



# Cotswold Edge

## December 2025

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](mailto:s.roberts5454@outlook.com)

**Parish Administrator:** Rachel O'Mahony: Monday and Thursday mornings  
Email: [marshfield.benefice@gmail.com](mailto:marshfield.benefice@gmail.com)

<b>Lay Ministers</b>	Aurea Hart (LLM)	01225 891453
	Mike Strathdee (LLM)	01225 891001
	Andrew Gammie	01225 892392
<b>Safeguarding Officer</b>	Linda Lamb	<a href="mailto:llsafeguarding@gmail.com">llsafeguarding@gmail.com</a>

### **St Mary the Virgin Church, Marshfield**

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

### **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

<b>Marshfield Chapel</b>	David Spence	01225 891115
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<b>Cotswold Edge Items:</b>	Peter Woodward	07973 157587
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<b>Tormarton Newsletter:</b>	Janet Wells	01454 218549
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**Benefice website** [www.marshfieldchurch.org](http://www.marshfieldchurch.org)

*To put items on website please contact Richard Shreeve* 01225 891169

Tormarton [www.tormarton.org](http://www.tormarton.org) West Littleton [www.stjamesmonuments.org](http://www.stjamesmonuments.org)

Bristol Diocese [www.bristol.anglican.org/](http://www.bristol.anglican.org/)

Church of England [www.churchofengland.org](http://www.churchofengland.org)

For information on Christian Faith: [www.christianity.org.uk](http://www.christianity.org.uk)

## Cotswold Edge Ministry Team Letter

# ***Are you ready?***

*"If I'd known you were coming, I would have got the room ready!"*

Ever had a surprise guest, particularly one who needed feeding or housing? It can be a little awkward – you want to welcome them of course, but your face shows the frantic processes in your mind of things that now need sorting. It's much easier when we know what to expect, when the guest is coming and line up the tasks in advance.

Advent is a time of expecting a Guest. This period is for waiting or preparing – for two things. The obvious one is Christmas, as we count the four weeks (in old times it was six!) up to the celebration of Christ's first coming. The second advent is that time when Christ will return. His other promises have proved reliable, so we can confidently expect this to happen in his good time. We are called to spend these Advent weeks in particular looking forward to that.

Some of the Bible passages that refer to his return use the word applied to a visiting dignitary or a Caesar. The townsfolk would go out to meet them on the road, and escort them back into the city with appropriate fanfare. Thus when Christ returns, he won't whisk us away to leave earth behind (as some popular TV series have mistakenly portrayed it), but he'll come to earth to reign here and renew it completely.

If that's what we can expect, how might we prepare? What tasks have we got that will make a welcome for this returning King? It means that creation care makes sense, working for good is worthwhile, bringing heaven to earth becomes a valid goal – known elsewhere as 'Your Kingdom come'. If even our most mundane service is making this world draw closer to God in Jesus, then we are doing Advent properly.

John Wesley was reportedly asked if he knew that Christ was coming tomorrow, what would he do. He said he would carry on doing what he had already planned to do – he was that confident he was preparing properly!

**Andrew Gammie**

## FROM THE BENEFICE REGISTERS

### **Wedding Congratulations:**

*Jake Whale-Keeling & Jasmine White* 15 November, St Mary's Marshfield

**Baptisms:** There were no baptisms in November

### **Funerals:**

*Raymond Whale* on 14 November in St Mary's Marshfield

*Angela Lovell* on 20 November in Holy Trinity Cold Ashton

## **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 9<sup>th</sup> December in the Chapel

**Breakfast Church** – First Sunday in December on the 7<sup>th</sup>: 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 **8.30am-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! Due to Christmas celebrations this month there will be one Breakfast Church rather than the usual two.

**Advent Choral Celebration** Sunday 7 December at 6pm in Marshfield Church: celebrating 'Light Shining in the Darkness'. Come and join from across the Benefice to celebrate the start of Advent 2025 and worship together with beautiful choral music as part of the service.

**Holy Habits Sermon Series on second Sundays in St Mary's Marshfield, this month on 14 December.**

Holy Habits are about following Jesus today. Inspired by Luke's model of church found in Acts 2:42-47, we are looking at ten habits that encourage a spiritual way of life and can resource us to live well as individuals and together. We explore a different holy habit each month: in December we will be looking at The Gladness and Generosity Habit.

