



Cotswold Edge

April 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
	Molly Williams	07882 749950
Safeguarding Officer	Linda Lamb	lisa safeguarding@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
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Cotswold Edge Items:	Peter Woodward	07973 157587
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Tormarton Newsletter:	Janet Wells	01454 218549
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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

***“If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile”
(1 Cor 15:17)***

Futile, really?? Not for the first time, we might ask if the apostle Paul really meant to be quite so direct or harsh! He had a reputation for being fairly strident, after all (but was also well and dearly loved). Paul, what about all the good things that are done in faith? What about the great experience of worship and refreshment that faith gives? What about that amazing gift of the Spirit at Pentecost we soon faithfully celebrate again? “Futile” says Paul, if Christ was not actually raised from the dead!

Quite a lot, then, (understatement) rests on the reality of Easter. Paul goes on to say that if we think this world is all there is, and we only have hope for this life, then the church is “to be pitied” more than anyone. We’d be pretending we have expectation but would be living a delusion. We might be content enough carrying on as we are but would be indulging in fantasy. We might even be forgiven for all our wrongdoings, but if Christ was still dead we’d not have the assurance that the full price had been paid.

This Easter, however, we can again take the opportunity to remind ourselves how Christ’s death and resurrection are clearly witnessed historical events with real spiritual power.

We’ll be hearing again the several eyewitness accounts of what happened at the first Easter in Jerusalem. We’ll have performed on Good Friday Stainer’s moving musical presentation of the Crucifixion, using those testimonies. We can see how those Bible narratives are coherent, credible and consistent with what Jesus himself said. Then we’ll gather to remember the day Death was proved ineffective against the personified Goodness of God. We’ll be joining with fellow believers throughout the globe adding their and our own testimony to this God who lives in us.

Since everything hinges on this reality of Christ’s resurrection, we can be committed to sharing the reason for the season!

Andrew Gammie for the Ministry Team

FROM THE BENEFICE REGISTERS

Weddings: There were none in March

Baptisms: *Eloise LeMasonry* on 1 March

Funerals: *Carol Gray* on 16 March at St Mary's Marshfield

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 14 April in the Chapel.

Good Friday 3 April: 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.

Sunday Services and Events for All Ages

Breakfast Church Sunday 19 April, 08.30 - 09.15am, a time that works well for those going off to sports or going out for the day. Come and enjoy a 'thought for the day', a Bible reading, activity and songs, accompanied by good coffee, pains au chocolat and bacon rolls to fuel you for the activities ahead!

Easter in our Benefice:

2 April **Maundy Thursday:**

7pm Communion Service Marshfield

3 April **Good Friday:**

10.30am Devotions, West Littleton

2.00pm The Last Hour, Marshfield. One hour of meditation on the events of Good Friday. Music, readings and space for quiet prayer.

7.30pm Stainer's Crucifixion, Marshfield

5 April **Easter Sunday:**

9.00am Easter Communion, West Littleton (BCP)

10.30am Easter Communion, Marshfield

People from across the Benefice will be warmly welcomed to whichever service they'd like to attend.

Notices

Marshfield Mini Larder The mini larder in the porch of St Mary's Church is still being used regularly. Donations are most welcome.

Thursday 23 April – Raffle Prize Draw Marshfield Church Hall launched their Spring Raffle at the Open Day in March to support the continued refurbishment of the hall. There is a huge variety of generous Raffle donations from local companies and individuals and prizes will be drawn on Thursday 23rd April in the Catherine Wheel at 7pm.

'MAKE DO DAY' Saturday 25 April - Marshfield Community Centre

Once we were all so thrifty. These days it's hard not to be a part of our crazy, consumer-driven throwaway world; handy in many ways, but so wasteful and bad for the environment.

'*Make Do Day*' will be a fun chance as a community to share ideas about more sustainable living. Look out for more details on posters and Facebook and do come along!

The Michael Pullin fund

Since the death of Michael Pullin, some 6 years ago, his fund has helped many people in the village - set up in his name with the money he bequeathed and added to by other benefactors.

Over £10,000 has been distributed for many reasons including fuel payments, household expenses, school bus fares, school uniform, child bereavement counselling, funeral expenses and latterly small grants to the new occupants of Wheatfield Barns.

