



LENT

Cotswold Edge

March 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	lisa safeguarding@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

Lent – Doing a Life Audit

By the time you read this we will be a couple of weeks into Lent. If you are anything like me, some of the good intentions I started out with will by now have been lost along the way. The biscuits I was going to give up will probably have been indulged in. The walking I intended to take up, edged out by other more apparently pressing priorities.

Perhaps a better way of approaching this time before Holy Week and Easter is to ask ourselves some big questions about our lives and talk with someone about them.... And when you begin to think about Lent in that way, it is much more important than the odd piece of chocolate. If Lent was a life audit, I wonder what questions we might think about reflecting on....

- What kind of person is God forming me into right now?
- How do I need to live now to be the person God is inviting me to be?
- What rhythms, patterns or habits would I undertake daily, weekly, and annually that would provide deep wells of refreshment for me so that I can be formed?
- What do I need to say 'Yes' to and what do I need to say 'No' to?

These big questions are ones that we can address as individuals but we can also ask similar questions about our churches in our Benefice. Over the last few weeks, the ministry team and our church wardens have been considering what Christ's Call is to us as a Benefice... who is God forming us into? How do we need to live and work together? What wells of refreshment do we find amongst us and can offer to others?

These discussions have been part of our preparation for putting the Parish Profile together and then the advert for a new vicar. The work we have done On Christ's Call is now going to Bishop's Council for approval. In March, each of our PCCs will be reflecting on this and what steps we might take to move forward whilst we await the arrival of a new vicar. The good news is that, if all goes to plan, we hope to be able to advertise by Easter This Lent, your prayers are much needed as we each individually ponder all that God call us to both as individuals and as churches together.

Rev'd Sharon Roberts

FROM THE BENEFICE REGISTERS

Wedding & Baptisms: There were none in February

Funerals: *Ian Wilkinson* on 17 February at St Mary's Marshfield
David Ockwell on 27 February at St Mary's Marshfield

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 10 March in the Chapel.

Lent Lunches are on Saturdays at 12 noon at the end of February and throughout March, alternating between Church and Chapel:



Saturday 28 Feb - Church
Saturday 7 March - Chapel
Saturday 14 March - Church
Saturday 21 March - Chapel
Saturday 28 March - Church

Donations to Christian Aid and Tearfund

Thinking about doing something different for Lent? The Diocese have created a whole series of resources to help people explore their RHYTHM OF LIFE. There are videos to watch, detailed instructions to explore Christian practices, ideas for retreats and pilgrimages, monthly online Zoom events, and signposts to other resources and communities who are living out their faith through established rhythms and patterns.

All the resources can be used on your own or with others. Go to <https://www.bristol.anglican.org/churchlife/resourcesforparishes/rhythm-of-life/> to find out more. We also hope to be advertising some Lent groups too – but are still trying to finalise these.

West Littleton Madrigals – Friday 20 March, 7.30pm

Bristol University Madrigal Ensemble will perform at St James' Church West Littleton, followed by supper at The Fine Cheese Company, Tolldown SN14 8HZ, in aid of the church. No tickets required (Retiring Collection) Supper £20 (There is no facility for card payments so please bring cash) Please advise attendance to sallyyoung106@gmail.com

Good Friday 3 April: The choir, with soloists, accompanied by the organ, will be performing Stainer's Crucifixion (with congregational

hymns included) on Good Friday at 7.30- 8.30 pm. This beautiful oratorio narrates the final days of Jesus' life.

If you would like to join the choir to sing, you are most welcome. Speak to Frances Gammie for more details. Otherwise, please do come and listen to this stunning work

Sunday Services and Events for All Ages

Breakfast Church Sunday 1 March, 08.30 - 09.15am, a time that works well for those going off to sports or going out for the day. Come and enjoy a 'thought for the day', a Bible reading, activity and songs, accompanied by good coffee, pains au chocolat and bacon rolls to fuel you for the activities ahead! Generally, we meet like this twice a month but please see directly below for details of our celebration on 15 March.

Mothering Sunday 15 March: Due to the popularity of our breakfast church services, this year we plan to combine that with our Morning Worship Mothering Sunday Celebration. Coffee and pastries will be served at 09.30am followed by our service at 10.00am for all ages which includes the distribution of posies. We welcome all families, young and old.

