



Cotswold Edge

July 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
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	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	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

The Holy Spirit at work today

Do you ever think about the Christian calendar in relation to your faith journey? You might choose to start your 'year' with Advent as a four-week period of anticipation to Christmas marking both the birth of Jesus and His return some day. Later perhaps you set out on the journey of Lent - that forty-day period of reflection - before commemorating the death of Jesus and then celebrating his resurrection on Easter day.

For some, the calendar journey ends there until the next time around but of course we have the ascension of Jesus which immediately precedes Pentecost when we celebrate the birth of the early church. Pentecost took place this year on the 24th May, so what about now? I guess many of us look forward to perhaps the delights and distractions of summer holidays but what about our continuing faith journey?

I have been reflecting on this with the help of some very good bible notes and readings from an app called *YouVersion* (it's freely downloadable and I fully recommend it). At the moment I am doing a study on the Acts of the Apostles which Luke wrote to set out what happened after the resurrection. It's an exciting exploration of what the Christian writer John Stott says might have been called the Acts of the Holy Spirit because the book is not limited to the time, space and actions of one group of followers of Jesus 2000 years ago but is the first chapter of a story of what the Holy Spirit is continuing to do today. We see the early church on fire (literally, at the beginning!) full of courage and the desire to tell the good news of Jesus and carrying out acts of healing and loving generosity.

In my Acts study today, I am encouraged to ask the question 'How does the unstoppable Spirit of God advance the mission of Jesus through ordinary people like us?'. Because that is the point. The same Holy Spirit who enabled and empowered the early church is just as much at work today.

Have you stopped to think what the Spirit is or might want to do in your life? Perhaps like that early group of people we could pray for boldness to speak out God's word (Acts 4 v29) in a world desperate to hear and see the truth spoken and acted out in love. When those early Christians prayed, they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. Let's pray!

Mike Strathdee

FROM THE BENEFICE REGISTERS

Memorial Service

Rita Lees on 26 June at St Mary's Marshfield

Weddings

William Briggs and *Ellie Knights* on 20 June in St Mary's Marshfield

William Beynon and *Sarah Glew* on 27 June in St Mary's Marshfield

Duncan Fleming and *Lucy Crew* on 27 June in Holy Trinity Cold Ashton

Baptisms: There were none in June

Breakfast Church Sunday 5 and Sunday 19 July. Due to the popularity of this service, we now meet twice a month from 08.30 - 09.15am. Come and enjoy a 'thought for the day', a Bible reading, activity and songs, accompanied by proper coffee, pains au chocolat and bacon rolls to fuel you for the activities ahead!

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 July in 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.

Marshfield Church Fete: 11 July from 2pm in the beautiful churchyard. We will have plenty of stalls for all ages and lots of refreshments! Please do join us and enjoy an afternoon with friends in beautiful surroundings. There are sign-up sheets for offers of help with this in the hospitality area in church.

Supporting Ripple Effect It was a joy to welcome Ann Hatton and Melesse Berhanu from Ripple Effect to St Mary's in June. We learnt more about the charity's work empowering rural African communities to overcome poverty, build climate resilience, and achieve lasting food security.

Thanks to all who joined us for the session and to those who provided refreshments. We presented a further £350 to support their work, mainly donations from our churchyard composting efforts.



West Littleton Open Gardens This annual event enjoyed a very successful weekend which ended with a Benefice Evensong in the beautiful church of St James. Thanks to all who supported this.

Patronal Festival in Holy Trinity Cold Ashton Our 'Songs of Praise' service with hymns especially chosen by members of the congregation was a lovely way to spend a summer evening. Thank you to all who joined us for the service and to those who provided celebratory light refreshments afterwards.

Katia Rocks' visit to Marshfield At the time of going to print, Katia's visit had not yet happened. We will report on this in our August issue.

Marshfield Mini Larder

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

Update on the Vacancy

A priority in moving forward in this process is to work well together as a benefice in mission and ministry. We hope to advertise later in the summer, have a closing date in mid-September, with interviews in October for a possible start date in January 2027. This schedule is not finalised, and we look forward to updating you as soon as we are able. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please reach out to your church wardens or members of the ministry team.

