

MARBURY ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

AND

PARISH MAGAZINE

FEBRUARY & MARCH 2026



*The
Season
of
Lent*



Clergy: Revd. Veronica Green (01948 663758)

Lay Reader: Ali Hunter Johnston (07967 955669)

Churchwarden: Jane Lunt (01948 662910)

FEBRUARY SERVICES

St. Michael's Marbury

1st	4.00 p.m.	EP		
	Readers & Sidespersons:		Diana Thomas Penny Allington	Malachi 3: 1-5 Hebrews 2: 14-18
8th	11.00 a.m.	SW		
	Readers & Sidespersons:		Trisha Harvey Jean Gregg	Genesis 1: 1 - 2: 3 Romans 8: 18-25
15th	9.00 a.m.	HC		
	Readers & Sidespersons:		Peter Thomas Steve Wood	Exodus 24: 12-18 2 Peter 1: 16-21
22nd	11.00 a.m.	HC		
	Readers & Sidespersons:		Harry Shaw Julie Shaw	Genesis 2: 15-17—3:1-7 Romans 5: 12-19

St. Chad's Tushingham

1st	11.00 a.m.	MP
8th	9.00 a.m.	HC
15th	4.00 p.m.	SW
18th	6.00 p.m.	HC & Ashing
22nd	9.00 a.m.	HC

St. Mary's Whitewell

1st	11.00 a.m.	HC
8th	11.00 a.m.	SW
15th	6.00 p.m.	EP
22nd	11.00 a.m.	SW

St. Wenefrede's Bickley

1st	9.00 a.m.	HC
8th	11.00 a.m.	MP
15th	11.00 a.m.	HC
22nd	11.00 a.m.	SW

St. Nicholas's Chapel

22nd	4.00 p.m.	EP
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HC – Holy Communion EP – Evening Prayer
BCP – book of Common Prayer MP – morning prayer
SW - Service of The Word

Reflective Prayer is held every Tuesday Morning at St Michael's at 9.30am. Tea/Coffee and Space to Rest in God.

Wedding

Andrew Spencer and Alice Elizabeth Broadbent

19th December, 2025

MARCH SERVICES

St. Michael's Marbury

1st	4.00 p.m. EP		
	Readers &	Sue Evans	Genesis 12: 1-4a
	Sidespersons:	Anthony Lewis	Romans 4: 1-5,13-17
8th	11.00 a.m. SW		
	Readers &	Trisha Harvey	Exodus 17: 1-7
	Sidespersons:	Penny Allington	Romans 5: 1-11
15th	11.00 a.m. SW	MOTHERING SUNDAY	
	Readers &	Beryl Fletcher	TBA
	Sidespersons:	Harry Paton-Smith	TBA
22nd	11.00 a.m. HC		
	Readers &	Harry Shaw	Ezekiel 37: 1-14
	Sidespersons:	Julie Shaw	Romans 8: 6-11
29th	10.45 a.m. UNITED BENEFICE SERVICE	PALM SUNDAY	
	MEET at The Oak Tree on The Green	Matthew 21: 1-11	
	TRADITIONAL Procession & Reading of the Passion Narrative.		
		Peter Hunter Johnson	Philippians 2: 5-11
		Diana Thomas	Matthew 27: 11-54

St. Chad's Tushingham

St. Mary's Whitewell

1st	11.00 a.m. MP	1st	11.00 a.m. HC
8th	9.00 a.m. HC	8th	11.00 a.m. SW
15th	11.00 a.m. SW	15th	11.00 a.m. SW
22nd	9.00 a.m. HC	22nd	11.00 a.m. SW
29th	10.45 a.m. UNITED BENEFICE SERVICE	at MARBURY	

St. Wenefrede's Bickley

St. Nicholas's Chapel

1st	9.00 a.m. HC		
8th	11.00 a.m. MP		
15th	11.00 a.m. HC		
22nd	11.00 a.m. SW	4.00 p.m. EP	
29th	10.45 a.m. UNITED BENEFICE SERVICE	at MARBURY	

Funeral:

Neil McDonald: 8th January, 2026

date of death 8th October 2025

Being Human...

I write my first newsletter of 2026 following reports of this year's first disturbing killing. ICE, the USA's Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency shot dead a woman behind the wheel of her own vehicle stating that she was endangering public safety.

Our reaction to this sort of news brings two options our way: first we can tut, be grateful that our own police don't carry weapons that can take a life, and then simply move on and away from such news — or we can choose to say enough is enough!

Following Jesus calls his disciples to radical change. The Bible says clearly that when some of the early followers realised that there was 'a cost' to following the Messiah many turned away! Their attitude was to tut; turn a blind eye and continue to live the comfortable or uncomfortable lives they were living.

But for others, their eyes were opened — opened to a leader whose ways and words were different from just human perspectives! Both fascinated and inspired they grew in their trust and understanding of this Rabbi, Jesus, whose presence was like nothing they had experienced before.

