



Cotswold Edge

August 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	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	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

Recruiting Our New Vicar

You will be pleased to hear that we can now move forward with recruiting our new vicar and are finalising the recruitment pack. An important part of the pack is a document called '*Christ's Call*', written by the ministry team with the support of all the church wardens.

In preparing it, we have thought and prayed about who God is calling us to be and what he is calling us to do in our benefice. This 'vision' will also play a key role in the recruitment process as we seek someone who shares these priorities and will work alongside us in them. Now that it is finalised, we felt it was important to share it with you.

Please continue to pray for those involved in the recruitment process and also that God will be prompting candidates to consider applying to be our new vicar.

Revd Sharon.

Christ's Call To Us

As a benefice we are united in our desire to share God's love by enabling the whole community to encounter the presence of Christ through all we are and do.

We aim to be a trusted witness to the teaching and truth of Jesus in our communities by:

- *Providing a variety of opportunities for worship and learning that are accessible and attractive to villagers and visitors of all backgrounds, ages, stages and walks of life and that enable them to become followers of Jesus.*
- *Growing our witness to our younger generations including through continued work with our Church of England Primary School, and other pre-school provision and by planning for the next stage of development for our Breakfast Church.*
- *Growing in our knowledge and love of God.*
- *Serving our communities in Christ's name as an expression of God's love.*

We hope to do this rooted in the way we:

- *Welcome and value everyone*
- *Encourage creativity and support each other to use our God-given gifts*

- *Work together as the Body of Christ in our benefice sustained by worship, prayer and Christian teaching*
- *Care for our environment*
- *Share our resources generously*

In addition to these benefice-wide priorities, each of our churches continues to their own context-specific initiatives which are described later in this profile.

In all of this we recognise that we are at the beginning of the next stage of our journey. We pray that the person God is calling to lead us will accompany us in developing and embedding our vision, in helping us to work together the variety of our traditions, gifts and resources so that all might meet Christ through what we do.

You will also be interested in reading more about the context/church-specific initiatives too. We will need to work with our new incumbent to discern which of these to take forward first but ideas on these initiatives include:

In Marshfield:

- *To maintain the strong tradition of biblical teaching, enabling new and long-term believers to grow in their faith*
- *To plan for the next stage of Breakfast Church with a focus on what happens when children are too old for this service.*
- *To continue to build on the ministry of music whereby very large numbers of people come to sing and listen to high quality music at main Christian Festivals.*
- *To enable more people to engage in small groups to share and grow together and to also increase our confidence about talking about our faith with others.*
- *To restart School Holiday club after a one-year break in 2026.*
- *To continue our Eco journey and to support other churches in this work across the diocese.*
- *To continue to serve the elderly population with the lunch-club and also be a listening and caring presence for lone elderly residents in the village.*
- *To ensure that we reach out to all our residents, both existing and new, including the new housing association development.*
- *To continue to work in partnership with our fellow Christians at Marshfield Chapel.*

In Tormarton:

- *To build strong links with Little Minds Nursery in a what that encourages parents and young children to engage with the church.*
- *To continue to develop the building so that it can be a focus for community events (e.g. providing toilet facilities).*
- *To share Christ's presence in the village and continue to sustain our church building for future generations*
- *Appeal to villagers of all ages.*

In Cold Ashton:

- *To enable the whole community to worship together in high-quality Christian festival events (e.g. Christmas, Easter, Patronal, Harvest/Pets).*
- *To share Christ's presence in the village and with visiting walkers and continue to sustain our church building for future generations.*
- *To install running water and a toilet to enable better community use.*

In West Littleton:

- *To be a focus for Book of Common Prayer services in our Benefice.*
 - *To continue to provide two community focused fundraising events each year: the Madrigal Concert and Open Gardens event - enabling the local community to visit and worship in the church.*
 - *To share Christ's presence in the village by sustaining our church building for future generations.*
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FROM THE BENEFICE REGISTERS

Funerals: interment of ashes for *Janet and Russell George* in St James West Littleton on 13 July

Baptisms: There were no Baptisms in July

Weddings: *Ed Smith and Fungisai Chavunduka* were married in St Mary's Marshfield on 25 July

Breakfast Church There is no Breakfast Church in August as we take a break for the summer holidays. We look forward to being back in September

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 11th August at the Chapel.

Coffee mornings are held at Cold Ashton on Thursday mornings in the Village Hall and in Tormarton on Mondays at The Compass Inn from 10.30am. You are welcome to join from all four parishes.

