

A Season of Remembering



Cotswold Edge **November 2025**

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

Benefice Contacts

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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

A Season of Remembering

What we do in church so often follows the patterns of nature and the seasons. Last month was all about thanksgiving and fruitfulness as we had wonderful harvest celebrations in each of our churches. It was also a time to give thanks for Sally's ministry amongst us, to celebrate all the love she brought to us and then to bid both Sally and Bob farewell.

November has a different feel. As autumn turns to winter, and the once-golden leaves fall to the ground, we enter a month where we think about very different themes. First, we have All Saints' Day where we celebrate and remember God's love and grace at work in people whose lives the Church as a whole has recognised. We then move to All Souls' Day, a chance to remember those we have known personally, who gave us life and loved us. And then almost immediately we turn our minds to Remembrance Sunday. All of these days help us explore powerful themes of loss, self-gift, memory and forgetting.

To ponder all those themes as the leaves dry, brown and fall is poignant. One of the amazing thing about trees is that even as the autumn leaves fall, the buds for next year's leaves are already in place waiting for spring to come. In fact, most trees produce their buds in high summer and it is only as the leaves fall that, if we look carefully, we notice them. The trees are waiting. They have everything they need and during the winter will draw in extra moisture and nourishment, ready in the few months' time to burst into life again.

As we enter November and also a period of waiting until the appointment of a new vicar for our benefice, I am encouraged to remember that even in times of loss, God gives us what we need and has already begun to bring new life again. Acknowledging the fallen leaves is important but so too is noticing all the buds waiting to spring into life again.

November always reminds me of a wonderful poem by the German poet Rilke on the theme of autumn. He paints a picture of leaves falling in a slow and lingering descent but ends the poem with these words:

'But there is One who holds this falling Infinitely softly in His Hands.'

So, let's enter November, aware of the falling leaves but also knowing that the buds of new life are already here and that we are lovingly held in God's hands as we wait for spring to come.

Rev Sharon Roberts

FROM THE BENEFICE REGISTERS

Wedding Congratulations: *Christopher Brown and Harriet McCabe* in St Mary's Marshfield 11 Oct

Baptisms : There were no baptisms in October

Funerals: *Brian Smallwood* 16 October in St Mary's Marshfield
Jacky Player 21 October in St Mary Magdalene Tormarton

Burial of Ashes: *Ann Quinn* 23 October in Holy Trinity Cold Ashton

Benefice Events

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 11 November at St Mary's this is Remembrance Day do we need to note that?

Coffee Mornings are held weekly in Cold Ashton on Thursday mornings 10.30am in the Parish Hall. In Tormarton Coffee Time is on Mondays at the Compass Inn. You are welcome to join from all four parishes.

Breakfast Church is now twice monthly and will be running on Sundays 2nd & 16th November at 8.30am in St Mary's Songs, videos, great breakfasts and a thought for the day for all ages.

Remembrance: Every year in November, the Churches around the Benefice support the Royal British Legion (RBL), a charity providing financial and pastoral support to RBL members and veterans of the British Armed Forces, their families and dependents. It also supports others in need.

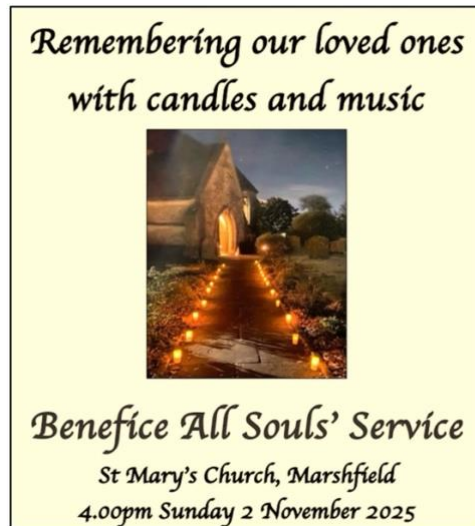
We hope you are able to give to their work, as we see the lasting impact of war in many places around the world.

The following Acts of Remembrance will take place:

- **Marshfield: gathering at 10.40am** at the War Memorial, followed by a joint church service in St Mary's with the Chapel
- **10.30am in Tormarton Church**
- **10.30am in West Littleton Church**
- **6.00pm in Cold Ashton Church.** Join us in remembering and in praying for peace in our times.

Benefice All Souls' Service will take place on 2nd November at 4pm in St Mary's Church, Marshfield. All are welcome to this annual service with choir; a gentle moment for reflection and remembering loved ones who have died, whether our loss is recent or from some years ago.

There will be the opportunity to light a candle in memory of loved ones as their names are read out. If there are names you would like added to the list please let Revd. Sally Wheeler know via marshfield.benefice@gmail.com



Advent Tree of Hope



In the dark winter months and the build-up to Christmas, it can be difficult as we miss those who are no longer with us. This year, there will again be an Advent Tree in St Mary's Church Marshfield on which the names of loved ones can be placed as a simple act of remembering. It is also a 'Tree of Hope' so prayers for specific situations can be attached, as can a 'thank you' for your answered prayers. Tags will be in the church by the tree.

Benefice Worship Leaders: on October 19 three new Benefice Worship Leaders were commissioned to help lead lay services. Andrew Gammie and Peter Brunyate had already been helping to lead services for many years, but without a recognised title, and Molly Williams was also commissioned following her recent training. They will help to lead worship alongside our Licensed Lay Ministers and Rev Sharon.

Benefice Prayer Diary November 2025

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: 1-9 November. Please pray for:-

- The parish of Tormarton its PCC, and churchwardens.
- The dear departed, at this time of "All Souls".
- All those suffering ill health and those in need.
- The Royal Family and all those in positions of Authority in our nation.
- Businesses in the Benefice and their staff.