Excited, confused, fearful but overwhelmingly ready by the circumstances they were living in, these disciples, both men and women, followed him. And over the generations the same followers of Jesus have brought radical change to the world.

Very often, people tell me that 'Religion is the cause of the world's warring and suffering.' I agree!

Religion is a broad system of beliefs, practices, morals, ethics, and worldviews.

Followers of Jesus are not religious — they follow a person, not a broad system of worldly beliefs!

The path of Jesus's followers is far narrower, which is why many fall away...

The present circumstances of our world are drawing people back to faith, not religion. We are living in and through horrific troubling times, as many generations before us have experienced. So, what is the answer? Wrong question — *Who* is the answer?

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As a Priest who serves the Christian Church and tries to follow the ways and practices of Jesus, I am no longer prepared to simply sit and continue living my comfortable life. I am ready to make a stand for justice, mercy, and peace. The question is, Are You?

I invite you to make a radical change to your life and the ways of our world this year.

As a church we can offer a place for you to explore the ways of Jesus through Alpha, or other events we'll be providing this year, or you can begin a different kind of journey by opening for yourself the ancient scriptures that have remained constant throughout every generation — the Holy Bible.

The choice is yours. Will you sit, turn a blind eye, and remain where you are being influenced by the world — or will you be adventurous, believing that there might just be a God after all?!

Revd Veronica. x



MOTHERING SUNDAY SERVICE

Sunday, 15th March, 11 a.m. at St. Michael's

Please come to this special service - everyone is welcome.

An Alpha course will be running in the Spring, on Thursdays, during March and April.

If you would like to find out more please contact Revd. Veronica.



vicar@stmichaelsmarbury.org (Veronica Green)

churchwardens@stmichaelsmarbury.org (Jane Lunt)

admin@stmichaelsmarbury.org (Carol Sheard)

treasurer@stmichaelsmarbury.org (Nigel Green)

safeguarding@stmichaelsmarbury.org (Kathy Johnson)

The Joy of Giving...

Have you ever thought about supporting St Michael's but weren't sure how to get started?

We'd like to share a couple of meaningful ways you can contribute to the life of our beautiful church.

The Gift of Time: Your time and talents are incredibly valuable to us. Whether it's lending a hand to maintain the churchyard, helping with one of our projects or joining our efforts in some way bringing your skills in support, your involvement makes a world of difference.

Financial Support: Every contribution, no matter the size, is deeply appreciated and helps us continue our work. You can make a one-time donation or set up a standing order, or maybe consider leaving St Michael's a gift in your will – whatever feels most comfortable for you. Regular support also helps us to plan ahead and continue serving our community with confidence.

Thank you for considering how you can be part of our mission. Your generosity, in any form, truly matters.

Revd. Veronica, Marbury Parochial Church Council

Account no: 19862160 Sort Code: 77-27-27

MARBURY MERRY DAYS MEETING – TUESDAY 10TH FEBRUARY AT 7 PM, VILLAGE HALL

Please come along to the next Merry Days meeting on Tuesday, 10th February, at 7 pm in the Village Hall. It's an important meeting as a lot of detail is finalised (only 13 weeks to go until Merry Days Weekend on 9th and 10th May!) - although of course it's never too late to have new ideas! It's an open meeting as usual, and everyone is welcome, so please join us if you can.

Please also keep any items from your New Year clear-out for the Bric-a-Brac stall – we don't currently have any stock at all for this popular and profitable activity, so we'll be starting from scratch this year.

And finally – as you sow seeds, cut plants back, repot and so on ready for spring, please sow extra seeds and take cuttings etc., for the Plant Stall. This is very popular with our visitors and we need as many pots as possible!

MOBILE LIBRARY every 3 weeks at
Holtridge, Pear Tree Farm; 2.30-2.50
Norbury, Gauntons Bank; 3.00-3.20
Marbury Village Hall; 3.45-4.00



Following 10 years of Parish Ministry here with you all, I would like to introduce a few changes to the structure of our services here at St Michael's and across the four churches.

These changes come after very careful consideration regarding those of us who lead services, those who attend worship regularly and those who are perhaps new to church.

The new pattern at St Michael's will be a service of Evening Prayer on the first Sunday, at either 4pm or 6pm depending on the time of year. The second Sunday sees us offer a new service at 11am, designed to give a little flexibility in our worship and looking, this particular year, at Why We Worship! The third Sunday will be a 9am service of Holy Communion, as will be the fourth Sunday at 11am. Fifth Sundays will continue to follow the existing pattern of a United Service in one of our four churches, by rotation. (Times may change occasionally for Special Services – for example Mothering Sunday.)

It will take us all a little time to adjust to the new structure but I whole heartedly believe that, when we do, it will help us all, in the busyness of life, to make time for Worship, Thanksgiving and Rest in God on our Sabbath Sundays.

