



# Cotswold Edge

## May 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](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
	Molly Williams	07882 749950
<b>Safeguarding Officer</b>	Linda Lamb	<a href="mailto:lfsafeguarding@gmail.com">lfsafeguarding@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

## ***Time to Turn?***

Being a parent to teenagers and young adults brings with it some particular anxieties. Now my children are driving, travelling, going out with friends and generally becoming independent beings, I find myself having to accept that I can't know where they are all the time. Thank goodness for the 'Find my Phone' app which I can check and see that (usually) they are where they should be and safe and sound!

This got me thinking about what it is like for God; in some respects, many of us are like teenagers, going off into the world, doing our own thing. There are so many things to distract us, enchant us, burden us... It can be quite easy to forget that we have a loving parent waiting for us, worrying about us and just wanting the very best for us.

The 'Lost' parables in Luke 15 remind us that God is like this parent and how he responds to that errant teenager in each of us! Let's take the Parable of the Lost Sheep – although the shepherd had ninety nine other sheep, the missing one was so important to him that he did not rest until he had found it. The same is true of the woman and her lost coin. And the father when his younger son returned. In each case, the reunion was joyful and the celebration exuberant!

God wants us to come back to him, so much so he is actively working to bring us back and waiting with arms open wide. These parables remind us that we are never too lost, never too broken and it's never too late to turn back towards God's boundless love. Through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, our sins are forgiven and our relationship with God restored.

This month sees the celebration of two significant events in the church calendar. On Ascension Day (14<sup>th</sup> May), we mark the end of Jesus' earthly ministry and his ascension into heaven. Although Jesus was no longer with his disciples, he did not turn his back on them and leave them bereft. He commissioned them to continue his good work and told them to await a special gift from God. This is then followed by Pentecost (24<sup>th</sup> May) when we celebrate this special gift – God's gift of the Holy Spirit, who strengthened, enabled and empowered the disciples to go out into the world with the Good News of Jesus.

Wherever you are in life, perhaps now is a good time to turn towards God, spend some time with Him and allow the Holy Spirit to strengthen and inspire you. Take comfort in knowing how loved and cherished you are.

Molly Williams

## FROM THE BENEFICE REGISTERS

**Weddings & Baptisms:** There were none in April

**Funerals:** *Douglas Gray* on 28 April 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 12 May at St Mary's

**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.

### **Friday 15 May – Spring Concert in Tormarton Church**

Please join us to hear the Stuart Singers, a mixed voice choir from Minchinhampton, with proceeds in aid of the Tormarton Church Fabric Fund. Wine and nibbles are included in the price of the ticket - £15 – and there will also be a raffle drawn on the night. Doors open at 7pm.

### **Friday 15 May – Quiz Night in aid of Three Shires Surgeries**

Please join us for a quiz night in the Lord Nelson as a fundraiser for our surgeries in the parish. Teams of up to 6 people with a £5 fee per person. Tables available from 7pm and of course the bar is open.

### **Sunday Services and Events for All Ages**

**Sunday 3 May** - during this time of vacancy our Ministry Team have arranged to combine a number of services within the Benefice. On the first Sunday in May, Morning Worship will be led by Rev Sharon in St Mary Magdalene, Tormarton and not at St Mary's Marshfield.

### **Breakfast Church - Sunday 17 May 8.30 - 9.15am**

We will enjoy the usual breakfast treats of coffee, bacon rolls and pains au chocolat, with a thought for the day, songs and activity for all ages - so bring others with you. All welcome in St Mary's Marshfield. There's always plenty to share, so join us before you head out for the day.

### **This month our Annual Parochial Church Meetings will take place:**

Do come if you can:

- Marshfield - Sunday 10 May at 11.45am (in church after the service)
- Tormarton - Tuesday 19 May at 8.15pm in Tormarton Church
- Cold Ashton - Thursday 21 May at 7.00pm in Cold Ashton Parish Hall

## Marshfield Mini Larder

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

## Christian Aid Week 10-16 May

There will be special collections in all our churches throughout the week, to support the work done by the charity in places affected by war and natural disaster. A prayer for Christian Aid Week 2026

*Gracious God, when we stand on the plains of uncertainty,  
with no path before us, we look to you.*

*We remember what you have done before and our  
anxious hearts are comforted.*

*Showing mercy, you delivered us then;  
in your love and faithfulness, you will do it again.*

*Give us the strength to step forward in hope.*

*Give us faith that changes us, hope that feeds us, love that moves us.*

*In Jesus' name, **Amen.***



## World Bee Day – 20 May 2026

Bees are small, but their impact is enormous:

- Nearly 75% of food crops depend on pollination
- A single honeybee produces just 1/12 of a teaspoon of honey in its lifetime
- Bee colonies make decisions democratically, through shared exploration and consensus

Without pollinators, ecosystems and food systems begin to fail.

### What can we do?

- Plant nectar-rich flowers in gardens and churchyards
- Support local beekeepers
- Avoid harmful pesticides
- Allow areas to grow wild



As part of the Eco Church initiative there are three bee hives established in St Mary's Marshfield Churchyard and the meadow areas are managed to allow grasses and plants to flower.