**Gift Services** take place on Sunday 7 December in Marshfield, Cold Ashton & Tormarton Churches and on 14 December in West Littleton.

The Sisters of the Church in Bristol welcome our gifts to help those struggling at this time of year: Gifts please, of new toiletries for men and women, or warm accessories - scarves, gloves, hats; or money

towards Christmas food and £15 Argos Vouchers for parents to buy a gift for their child. Please bring your gifts to church at any of the services on these Sundays. Thank you.

**Advent Tree of Hope** In 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 your 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. The church is open daily.



**Charities we are supporting this Christmas in the Benefice:**

- 7 Dec At our Gift Day services: The Sisters of the Church
- 21 Dec Marshfield Carol Service: CAP (Christians Against Poverty)
- 24 Dec Christmas Eve Christingle: The Children's Society

**Marshfield Christmas Services Information**

The Christmas card with services for Marshfield Church and Chapel will be delivered in Marshfield and be available to pick up in the other Benefice churches. Local church notice boards will also show what is on with reminders through the village WhatsApp groups for Cold Ashton and Tormarton.

**The School Christmas Carol Service** will take place on Tuesday December 16 at 1.30pm in St Mary's, Marshfield.

**Benefice Christmas Carol Services**

Cold Ashton	Sunday 14 Dec at 6pm
Tormarton	Sunday 21 Dec at 5.00pm
West Littleton	Sunday 21 Dec at 6.00pm
Marshfield	Sunday 21 Dec at 7.30pm



**Christmas Eve Benefice services at St Mary's Marshfield**

5.00pm	Christingle Service
11.30pm	Midnight Communion

**Christmas Day**

There will be a service in each of our churches on Christmas Day. See page 7 for details.

# Benefice Prayer Diary December 2025

*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 1-7 December: During the week, please pray:-**

- For the parishes of Marshfield and Tormarton its PCC's, and churchwardens. For other Christians in our communities who worship elsewhere. Pray for our environment and the Natural world

### **Week 8-14 December: During the week, please pray:-**

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

### **Week 15-21 December: During the week, please pray :-**

- For the people of Cold Ashton, its PCC and churchwardens.
- For the work of "chaplains" – in the Services, in hospitals and prisons.
- For Christian Aid, Tearfund, CAFOD and other Christian agencies,
- for their part in the fight against global poverty, injustice and disease

### **Week 22-28 December: During CHRISTMAS week please pray:-**

- Especially for peace in the World, that all people in conflict find ways to solve their differences. We pray that leaders of all nations at war (and we think especially of Russia, Ukraine, Israel, Gaza and Sudan), follow the path of peace and reconciliation.

### **Week 29-31 December: During this week please pray for:**

- Our linked CMS mission partner Katia Rocks and her family . For the Benefice Ministry Team - Rev Sharon Roberts, Andrew Gammie, Aurea Hart, Mike Strathdee and David Spence at the chapel - for their ministry to us

*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](mailto:paulbswhite@outlook.com)*

## Benefice Services for December 2025

### Sunday 7 Dec Advent 2

8.30am	Breakfast Church	<b>St Mary's Marshfield</b>	Molly Williams
9.00am	Holy Communion	<b>Holy Trinity Cold Ashton</b>	Rev S Roberts
10.30am	Morning Worship	<b>St Mary's Marshfield</b>	Mike Strathdee
10.30am	Holy Communion	<b>St Mary's Tormarton</b>	Rev S Roberts
6.00pm	Advent Choral Service	<b>St Mary's Marshfield</b>	Rev S Roberts

### Sunday 14 Dec Advent 3

9.00am	Holy Communion	<b>St Mary's Marshfield</b>	Rev S Roberts
10.30am	Mattins	<b>St James's West Littleton</b>	Aurea Hart
10.30am	Morning Worship	<b>St Mary's Marshfield</b>	Andrew Gammie
6.00pm	Carol Service	<b>Holy Trinity Cold Ashton</b>	Rev S Roberts

