice Prayer

Dear Lord, we bring before you the life of the churches in our Benefice. Watch over all of those who live in the Parishes and give succour to all those who are sick or in need; Lord, help us to grow in faith, in fellowship and service.

Week 1: 1-8 February pray for:

- Those who need help and a light in the darkness at this time of Candlemas
- The parish of Tormarton its PCC, and churchwardens.
- The dear departed and all those suffering ill health and those in need.
- The Royal Family and all those in positions of authority in our nation.

Week 2: 9-15 February: Please pray for:

- The people of all warring nations; may they see an end to conflict. Pray especially for Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Gaza, Iran and Sudan
- The parish of West Littleton, its PCC, and churchwardens.
- Pray for our Mission partners, the Rocks family in Brazil
- Pray for love for all on St Valentines day.

Week 3: 16-22 February: Please pray for:

- The parish of Cold Ashton, its PCC and churchwarden.
- All clergy and staff in the Bristol Diocese
- The Parish of Marshfield, its PCC and Churchwardens.

Week 4: 23-28 February: Please pray for:

- The Benefice Ministry Team - Rev Sharon, Andrew, Aurea and Mike, Pastor David Spence and Janet at the Chapel. Pray for all they do in ministering to us all.
- Our School, its children, staff and parents, as they return from half term holiday

Week 5: 24-28 February: Please pray for:-

- Businesses in the Benefice and their staff.
- The Lord's Creation; help us to look after our natural world for the common good and for future generations.

Please Note: If you would like a prayer to be included in the prayers at our Tuesday prayer group or in this Prayer Diary, please contact:

Paul White, 138 High Street, (0789 4429811 or paulbswhite@outlook.com)

Benefice Services for February 2026

Sunday 1 February (Candlemas)

8.30am	Breakfast Church	St Mary's Marshfield	Andrew Gammie
9.00am	Holy Communion	Holy Trinity Cold Ashton	Revd S. Roberts
10.30am	Morning Worship	St Mary's Tormarton	Molly/Mike
10.30am	Morning Worship	St Mary's Marshfield	Andrew Gammie
4.00pm	Candlemas	St Mary's Marshfield	Revd S. Roberts

Sunday 8 February (2nd before Lent)

9.00am	Holy Communion	St Mary's Marshfield	Revd L Godfrey
10.30am	Mattins	St James's West Littleton	Aurea Hart
11.30am	Morning Worship	St Mary's Marshfield	Mike Strathdee
6.00pm	Evening Worship	The Chapel	

Sunday 15 February (Next before Lent)

8.30am	Breakfast Church	St Mary's Marshfield	Mike Strathdee
9.00am	Holy Communion	St Mary's Tormarton	Revd S. Roberts
10.30am	Morning Worship	St Mary's Marshfield	Aurea Hart
6.00pm	Holy Communion	St Mary's Marshfield	Revd S. Roberts
6.00pm	Evening Praise	Holy Trinity Cold Ashton	Andrew Gammie

Sunday 22nd February (Lent 1)

9.00am	Holy Communion	St James's West Littleton	Revd S. Roberts
10.30am	Holy Communion	St Mary's Marshfield	Revd S. Roberts
6.00pm	Evensong	St Mary's Marshfield	Lay-led

(10.30am services at St Mary's Marshfield can be joined on Zoom at marshfieldchurches.org)

Chapel Programme February 2026

Feb 01	10.30am	David Spence* (<i>Luke 17:11-19</i>)
	6.00pm	Richard Shreeve (<i>1 Cor 1:10-17</i>)
Sun 08	10.30am	Joint service with St Mary's
	6.00pm	Peter Misselbrook (<i>1 Cor 1:18-31</i>)
Sun 15	10.30am	Peter Foster (<i>Luke 18:9-14</i>)
	6.00pm	Mike Strathdee* (<i>1 Cor 2: 1-10</i>)
Sun 22	10.30am	Jim Davis (<i>Luke 18:18-30</i>)
	6.00pm	John Schofield (<i>1 Cor 3: 1-15</i>)

(*Communion services – the offerings will go to The Ripple Effect)

Tue 10 10.00am **Village Communion at the Chapel**

Sat 28 10.30am **Morning Coffee**

We'd like to invite you to a Candlemas Celebration!



For all children christened in
the Marshfield Benefice Churches,
and their parents, godparents, family and friends...

**on Sunday 1st February at 4.00pm
in Marshfield Church**

A short celebration service followed by tea and cake

Lent Carbon Fast

This Lent join *Climate Steward's* Carbon Fast. The Carbon Fast will help you consider ways to live more simply, with ideas to cut your carbon footprint and invite you to focus on God and consider the whole of his creation.

Beginning on 5 March, you'll receive a weekly email containing key facts, suggestions for how you could reduce your carbon footprint and a prayer to lead you through this Lenten season.

Each week features a different theme designed to help us take climate action in manageable ways that bear witness to a God who has promised to restore all of his creation.

Find out more and sign up at :
climatestewards.org/resources/carbon-fast/

Lent Lunch Soup, bread & cheese



**Saturdays 12.00pm
in St Mary's Church**

**on Feb 28th,
March 14th & 28th
&**

in Marshfield Chapel

**on March 7th & 21th
Donations to: Tearfund &
Christian Aid**