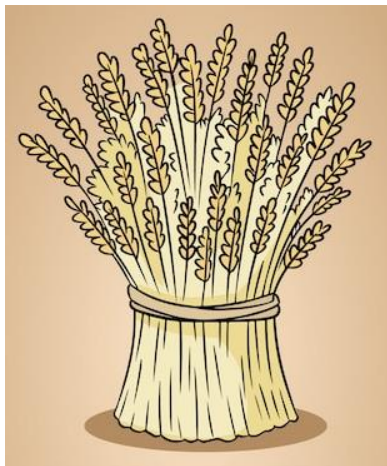
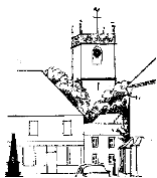




Cotswold Edge

October 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 **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
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St Mary the Virgin Church, Marshfield

Churchwardens	Eric Pullin	01225 891351
	Paul White	01225 891765

PCC Secretary	Rachel O'Mahony	marshfield.benefice@gmail.com
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PCC Treasurer	Kate Brain	01225 892582
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Gift Aid/Giving Officer	Peter Brunyate	01225 891508
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Bell Tower Captain	Anthony Chiddy	07563 961649
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Church Bookings	marshfield.benefice@gmail.com	
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Holy Trinity Church, Cold Ashton

Churchwarden	Monica Green	01225 891669
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PCC Secretary	Scarlett Wyatt	07432 050503
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PCC Treasurer	Georgina Perceval-Maxwell	07771 776290
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St Mary Magdalene Church, Tormarton

Churchwardens	Richard Lawrence	01454 218730
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Stewart Waters	01454 218393
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PCC Secretary	Vacant	
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PCC Treasurer	Janet Wells	01454 218549
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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

Be the Light

Do you ever watch the news or read the newspaper and want to despair in abject misery? I do. I sometimes wonder if there are any limits to the cruelty and injustice that human beings will find to inflict upon one another, or our world. Greed, power, fear boiling over into hatred. Everything seems so deeply polarised – what happened to finding a happy medium or agreeing to disagree? And the increasingly devastating impact we are having upon our earth causing natural disasters and suffering to millions. It can be hard to find moments of joy or to stop ourselves feeling guilty when we do.

Although it can feel impossible to be of any use when life is as crazy as it is, I believe we can, in our own small way, change the world. God doesn't prevent the stormy times in life, but He is our strength and refuge which helps us to weather them: *"When you pass through deep waters, I will be with you."* – Isaiah 43:2

This does not mean being flippant or uncaring about the state of the world. It is choosing to feel joy and gratitude in the face of such difficulty. It is putting love back into the world to counter the hate. Jesus asks us to do two things above all others: love God and love our neighbour. So, appreciate the small things that bring you joy: your first morning coffee, a beautiful Autumn sunrise, your grandson's smile, the chance to sit down and watch The Great British Sewing Bee (or whatever your favourite programme might be!) – praise God! Thank Him for these small blessings.

Perhaps we can use the injustice and sadness in life to mobilise us into being better people - more compassionate, more giving, more understanding, more questioning of long-held prejudices... As Jesus says in Matthew 5:16, *"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."* By loving our neighbour (or family, friends, colleagues, total strangers and so on), we are shining the light of God's love upon them.

So, be the light – keep shining, keep smiling, keep loving and keep praying. Together we can all make the world just that little bit better.

Molly Williams, on behalf of the Ministry Team

FROM THE BENEFICE REGISTERS

Baptisms and Funerals: There were none in September

Wedding Congratulations:

Edward Kent and Isabella Hughes, 18 September, Tormarton

Martin Bleaken and Kate Morrison, 19 September, St Mary's Marshfield

Benefice Events

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 October in the Chapel

Breakfast Church – now running twice a month on Sundays 4 and 18 October: 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 **08.30am-09.15am** 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!

Harvest Celebrations: Our Harvest celebrations take place first of all in Marshfield and Tormarton, followed by Cold Ashton and West Littleton the week after. Below are details of the different services - please do take the opportunity to support and worship across our Benefice. Please note that some of the service times are slightly different from our usual pattern.

Marshfield Sunday 4 October

10.30am Morning Worship at 10.30am

6.00pm Harvest Evensong with full choir, music and traditional hymns, followed by refreshments

Tormarton Sunday 4 October

11.00am Morning Worship: traditional celebration followed by Harvest Lunch in the Village Hall

West Littleton Sunday 11 October

11.30am Morning Worship followed by a Harvest lunch

Cold Ashton Sunday 11 October

6.00pm Harvest Praise

Harvest Appeal

As we have done in previous years, we will be supporting the Sisters of The Church with our gifts of food and toiletries. There are a great number of individuals and families in need of our help and all contributions are received with sincere and heartfelt gratitude.