The fund is now closed, having distributed all the money, but we will always remember Michael, the tall, slightly bent figure walking down the High Street every morning to open up St Mary's. He was quiet and gentle, and always ready to help anyone in need. I think he would be pleased to know how much good his money has done.

Sustainable Floristry General Synod has backed a motion encouraging churches to adopt sustainable practices for church flowers. The motion, brought forward by a parish in the Diocese of Worcester demonstrates how grassroots initiatives can influence national church conversations.

Sustainable church flowers aim to be:

Seasonal and locally sourced; foam-free and biodegradable; grown without harmful pesticides; packaged without unnecessary plastic

This is a simple approach we can all adopt in all our churches and at home.

Benefice Prayer Diary April 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: 1-5 April. Please pray during **Holy Week** for:

- All that the Lord has given you, his crucifixion and his Resurrection on Easter Day. Praise the Lord for his Creation and his care for you.
- The parish of Tormarton its PCC, and churchwardens.
- All those suffering ill health and those in need.
- Pray for the dear departed.
- The Royal Family and all those in positions of Authority in our nation.

Week 2: 6-12 April. Please pray for:

- The people of all warring nations; may they see an end to conflict especially in the Middle East and Ukraine
- The parish of West Littleton, its PCC, and churchwardens.

Week 3: 13-19 April. Please pray for:

- The parish of Cold Ashton, its PCC and churchwarden.
- The Lord's Creation; help us to look after our natural world for the common good and for future generations.
- Our School, its children, staff and parents
- The Parish of Marshfield, its PCC and Churchwardens.

Week 4 and part 5: 20-30 April. Please pray for:

- The Benefice Ministry Team - Rev Sharon, Aurea, Andrew, Mike and Molly and their ministry to us.
- Pastor David Spence at the Chapel and his congregation
- Our Mission partner, the Rocks family in Brazil

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 April 2026

Thursday 2 April *Maundy Thursday*

7.00pm Taize Communion Marshfield

Friday 3 April *Good Friday*

10.30am	Devotions	West Littleton	Aurea Hart
2.00pm	The Last Hour	Marshfield	Andrew Gammie
7.30pm	The Crucifixion	Marshfield	

Sunday 5 April *Easter Sunday*

9.00am	Easter Communion	West Littleton	Sharon Roberts
10.30am	Easter Communion	Marshfield	Sharon Roberts

Sunday 12 April *Easter 2*

10.30am	Benefice Communion	Marshfield	Pat Freeth
6.00pm	Evening Worship	Joint Service at The Chapel	

Sunday 19 April *Easter 3*

8.30am	Breakfast Church	Marshfield	Andrew Gammie
9.00am	Holy Communion	Tormarton	Sharon Roberts
10.30am	Morning Worship	Marshfield	Molly Williams/Aurea Hart
6.00pm	Holy Communion	Marshfield	Sharon Roberts
6.00pm	Evening Praise	Cold Ashton	Andrew Gammie

Sunday 26 April *Easter 4*

9.00am	Holy Communion	West Littleton	Sharon Roberts
10.30am	Family Communion	Marshfield	Sharon Roberts
6.00pm	Evensong	Marshfield	Congregation

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

Chapel Programme April 2026

Fri 03	10.30am	GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE
Sun 05	10.30am	EASTER DAY SERVICE at St Mary's
Sun 12	10.30am	Trevor Ranger (Luke 24:13-35)
	6.00pm	Peter Foster (Luke 24:36-49)
Sun 19	10.30am	Café Church with Open Doors
	6.00pm	David Spence* (John 20: 24-31)
Sun 26	10.30am	Geoff Floyd (John 21: 1-25)
	6.00pm	Rev Jason Lee (1 Cor 13)
<i>(*Communion services – the offerings will go to Tear Fund)</i>		
Tue 14	10.00am	Village Communion at St Mary's
Sat 25	10.30 -12	Morning Coffee at Chapel

ST MARY'S MARSHFIELD

John Stainer

THE

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CIFIX

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MUSIC FOR GOOD FRIDAY
A CHORAL TELLING OF THE
EASTER STORY
3RD APRIL 7.30PM