### Sunday 21 Dec Advent 4

10.30am	Holy Communion	<b>St Mary's Marshfield</b>	Rev Adam Beaumont
5.00pm	Carol Service	<b>St Mary's Tormarton</b>	Rev S Roberts
6.00pm	Carol Service	<b>St James's West Littleton</b>	Rev F Miles
7.30pm	Carol Service	<b>St Mary's Marshfield</b>	Rev S Roberts

### Wednesday 24 Dec Christmas Eve

5.00pm	Christingle	<b>St Mary's Marshfield</b>	Andrew Gammie
11.30pm	Midnight Holy Communion	<b>St Mary's Marshfield</b>	Rev S Roberts

### Thursday 25 Dec Christmas Day

9.00am	Holy Communion	<b>St James's West Littleton</b>	Rev F Miles
9.00am	Holy Communion	<b>Holy Trinity Cold Ashton</b>	Rev S Roberts
10.30am	Christmas Celebration	<b>St Mary's Marshfield</b>	Andrew Gammie
10.30am	Holy Communion	<b>St Mary's Tormarton</b>	Rev S Roberts

### Sunday 28 Dec 1st after Christmas

10.30am	Benefice Family Communion	<b>St Mary's Marshfield</b>	Rev S Roberts
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(10.30am services at St Mary's Marshfield can be joined on Zoom at [marshfieldchurch.org](https://marshfieldchurch.org))

## Chapel Programme December 2025

<b>Sun 07</b>	10.30am	<b>Gift service at St Mary's</b>
	6.00pm	<b>Trevor Brain</b> ( <i>Christmas theme</i> )
<b>Sun 14</b>	10.30am	<b>Mike Strathdee</b> ( <i>Christmas theme</i> )
	6.00pm	<b>Candlelit Carols at Chapel</b>
		followed by mulled wine and mince pies
<b>Sun 21</b>	10.30am	<b>Pete Foster</b> ( <i>Christmas theme</i> )
		no evening service 7.30pm Carols at St Marys
<b>Thur 25</b>	10.30am	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE at Chapel</b>
<b>Sun 28</b>	10.30am	<b>David Spence</b> (New Year message)
		no evening service

(\*Communion services – the offerings will go to Mission Aviation Fellowship)

**Tues 09** 10.00am **Village Communion at Chapel**

**Sat 27** 10.30 -12 **Morning Coffee at Chapel**



*A CHRISTMAS MUSICAL EVENING*  
*Marshfield Male Voice Choir*  
 With guest flautist, Nicky Russell

*Saturday 6th December 2025, 7.30 pm,*  
*at St Mary Magdalene Church, Tormarton GL9 1HT*

*Join us for a Musical Celebration!*

DOORS OPEN AT 7.00 PM.

FESTIVE DRINKS & NIBBLES AVAILABLE  
 BEFORE AND DURING THE INTERVAL

Entrance is **FREE** with a retiring collection.

PROCEEDS FOR MAJOR CHURCH REPAIRS

CONTACT US AT: [info@mmvc.com](mailto:info@mmvc.com) OR CALL 07519 488640



## Light shining in the darkness



**6pm Sunday 7th December 2025**  
**St Mary's Church, Marshfield**


A special service for all our  
 community, as we journey  
 through the Advent Season

Includes full choir, traditional Advent carols and refreshments

**ST MARY'S MARSHFIELD**  
**CAROLS**  
**BY CANDLELIGHT**

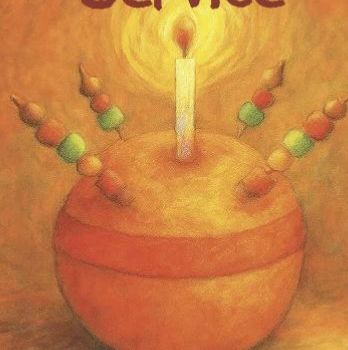
JOIN US IN CHURCH  
 FOR A TRADITIONAL  
**CAROL SERVICE**  
 WITH CHOIR

**SUNDAY 21st**  
**DECEMBER**  
**7.30pm**



**FOLLOWED BY MULLED WINE AND MINCE PIES**

St Mary's Marshfield  
**Christingle**  
**Service**



**Wednesday 24th December 5pm**

An opportunity for families to celebrate the  
 wonder of the Christmas story on Christmas Eve  
 Singing led by the children's choir  
 and instrumentalists