



Cotswold Edge

January 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

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
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

New beginnings....

Here we are in a new year - can it possibly be 2026 already? I must say I'm not sorry to be saying goodbye to 2025. It's been a pretty grim year personally, nationally and internationally. Having had a diagnosis of breast cancer near the beginning of 2025, I'm delighted to report that after an operation and radiotherapy I'm told that I am cured, and I praise God for being with me through all that. Nothing is impossible with God and I am prepared to face the New Year with optimism and hope.



The New Year is always a time for new beginnings and the snowdrops are such a lovely symbol of this. I have always loved the subtle colouring of the snowdrop with the green markings on their white inner petals. I love their humility as their heads droop as though they did not dare to lift them to face the sun; also I admire their resilience in facing the cold winter frosts and even snow. They push up through the cold soil in the coldest month of the year, drawn to the surface by whatever sunshine we are blessed with and in some places carpeting large areas of gardens and woodlands with drifts of white and green. Snowdrops are said to symbolize hope, renewal, purity, new beginnings and rebirth, marking winter's end and spring's arrival, all things that help us to face the challenges of the New Year.

I hope and pray that we can face 2026 with a spirit of humility and resilience, welcoming the opportunity for new beginnings, especially as we embark on the process of finding a new vicar for our benefice. Let us pray with hope that the coming months will bring the miracle of peace to our world and that our nation will be a place where biblical principles are seen to be guiding us and those who are the decision makers in our government.

I wish you all a happy and blessed New Year.

Aurea Hart

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

FROM THE BENEFICE REGISTERS

Wedding & Baptisms: There were none in December

Funerals: *Roger Bartlett*, 1 Dec at St Mary's Marshfield

Thank you for your Christmas generosity from Rev Sharon and the Ministry Team

- To those who cleaned and decorated the Benefice churches for Christmas and also prepared candles for candlelit services. All our churches looked beautiful.
- To the Advent and Christmas choirs and musicians and their directors, for the time put in for rehearsing and providing beautiful music for us all to enjoy
- To those who prepared and served seasonal refreshments
- To those who gave so generously to support our Christmas Charities – the Sisters of the Church in Bristol, CAP and the Children's Society

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 13 January in the Chapel

Breakfast Church – now held twice a month and will take place on January 4 and 18: 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!

Plough Sunday 11 January 2025 at St Mary's Marshfield



This is the first of four services in the church year which celebrate events in the agricultural year and link with our rural heritage. Please note that our church service in Marshfield will begin at 11.30am on that day and will be followed by shared hot meal together.

There will be 'sign-up sheets for offers of food. We will be supporting the Farming Community Network on that day which is there for the farming community when times are tough.

Candlemas Baptism Celebration Sunday 1 February

The annual celebration for all who have been baptised, however young or 'mature' you are. Come and join us for a short fun service followed by cupcakes with little candles on to remind us that the baptised are called to 'Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father'.

Flag Flying Dates in January

The St George flag will be flying on Sunday 4 January for Epiphany and Sunday 25 January to mark the conversion of St Paul.



Alpha course starting in January

Is this the time for you to reflect on life's big issues or are you just curious about what Alpha is? You might like to know that another Alpha course is starting on Wednesday 21st January. Each evening starts with a meal together.

It is the place to discuss or consider the big questions you may have never got round to asking. It is for people from every background, meeting for a meal, a video and a discussion. It is a Christian course but not a Bible basher! You are encouraged to say or think exactly what you want. It is aimed both at people who don't go to church and those who do but would like to find out more about who Jesus was (and is!).

Call Mike or Celia on 01225 891001 or drop us an email on strathdees@outlook.com. This year the course will also have input from two new leaders – Marc and Hannah White.

Eco Church – actions together and at home

Our Benefice churches continue highlighting the importance of our Christian stewardship of creation through prayer, worship and the practical management of our buildings and churchyards.

We can all further reduce our environmental impact, save money and live more comfortably by making our homes more energy-efficient.

CATSA (Climate Action Thornbury and Surrounding Areas) is offering a free six-part online webinar series in 2026 to help you unlock your home's potential with expert-led guidance.