Service pattern over the summer months During this time of vacancy most of our services are taken by our ministry team – all of whom are volunteers. As we have planned the service rota for June – September it is clear that there are a lot of Sundays when several of the team are away. This means that where we can, we are sometimes doubling up services that happen at the same time. If you need a lift to attend any of these, please do speak to your church warden.

Rural Festivals

We plan to hold a choral service of Holy Communion for **Lammas on Sunday 16th August** at 6pm. Please look out for further details of this.

Looking ahead to Harvest the dates are currently set as:

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| October 4 | Tormarton Harvest and Village Lunch |
| October 4 | 10.30am Morning Worship and Harvest at Marshfield |
| October 4 | 6.00pm Choral Evensong for Harvest at Marshfield |
| October 11 | 10.30am Harvest and Lunch at West Littleton |
| October 16 | Harvest Supper at Cold Ashton |
| October 18 | Harvest and Pet Service at Cold Ashton |

Further details will be available in coming issues.

Benefice Prayer Diary July 2026

Marshfield with Cold Ashton and Tormarton with West Littleton

A Benefice Prayer

Gracious God, 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 July. This week, please pray for:

- All those suffering ill health or in need in our Benefice.
- The parish of Tormarton its PCC, and churchwardens.
- The congregation at the Chapel and their Pastor David Spence.
- Our King & Queen and Royal Family

Week 2: 6-12 July. During the week, please pray for:

- The parish of West Littleton, its PCC, and churchwardens.
- For our School in Marshfield, its staff, parents and Governors.

Week 3: 13-19 July. During the week, please pray for:

- The people 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.
- The underprivileged in our country and throughout the world

Week 4: 20-26 July Please pray for:

- All nations at war and those fighting famine and natural disasters. For our Emergency Services and Armed forces
- Our linked CMS mission partner the Rocks family

Week 5: 27-2 Aug: Please pray for:

- The Benefice Ministry Team - Rev Sharon , Rev Jon, Aurea, Andrew, Mike and Molly - and their ministry to us.
- For the Parish of Marshfield, its PCC and Churchwardens at this time of Vacancy. Ask that a new incumbent be appointed 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 or paulbswhite@outlook.com)

Benefice Services for July 2026

Sunday 5 July *Trinity 5*

8.30am	Breakfast Church	Marshfield	Andrew Gammie
9.00am	Morning Worship	Cold Ashton	Aurea Hart
10.30am	Morning Worship	Tormarton	Mike Strathdee
6.00pm	Evensong	Marshfield	Aurea Hart

Sunday 12 July *Trinity 6*

9.00am	Communion	Marshfield	Sharon Roberts
10.30am	Mattins	West Littleton	Aurea Hart
10.30am	Morning Worship	Marshfield	Mike Strathdee/ Sharon Roberts

Sunday 19 July *Trinity 7*

8.30am	Breakfast Church	Marshfield	Mike Strathdee
9.00am	Communion	Tormarton	Sharon Roberts
10.30am	Morning Worship	Marshfield	Mike Strathdee
6.00pm	Evening Praise	Cold Ashton	Andrew Gammie
6.00pm	Communion	Marshfield	John Hoffmann

Sunday 26 July *Trinity 8*

9.00am	Communion	West Littleton	John Hoffmann
10.30am	Communion	Marshfield	John Hoffmann
6.00pm	Evensong	Marshfield	Congregation led
6.00pm	Evensong	West Littleton	Francis Miles

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

Chapel Programme July 2026

Sun 05	10.30am	Pete Foster * (Acts 5:1-11)
	6.00pm	Praise and Worship
Sun 12	10.30am	Joint service at St Mary's
	3.00pm	Baptism (no evening service)
Sun 19	10.30am	John McNicol (Acts 5:12-20)
	6.00pm	David Spence * (Acts 5:21-26)
Sun 26	10.30am	David Spence (Acts 5:27-32)
	6.00pm	Pete Foster (Acts 5:33-42)

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

Tues 14	10.00am	Village Communion at Chapel
Sat 25	10.30 -12	Morning Coffee at Chapel



Summer Fête

St Mary's Marshfield
Saturday 11th July
2pm-5pm

**Join us for children's activities,
stalls, music, cake & refreshments!**