Week 2: 10-16 November. Please pray for:-

- On Remembrance Day, we remember all those who have laid down their lives for the freedom we enjoy.
- Our Armed Forces and Military personel.
- The people of all warring nations; may they see an end to conflict
- The parish of West Littleton, its PCC, and churchwardens.

Week 3: 17-23 November. Please pray for:-

- The parish of Cold Ashton, its PCC and churchwarden.
- Acting Bishop Neil and all clergy and staff in the Diocese
- 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: 24-30 November. Please pray for:

- The Benefice Ministry Team - Rev Sharon, Andrew Gammie, Aurea Hart and Mike Strathdee, and their ministry to us.
- Pastor David Spence at the Chapel and his congregation
- Our Mission partner, Katia Rocks and 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, contact Paul White, 138 High Street, Marshfield 0789 4429811 paulbswhite@outlook.com

Benefice Services for November 2025

Sunday 2 Nov *All Saints/Souls*

8.30am	Breakfast Church	St Mary's Marshfield	Andrew Gammie
9.00am	Holy Communion	Holy Trinity Cold Ashton	Rev S Roberts
10.30am	Morning Worship	St Mary's Marshfield	Rev S Roberts
4.00pm	All Souls	St Mary's Marshfield	Aurea Hart

Sunday 9 Nov *3rd before Advent*

9.00am	Holy Communion	St Mary's Marshfield	Rev S Roberts
10.30am	Remembrance Service	St Mary's Tormarton	Mike Strathdee
10.55am	Remembrance Service	St Mary's Marshfield	Rev S Roberts
6.00pm	Remembrance Service	Holy Trinity Cold Ashton	Rev S Roberts

Sunday 16 Nov *2nd before Advent*

8.30am	Breakfast Church	St Mary's Marshfield	Mike Strathdee
9.00am	Holy Communion	St Mary's Tormarton	Rev S Roberts
10.30am	Morning Worship	St Mary's Marshfield	Rev S Roberts
6:00pm	BCP Communion	St Mary's Marshfield	Rev S Roberts

Sunday 23 Nov *Christ the King*

9.00am	Holy Communion	St James's West Littleton	Rev B Stevens
10.30am	Holy Communion	St Mary's Marshfield	Rev B Stevens
6:00pm	Evensong	St Mary's Marshfield	Congregation

Sunday 30 Nov *Advent*

10.30am	Benefice Communion	St Mary's Marshfield	Rev S Roberts
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(10.30am services at St Mary's Marshfield can be joined on Zoom at marshfieldchurch.org)

Chapel Programme November 2025

Sun 02	10.30am	James Alsop* (<i>John 6:41-51</i>)
	6.00pm	Andrew Gammie (<i>Isaiah 40:28-31</i>)
Sun 09	10.30am	Remembrance Sunday at St Mary's
	6.00pm	Richard Shreeve (<i>Holy Habits</i>)
Sun 16	10.30am	Jim Davis (<i>John 7:1-24</i>)
	6.00pm	David Spence* (<i>Isaiah 43:1-5</i>)
Sun 23	10.30am	Trevor Ranger (<i>John 7:25 - 44</i>)
	6.00pm	Pete Foster (<i>Isaiah 43:18-21</i>)
Sun 30	10.30am	John Schofield (<i>Advent theme</i>)
	6.00pm	David Spence

(*Communion service offerings will go to Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF))

Tues 11 10.00am **Village Communion at St Mary's**

Sat 29 10.30-12 **Morning Coffee at Chapel**

Goodbye and thank you!

A Celebration of shared village life

'Goodbye' – actually comes from the expression 'God be with ye' and as I leave my role as Vicar of Marshfield Benefice it seems a fitting message to each of you.

I arrived in October 2012, so what does 13 years of shared ministry look like in our Benefice? Number wise - we've had 139 weddings and wedding blessings, 131 baptisms, 225 funerals, around 120 school assemblies, 12 school leavers services, with those first year 6 pupils now 24 yrs old; 140 seniors' lunches in the company of some fabulous characters...a global pandemic with the shock of lives turned upside down but also extraordinary resilience and creativity shown in our communities helping us all through and the emergence of Zoom and Microsoft Teams as part of our everyday lives (argh!) ...104 Christmas services, 60 church and school Easter celebrations where we have joyfully declared – 'Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed, Hallelujah!'; 44 harvest suppers or lunches, 10 Plough lunches, 3 DAC awards for two of our churches, an Eco Silver award for sustainability and 12 toilets twinned around Marshfield, 12 Candlemass celebrations, 2 Royal Jubilees, the death of a much-loved Queen and the Coronation of a new King; 24 Remembrance services, the 100th anniversary of the end of WW1, the 70th, 75th and 80th Anniversaries of D Day and VE Day, the honouring of two Veterans, Tom Hall and Bill Billet, with the Légion d'honneur for their role on the Normandy beaches...Then there's open gardens, choral music fitting for cathedrals, madrigals, the town band playing at fetes, and choirs of 70 gathered for festivals with Good Friday taking us into the beauty and mystery of God's love in Christ – plus the ordinary everyday encounters with parishioners whether in church, school, hall, or community centre, in the local pubs, café, shops, or just out walking...

We have travelled through a lot together and I have been wonderfully supported by Bob, our hardworking churchwardens and our faithful ministry team, including 3 curates along the way!

There is too much to recall and too many of you to acknowledge, but I give thanks for all - the tough bits, the fun bits, and the divine presence threaded throughout.



Thank you for the relationships I have enjoyed with you whether you count yourself a church member or not - I hope you have seen something of God's love in me, and I pray: 'God be with you' – Goodbye, ***Sally x***