Webinar schedule (6.30pm to 7.15pm on Zoom):

- 6 January - Understanding Your Home's Potential: An Introduction
- 20 January - Quick Wins: Low-Cost Ways to an Efficient Home
- 3 February - Insulation and Ventilation: The Twin Pillars of Comfort
- 17 February - Solar Power: Is Your Home a Good Fit?
- 3 March - Heat Pumps: The Future of Home Heating
- 17 March - Panel discussion with trades professionals

For more information use this link: [Sustainable Home series](#) or contact Peter Woodward: peterwoodward@questnet.co.uk

Benefice Prayer Diary January 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 - 4 January Please pray for:

- For a peaceful and happy New Year
- The parish of Tormarton its PCC, and churchwardens.
- The dear departed and all those suffering ill health and those in need.

Week 2: 5 -11 January: Please pray for:

- Our police force and the Military, who keep us safe at all times.
- The people of all warring nations; may they see an end to conflict
- The parish of West Littleton, its PCC, and churchwardens.
- Our School, its children, staff and parents, as they return from holiday

Week 3: 12 - 18 January: Please pray for:

- The parish of Cold Ashton, its PCC and churchwarden.
- The Parish of Marshfield, its PCC and Churchwardens.
- The Royal Family and all those in positions of authority in our nation.

Week 4: 19 - 25 January: Please pray for:

- The Benefice Ministry Team - Rev Sharon, Aurea, Andrew, and Mike, and their ministry to us, Pastor David Spence and Janet at the Chapel. Pray for all they do to minister to us all.
- Pray for our Mission partner, Katia Rocks and family in Brazil

Week 5: 26 - 31 January: Please pray for:

- Businesses in the Benefice and their staff.
- The Lord's Creation; help us to look after our natural world for the common good and for future generations.
- Our NHS, doctors, nurses and ancillary staff.

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 January 2026

Sunday 4 January (Epiphany)

8.30am	Breakfast Church	St Mary's Marshfield	Andrew Gammie
9.00am	Holy Communion	Holy Trinity Cold Ashton	Revd A Beaumont
10.30am	Morning Worship	St Mary's Marshfield	Mike Stradee
10.30am	Morning Worship	St Mary's Tormarton	Revd A Beaumont
6.00pm	Evensong	St Mary's Marshfield	Aurea Hart

Sunday 11 January (Epiphany 1)

9.00am	Holy Communion	St Mary's Marshfield	Revd S. Roberts
10.30am	Mattins	St James's West Littleton	Aurea Hart
11.30am	Plough Sunday	St Mary's Marshfield	Revd S. Roberts
6.00pm	Holy Habits	The Chapel	Richard Shreeve

Sunday 18 January (Epiphany 2)

8.30am	Breakfast Church	St Mary's Marshfield	Andrew and Mike
9.00am	Holy Communion	St Mary's Tormarton	Revd S. Roberts
10.30am	Morning Worship	St Mary's Marshfield	Molly and Andrew
6.00pm	Holy Communion	St Mary's Marshfield	Revd S. Roberts
6.00pm	Evening Praise	Holy Trinity Cold Ashton	Mike Strathdee

Sunday 25 January (Epiphany 3)

9.00am	Holy Communion	St James's West Littleton	Revd S. Roberts
10.30am	Holy Communion	St Mary's Marshfield	Revd S. Roberts
6.00 pm	Evensong	St Mary's Marshfield	Lay- led

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

Chapel Programme January 2026

Sun 04	10.30am	John Schofield* (New Year Message)
	6.00pm	Soup and praise*
Sun 11	11.30am	Plough Sunday at St Mary's
	6.00pm	Richard Shreeve (Holy Habits – making disciples)
Sun 18	10.30am	Andrew Stone (Luke 2: 21-40)
	6.00pm	Soup and praise *
Sun 26	10.30am	James Alsop (Luke 2:41-52)
	6.00pm	Peter Foster (1 Cor 1:1-9)

* Communion services - the offerings will go to The Ripple Effect

Tues 13 10.00am **Village Communion at the Chapel**

New Year's Resolution? Pray for and visit our four Benefice churches