# Benefice Prayer Diary May 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: 1-10 May.** During the week, please pray for:

- The parish of Tormarton its PCC, and churchwardens. For other Christians in our communities who worship elsewhere, especially for the Chapel and their Pastor David Spence.
- For peace in the World, that all people in conflict find ways to solve their differences. Pray especially for Ukraine, Russia, Gaza, Israel, Iran, the USA and other places at war.

**Week 2: 11-17 May.** 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.
- For our School in Marshfield, its staff, parents and Governors.
- For those who are lonely, ill and for the dear departed.

**Week 3: 18-24 May.** During the week, please pray for:

- Give thanks to the Lord at Pentecost and for the gift of Faith.
- The people of Cold Ashton, its PCC and churchwarden. Pray for The Lord's Creation; help us to look after our natural world for the common good, so generations to come may enjoy what we enjoy.
- For the Royal Family and our Government

**Week 4: 25-31 May.** During this week, please pray for:

- The people of Marshfield, Churchwardens and PCC.
- Our linked CMS mission partners, the Rocks family.
- The Benefice Ministry Team - Rev Sharon, Aurea, Andrew, Mike and Molly, and their ministry to us. Pray for the Parish of Marshfield, its PCC and Churchwardens

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

## Benefice Services for May 2026

### Sunday 3 May *Easter 5*

9.00am	Communion	Cold Ashton	Sharon Roberts
10.30am	Morning Worship	Tormarton	Sharon Roberts
6.00pm	Evensong	Marshfield	Aurea Hart

### Sunday 10 May *Easter 6 Christian Aid Week*

9.00am	Communion	Marshfield	Sharon Roberts
10.30am	Mattins	West Littleton	Julie Bradley
10.30am	Morning Worship	Marshfield	Mike Strathdee
6.00pm	Evensong	Marshfield	Sharon Roberts

### Sunday 17 May *Easter 7*

8.30am	Breakfast Church	Marshfield	Andrew Gammie
9.00am	Communion	Tormarton	Andrew Beaumont
10.30am	Morning Worship	Marshfield	Aurea Hart
6.00pm	Evening Praise	Cold Ashton	Andrew Gammie
6.00pm	Communion	Marshfield	Andrew Beaumont

### Sunday 24 May *Pentecost*

9.00am	Communion	West Littleton	John Hoffman
10.30am	Communion	Marshfield	Sharon Roberts
6.00pm	Evensong	Marshfield	Congregation led

### Sunday 31 May *Trinity Sunday*

10.30am	Benefice Communion	Marshfield	Sharon Roberts
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*(10.30am services at St Mary's Marshfield can be joined on Zoom at [marshfieldchurches.org](https://marshfieldchurches.org))*

## Chapel Programme May 2026

<b>Sun 03</b>	10.30am	<b>Graham Bennett</b> * ( <i>Matt 28:16-20</i> )
	6.00pm	<b>Trevor Brain</b> ( <i>1 Cor 14:1-12</i> )
<b>Sun 10</b>	10.30am	<b>Joint service at St Mary's</b> (Christian Aid week)
	6.00pm	<b>John Schofield</b> ( <i>1 Cor 15:1-11</i> )
<b>Sun 17</b>	10.30am	<b>Richard Shreeve</b> ( <i>Acts 1: 1-11</i> )
	6.00pm	<b>David Spence</b> * ( <i>1 Cor 15:12-22</i> )
<b>Sun 24</b>	10.30am	<b>Pentecost at St Mary's</b>
	6.00pm	<b>Pete Foster</b> ( <i>Acts 2: 42-47</i> )
<b>Sun 31</b>	10.30am	<b>Peter Misselbrook</b> ( <i>Acts 3: 1-10</i> )
	6.00pm	<b>Bible study</b> ( <i>Acts 3:11-26</i> )

*\*Communion services – offerings will go to 4H supporting churches in Hungary*

<b>Tues 12</b>	10.00am	<b>Village Communion at St Mary's</b>
<b>Sat 30</b>	10.30 -12	<b>Morning Coffee at Chapel</b>

**Tormarton Spring Concert**  
**STUART SINGERS**  
**from Minchinhampton.**



**A well-established mixed voice choir singing  
a broad repertoire from memory  
Tormarton Church GL9 1HT  
FRIDAY 15 MAY Doors open 7pm  
Proceeds in Aid of Tormarton Church Fabric Fund**

**Grand Raffle**

**Tickets £15 to include 1<sup>st</sup> glass of wine & nibbles**

**Available from:-Janet Wells call 07952291605**

**Email [tormarton-pcc@outlook.com](mailto:tormarton-pcc@outlook.com)**

**or online at**

**[www.stuartsingers.com](http://www.stuartsingers.com)**

**and look for upcoming events**



*The cover image is a representation of Pentecost.  
Known as the birthday of the Christian church, it falls fifty days  
after Easter and marks the fulfillment of Jesus's promise to send the  
Holy Spirit to his followers as a helper and a guide.*