



Cotswold Edge

September 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	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

PCC Treasurer	Michael Horgan	01225 891486
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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.marshfieldchurches.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

God's Fellow-Workers

What comes to mind when you hear the word 'Synergy'? Maybe Trevor Ranger's charity, maybe some biological process, or even some corporate document full of management speak? When the Greek word is used by Paul in the famous Romans 8:28 (Good News): *"We know that in all things God works for good with (synergei) those who love him"*, it means 'working with'. It also implies the combination is greater than the sum of the parts.

Is it not surprising that God doesn't just get on with things, that He chooses to allow us to work with Him? Maybe even waiting for us before He chooses to act alongside us? This is definitely what Paul had in mind when he said we are *"God's fellow-workers (synergoi)"* (1 Corinthians 3:9) – it's the same word root. Us? In an astonishing partnership of work with God the Almighty Creator? It seems so!

God views us as partners in His work, so maybe when things take a while to happen, or we feel God is being a bit slow in sorting out the world, the delay might be on our side! It is helpful too to realise that God has a plan for our churches, building His kingdom in our parishes, and He calls us to cooperate in that plan – whether we have a vicar or not! The plan remains in place and we move forward with Him, as His fellow-workers.

May we enjoy this Divine Synergy in whatever tasks He gives us to do with Him this month.

Andrew Gammie, For the Ministry Team



Continuing in the spirit of 'God's fellow-workers', our St Mary's Churchyard bees have been busy this spring and summer. Thanks to the ongoing husbandry of the Marshfield Honey team I have ten jars of delicious fresh **honey**, available for £9.00 donation (50% goes to Ripple Effect Charity).

It's the perfect local produce present or breakfast pick-me-up. If you'd like a jar contact Peter: peterwoodward@questnet.co.uk

FROM THE BENEFICE REGISTERS

Funerals: *Dennis Morris* of Tormarton at Westerleigh Crematorium

There were no Baptisms or Weddings in August

Breakfast Church

Following our break during the school summer holidays, Breakfast Church will be back on the 1st and 3rd Sundays in September. We look forward to seeing you again on Sunday 6th and Sunday 20 September from 08.30 - 09.15am. Come and enjoy a 'thought for the day', a Bible reading, activity and songs, accompanied by proper coffee, pains au chocolat and bacon rolls to fuel you for the activities ahead!

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 8 September at the 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.

Ride and Stride Saturday 12 September for Gloucester Historic Churches Trust. GHCT supports us with grants for repairs for our historic churches, so we need in turn to help them! As we've done in previous years, we will be supporting this event with our churches open to welcome those raising funds as they cycle, walk or ride their way to as many of the stunning churches and chapels of Gloucestershire and North Bristol as they can.

Would anyone like to join in? Please see the poster included in this issue for more details.



RIDE + STRIDE
for Churches

12TH SEPT 2026

Discover & Support
Gloucestershire's &
North Bristol's
Historic Churches

Travel your way through the stunning churches and chapels of Gloucestershire and North Bristol.

Your sponsorship supports the Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust and your chosen church or chapel.

Join Us!

Any Questions? Email us at;
ride-and-stride@ghct.org.uk

Your local church is:

Please Contact:

Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust

Sanctum – Spiritual Direction Formation & Training

An online evening course with 3 in-person days Jan to Dec 2027

Applications are now open for **Sanctum**, the Diocese of Bristol's new formation and training course in spiritual direction, launching in **January 2027**.

Designed to be accessible to a greater diversity of students, the course will meet fortnightly online during term time, with three in-person Saturdays each year. Each session will include teaching, drawing upon biblical, theological, and psychological perspectives, alongside a breadth of Christian spiritual wisdom and prayer including poetry, music and art. Students will develop practical skills through work in pairs and triads and will be supported throughout their formation by a personal tutor, learning community, and regular appraisals to aid growth and vocational discernment.

Closing date for applications & references: **Friday 2 October 2026**.

Further details, including the brochure, course programme and application forms are available from: mmsupport@bristoldiocese.org

Marshfield Mini Larder and Hardship Fund

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

Our benefice in vacancy... looking ahead to the service pattern in the Autumn – IMPORTANT DETAILS

There is one major change to our service rota for **September** in that on the 6 September the only services in the benefice will be:

8.30am Breakfast Church at Marshfield

10.30am Joint Benefice Communion and Farewell to Sharon

The ministry team is currently in the process of reviewing the service pattern from October and some changes will be needed. We are extremely grateful that Revd Jon Hoffmann is able to offer cover for the majority of Communion services but, just like any other benefice in vacancy, we will need to reduce the number of services during this time. We will also be more reliant on visiting clergy to cover Communions and funerals than we have been whilst Sharon has been with us.