Dates for September and October

Ride and Stride Saturday 12 September for Gloucester Historic Churches Trust. As we've done in previous years, we will be supporting this event with our churches open to welcome those being sponsored.

The idea is to visit as many churches as you can by walking, cycling or horse riding to raise funds for the Trust which then makes grants to our benefice churches when we need them! Would anyone like to join in? Please see the poster included in this issue for more details.

Harvest services for the Benefice

Our Harvest services are planned as follows:

Sunday 4 October - St Mary's Marshfield, followed by Harvest lunch

Sunday 4 October - St Mary Magdalene Tormarton, followed by Harvest lunch

Sunday 11 October - St James West Littleton. Followed by lunch.

Sunday 11 October - Holy Trinity Cold Ashton 6pm with Supper on Friday 23 October.

Marshfield Church Fete: 11 July

A massive Thank You to everyone who attended, supported or helped at our church fete. It was a beautiful, if hot afternoon and teas and inside the church and ice creams were very much appreciated! We raised around £1600 for church funds in the beautiful churchyard.

Marshfield Mini Larder and Hardship Fund

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

Benefice Prayer Diary August 2026

Marshfield with Cold Ashton and Tormarton with West Littleton

A Benefice Prayer

Lord, let us not labour for you in vain. Teach us to pray, deepen our fellowship, enable our ministry, strengthen our benefice, and nurture our children. That, united in Christ, we might indeed become a holy temple in which you dwell by your Spirit. Amen

Week 1: 1- 9 August: During the week, please pray:

- *For the parishes of Marshfield and Tormarton its PCC's, and churchwardens.*
- *For David at the chapel and his congregation*

Week 2: 10 - 16 August: During the week, please pray:

- *For the parish of West Littleton, its PCC, and churchwardens*
- *For the community of which you are a part.*
- *Pray also for our School in Marshfield, it's staff, parents and Governors.*
- *For our environment and the beauty of God's Creation*

Week 3: 17 - 23 August: During the week, please pray :

- *For the people of Cold Ashton, its PCC and churchwarden*
- *For Christian Aid, Tearfund, CAFOD and other Christian agencies,*
- *For peace in the World, that all people in conflict find ways to solve their differences*
- *For our Royal Family and people in Government*

Week 4: 24 - 31 August: During this week, please pray:

- *For our linked CMS mission partner the Rocks family as they continue to develop a ministry of outreach in Brazil.*
- *For the Benefice Ministry Team - Rev Sharon, Rev Jon, Aurea, Andrew, Mike and Molly and their ministry to us.*
- *For our Benefice at this time of Vacancy. Pray that a new incumbent may be installed in the near future*

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 paulbswhite@outlook.com

Benefice Services for August 2026

Sunday 2 August *Trinity 9*

9.00am	Holy Communion	Cold Ashton	Jon Hoffman
10.30am	Joint Morning Worship	Marshfield	Sharon Roberts
6.00pm	Evensong	Marshfield	Sharon Roberts

Sunday 9 August *Trinity 10*

9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Marshfield	Jon Hoffman
10.30am	Joint Morning Worship	Chapel	
10.30am	Mattins	West Littleton	Aurea Hart

Sunday 16 August *Trinity 11*

9.00am	Holy Communion	Tormarton	Sharon Roberts
10.30am	Morning Worship	Marshfield	Aurea Hart
6.00pm	Joint Communion	Marshfield	Sharon Roberts

Sunday 23 August *Trinity 12*

9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	West Littleton	Sharon Roberts
10.30am	Joint Service	Chapel	David Spence
6.00pm	Evensong	Marshfield	Congregation led

Sunday 30 August *Trinity 13*

10.30am	Joint Holy Communion	Marshfield	Sharon Roberts
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(10.30am services at St Mary's Marshfield can be joined on Zoom at marshfieldchurches.org)

Chapel Programme August 2026

Sun 02	10.30am	Joint service at St Mary's
	6.00pm	Praise and Worship
Sun 09	10.30am	Joint service at Chapel
	6.00pm	Bible study
Sun 16	10.30am	Joint service at St Mary's
	6.00pm	Pete Foster *
Sun 23	10.30am	Family service at the Chapel with Trevor Ranger
	6.00pm	Bible study
Sun 30	10.30am	Mike Strathdee
	6.00pm	Peter Misselbrook

(*Communion services – the offerings will go to Operation Mobilisation)

Tues 11	10.00am	Village Communion at Chapel
Sat 29	10.30 -12	Morning Coffee at Chapel