Looking ahead to Easter in our Benefice:

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| 29 March | Palm Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week:
10.30am Benefice Communion, Marshfield
6pm Evensong Passion Narrative, Marshfield |
| 2 April | Maundy Thursday Communion Service 7pm, Marshfield |
| 3 April | Good Friday:
10.30am Devotions, West Littleton
2pm The Last Hour, Marshfield
7.30pm Stainer's Crucifixion, Marshfield |
| 5 April | Easter Sunday:
9am Easter Communion, West Littleton (BCP)
10.30am Easter Communion, Marshfield |

People from across the Benefice will be warmly welcomed to whichever service they'd like to attend

Sisters of the Church Loaves and Fishes Project

The Sisters of the Church have requested donations of Easter Eggs for their clients. They would love to give to everyone who comes to them for help, plus the children of the families they support. Please leave donations at the back of any of our churches by Wednesday 18th March and we will arrange for them to be delivered.

Benefice Prayer Diary March 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: 1-8 March: During the week, please pray for:

- the parishes of Marshfield and Tormarton, its PCC's, and churchwardens.
- our linked CMS mission partners the Rocks family as they continue to develop a ministry of outreach in Brazil.

Week 2: 9-15 March: During the week, please pray for:

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

Week 3: 16-22 March: During the week, please pray for:

- the people of Cold Ashton, its PCC and churchwardens.
- the work of "chaplains" – in the Services, in hospitals and prisons, and in places where people work. Pray for Christian agencies, for their part in the fight against global poverty, injustice and disease

Week 4: 23-29 March: During the week please pray for:

- the Benefice Ministry Team - Rev Sharon, Aurea, Andrew, Mike and Molly, and their ministry to us.
- David at the Chapel and his congregation.

30-31 March At this, the start of Holy week, Jesus rode humbly on a donkey proclaiming peace. Pray for peace in the World, that all people in conflict find ways to solve their differences Pray also for those you know who are sick or in trouble with stressful situations

*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 March 2026

Sunday 1 March Lent 2

8.30am	Breakfast Church	Marshfield	Trevor Ranger
9.00am	Communion	Cold Ashton	Sharon Roberts
10.30am	Morning Worship	Tormarton	Mike Strathdee
10.30am	Morning Worship	Marshfield	Sharon Roberts
6.00pm	Evensong	Marshfield	Aurea Hart

Sunday 8 March Lent 3

9.00am	Communion	Marshfield	Sharon Roberts
10.30am	Mattins	West Littleton	Andrew Gammie
10.30am	Morning Worship	Marshfield	Sharon Roberts

Sunday 15 March Lent 4 & Mothering Sunday

9.00am	Communion	Tormarton	Sharon Roberts
9.30am	Pastries & Coffee	Marshfield	Breakfast Church Team
10.00am	Morning Worship	Marshfield	Breakfast Church Team
6.00pm	Evening Praise	Cold Ashton	Mike Strathdee
6.00pm	Communion	Marshfield	Sharon Roberts

Sunday 22 March Lent 5

9.00am	Communion	West Littleton	Adam Beaumont
10.30am	Communion	Marshfield	Adam Beaumont
6.00pm	Evensong	Marshfield	Andrew Gammie

Sunday 29 March Palm Sunday and start of Holy Week

10.30am	Communion	Marshfield	Sharon Robert
6.00pm	Evensong	Marshfield	Aurea Hart

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

Chapel Programme March 2026

Sun 01	10.30am	Trevor Brain* (Luke 19:1-10)
	6.00pm	Peter Foster (1 Cor 3: 16- 4:7)
Sun 8	10.30am	Café Church with Juliana Hounsfeld
	6.00pm	Andrew Gammie (1 Cor 10:1-13)
Sun 15	10.30am	MOTHERING SUNDAY at St Mary's
	6.00pm	David Spence* (1 Cor 11:17-28)
Sun 22	10.30am	John McNicol (Luke 19:11-27)
	6.00pm	John Schofield (1 Cor 12:1-11)
Sun 29	10.30am	Rev Peter Cook (Luke 19:28-44)
	6.00pm	David Neill (Matt 21: 1-11)
		<i>(* Communion services - the offerings will go to Tear Fund)</i>
Tue 10	10.00am	Village Communion at Chapel
Sat 28	10.30am	Morning Coffee at Chapel

ST MARY'S MARSHFIELD

John Stainer
THE CRUCIFIXION

MUSIC FOR GOOD FRIDAY
A CHORAL TELLING OF THE
EASTER STORY
3RD APRIL 7.30PM