From **October 2026** the proposed pattern of communion services across our Benefice will be:

First Sunday 9am Communion at Cold Ashton (BCP)

Second Sunday 10.30am Communion at Marshfield (CW)

Third Sunday 9am Communion at Tormarton (CW)

Fourth Sunday 9am Communion at West Littleton (BCP)

This means some services in Marshfield will be withdrawn for the period of the vacancy: the 9.0am HC service on the first Sunday and the 6.30pm HC service on the third Sunday. There will be only one Evensong (congregational led) on the 4th Sunday in the month. However, there will be special evening services for Harvest, All Souls, Advent and Christmas and these dates will be advertised well in advance.

The Ministry Team and Church Wardens thank you for your understanding at this time, and also for being willing to change long-standing routines. If you will need a lift in order to attend a communion service, please do let us know.

HARVEST SERVICE DATES FOR THE BENEFICE

Our Harvest services are planned as follows:

Sunday 4 October – St Mary's Marshfield, followed by Harvest lunch

Sunday 4 October – St Mary Magdalene Tormarton, followed by
Harvest lunch

Sunday 11 October – St James West Littleton

Sunday 11 October – Holy Trinity Cold Ashton

Donations of dried food and tins will be going to the Sisters of the Church for their work amongst those locally who struggle to afford food. If you would like to sponsor a monthly food parcel you can contact the Sisters directly on 0117 9413 268 or by email at:

bristoladmin@sistersofthechurch.org

Other Harvest collections will be for Ripple Effect our mission partner in East Africa where climate change is making growing food difficult. You can find out more about our project in Kenya on the Benefice Website:

www.marshfieldchurches.org



Benefice Prayer Diary September 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: 1-6 September Please pray for:

- For Sharon, who leaves our Benefice this week
- The Royal Family and all those in positions of authority in our nation.
- All those suffering ill health or in need.
- For the dear departed in our Benefice.
- The parish of Tormarton its PCC, and churchwardens.

Week 2: 7-13 September Please pray for:

- The parish of West Littleton and its PCC.
- Our School, its children and staff who return from their Summer holiday.
- Our Farming Community at the end of Harvest.

Week 3: 14-20 September Please pray for:

- The people of Cold Ashton, its PCC and churchwarden.
- The Lord's Creation; help us to look after our natural world for the common good and for future generations.
- The Parish of Marshfield, its PCC and Churchwardens.
- Pastor David Spence at the Chapel and his congregation.

Week 4: 21-30 September Please pray for:

- All nations at war and those fighting famine and natural disasters.
- The underprivileged in our country and throughout the world
- Our linked CMS mission partner the Rocks family in Brazil.
- The Benefice Ministry Team

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 paulbswhite@outlook.com

Benefice Services for September 2026

Sunday 6 September *Trinity 14*

9.00am	Breakfast Church	Marshfield	Molly Williams
10.30am	Benefice Communion	Marshfield	Sharon Roberts

Sunday 13 September *Trinity 15*

9.00am	Communion	Marshfield	Jon Hoffmann
10.30am	Mattins	West Littleton	Aurea Hart
10.30am	Morning Worship	Marshfield	Andrew Gammie

Sunday 20 September *Trinity 16*

8.30am	Breakfast Church	Marshfield	Mike Strathdee
9.00am	Communion	Tormarton	Jon Hoffmann
10.30am	Morning Worship	Marshfield	Mike Strathdee
6.00pm	Evening Praise	Cold Ashton	Aurea Hart
6.00pm	Communion	Marshfield	Jon Hoffmann

Sunday 27 September *Trinity 17*

9.00am	Communion	West Littleton	Jon Hoffmann
10.30am	Communion	Marshfield	Jon Hoffmann
6.00pm	Evensong	Marshfield	Congregation led

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

Chapel Programme September 2026

Sun 06	10.30am	David Spence *
	6.00pm	'Alive' Praise and Worship
Sun 13	10.30am	Joint service at St Mary's
	6.00pm	Bible Study (Luke 6:17-26)
Sun 20	10.30am	Café Church with 'Samaritan Purse'
	6.00pm	John Schofield* (Luke 6:27-36)
Sun 27	10.30am	Mike Strathdee (Harvest)
	6.00pm	Rev Canon Sally Wheeler (Luke 6:37-42)

*(*Communion services – the offerings will go to The Children's Society)*

Tues 8	10.00am	Village Communion at St Mary's
Sat 26	10.30 -12	Morning Coffee at Chapel