The most essential items are: **Food:** Anything in tins or ambient packaging, for example coffee, cooking sauce, rice, pasta. **Toiletries:** Nappies (all sizes), all toiletry items, for example shower gel, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, sanitary pads, hand wash, bubble bath.

FUNDS: Alternatively, if you would prefer to make a financial donation, the charity can accept cash, cheques payable to 'The Sisters of the Church' or bank transfer: Sort code 08-92-99, account No 65075960. Every gift is deeply valued and makes an immediate, tangible difference in the lives of those who are in genuine need.

To sponsor a monthly food parcel you 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 involved in sustainable agriculture in East Africa where climate change is making growing food difficult.

Ride & Stride for Glos Historic Churches: Thank you from Janet Wells and Maria Spyt who enjoyed their walk and surpassed their fundraising target of £800! They would like to thank all those who have so generously supported their efforts in walking over 10 miles between our churches. Wherever you start from, the countryside between our historic churches is absolutely beautiful and each church is unique – well worth a visit if you haven't been to any of them yet. The money goes to GHCT who give grants to churches like ours in this Benefice to help with maintenance.

Change in the pattern of communion services from the beginning of this month Whilst we are in vacancy the pattern of services will change in October as follows:

1st Sunday 9am Communion at Cold Ashton (BCP)

2nd Sunday 10.30am Communion at Marshfield (CW)

3rd Sunday 9am Communion at Tormarton (CW)

4th Sunday 9am Communion at West Littleton (BCP)

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.

Benefice Prayer Diary October 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: 1-4 During the week, please pray for:-

- The parish of Tormarton its PCC, and churchwardens.
- The Chapel and their Pastor David Spence.
- Our farming community at this time of Harvest

Week 2: 5-11 During the week, please pray for:-

- The parish of West Littleton, its PCC and community
- The Community of which you are part
- The School in Marshfield, its staff, parents and Governors.

Week 3: 12-18 During the week, 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,

Week 4: 19-25 Please pray for:

- Peace in the World, that all people in conflict find ways to solve their differences.
- Our linked CMS mission partners, the Rocks family in Brazil
- The Benefice Ministry Team - Aurea ,Andrew, Mike, Rev Jon and Molly- and their ministry to us.
- The Parish of Marshfield, its PCC and Churchwardens

Week 5: 26-31 Please pray for:

- Our King, Queen and Royal Family.
- People caught up in Natural Disasters
- Our Government and all those in Authority

*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 October 2026

Sunday 4 October *Trinity 18*

08.30am	Breakfast Church	Marshfield	Molly Williams
09.00am	Holy Communion	Cold Ashton	Jon Hoffmann
10.30am	Harvest Service	Marshfield	Andrew Gammie
11.00am	Harvest Service	Tormarton	Mike Strathdee
6.00pm	Harvest Evening Service	Marshfield	Aurea Hart

Sunday 11 October *Trinity 19*

10.30am	Holy Communion	Marshfield	Pat Freeth
11.30am	Harvest Service	West Littleton	Jon Hoffmann
6.00pm	Harvest Praise	Cold Ashton	Andrew Gammie

Sunday 18 October *Trinity 20*

8.30am	Breakfast Church	Marshfield	Andrew Gammie
9.00am	Holy Communion	Tormarton	Pat Freeth
10.30am	Morning Worship	Marshfield	Aurea Hart

Sunday 25 October *Last after Trinity*

9.00am	Holy Communion	West Littleton	Jon Hoffmann
10.30am	Morning Worship	Marshfield	Molly Williams
6.00pm	Evensong	Marshfield	Congregation led

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

Chapel Programme October 2026

Sun 04	10.30am	Harvest Festival at St Mary'1
	6.00pm	'Alive' Praise and Worship
Sun 11	10.30am	Trevor Ranger (Eph 1:1-14)
	6.00pm	Peter Foster (Phil 1:1-11)
Sun 18	10.30am	Rev Jon Hoffmann (Eph 1:15-23)
	6.00pm	Rob English* (Phil 1:12-18)
Sun 25	10.30am	John Schofield (Eph 2:1-10)
	6.00pm	David Spence (Phil 1:19-30)

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

Tues 13	10.00am	Village Communion at St Mary's
Sat 31	10.30-12	Morning Coffee at Chapel



St Mary's Marshfield

Harvest **EVENING SERVICE**

SUNDAY 4TH OCTOBER

6 PM

Full Choir and Organ

Beautiful Harvest Flowers

Traditional Hymns

Refreshments