My thanks to all...

Revd Veronica. X

PILATES: Mondays,
12.30—1.30 p.m.
at The Village Hall:
£7 per session.
All abilities catered
for.



**MARBURY KNIT
AND NATTER** group
meet every other
Wednesday at the Village Hall,
2pm till 4pm.



Contact Beryl on 01948 664889

**THE VILLAGE HALL IS ALSO AVAILABLE FOR
PRIVATE HIRE.** Please contact Penny Allington,
07749 808308 for dates and hire terms.

The 'Coffee Run'

This year, I'm taking on a personal challenge; to run 5K parkruns to build a 'coffee fund' - providing a moment of comfort for those going through hard times.

Like many of us, I have people I care about going through cancer treatment. The idea of the *Coffee Run* comes from the simple comfort of sitting together over coffee, something many of us recognise from our coffee and chat mornings.

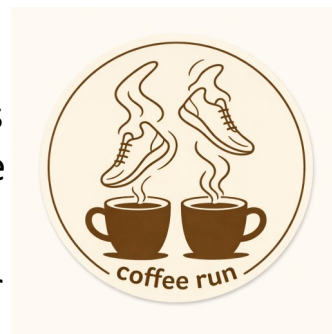
For every £100 raised, I will run another 5K, with donations helping to provide coffee gift cards for people undergoing cancer treatment through charities and hospices.

If you are able to back a slow runner and a good cause, please visit: [go-fundme.com](https://www.go-fundme.com) (and search for 'Coffee Run') or speak to Margaret or Rebecca Jones.

Thank you for your kindness and encouragement.

Rebecca

P.S. At the time of writing, I've completed my first 5K and, thanks to early support, I'm already planning the next one!



MARBURY CALENDAR FOR 2027

A reminder that we're planning to print a Marbury Calendar for 2027, featuring of course photographs of our lovely village and the wildlife we see. So keep snapping – we'll need Autumn, Winter, Spring and Summer photos. Details of where and when to send them will be announced in the June/July 2026 Parish magazine.



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION COLLECTION.

On behalf of Royal British Legion, Lynda Bebbington would like to thank everyone who gave so generously.

The total collected was £199.62.

Village **E**mergency **T**elephone **S**ystem (**VETS**) -
for defibrillator or other community emergency:
First ring **999** then Marbury: 01948 302103
Norbury: 01948 302707



Information provided by Able Community Care, Norfolk.

The Little Book of Big Scams booklet was originally produced by the Metropolitan Police and is not available from all police forces; however, many police forces and local councils across the UK have either reproduced it or created their own versions. You can typically download the booklet from the website of the police force in your area or from organizations like the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau. Some police forces may also have it in hard copy form.

If a hospital or service cancels your operation at the last minute and for non-clinical reasons, (e.g. lack of staff, beds, admin error, etc.) they should offer another binding date within 28 days or fund your treatment at a date and hospital of your choice. If you're not offered an appointment within 28 days, you should complain to your local ICB. (Integrated Care Board).

If your operation is cancelled before the day of admission, the hospital or service is not obliged to provide an alternative option within 28 days.

However, your right to start consultant-led treatment within a maximum waiting time still stands. If cancelling your appointment results in you having to wait longer, you have the right to ask the hospital or ICB to move you to a different provider.

My local council is reducing bin collections from fortnightly to every three weeks. I may struggle to move my bin to the gate with the extra week's waste. Is it possible to arrange for the bin to be collected directly from where it's kept? How can I arrange this? - You'll need to contact your local council and request an Assisted Bin Collection service. Most councils offer this support for residents who genuinely need it, though there is an eligibility criteria to meet. It's worth visiting your council's website first to check the specific requirements and application process for your area, as these can vary between councils.

If you are finding it increasingly difficult to read newspapers, even with regularly updated glasses, you could try a Talking Newspaper service: The Talking News Federation maintains a comprehensive directory of Talking Newspaper services across the whole of the UK, including Northern Ireland. You can find details of your local service by visiting their website at tnf.org.uk. This is an excellent free resource that makes staying informed much more accessible.

The magazine has been printed by **Audlem Printers of Whitchurch:**
9 Watergate Arcade, Whitchurch. Tel: **01948 665920**



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: WHAT'S ON

FEBRUARY:

- Tuesday 3rd** **COFFEE & CHAT**, The Swan, 10.15 a.m.
Everyone welcome.
- Tuesday 10th** **W.I. OPEN MEETING, 1.30 p.m.**, VILLAGE HALL
Speaker Neil Hanson: "Inn and Out at the Top" - an account of running Britain's highest inn.
Competition: Beer Mat. Visitors very welcome; £5, contact Janet Wheeler (07713 811636)
- Thursday 19th** **MOBILE LIBRARY** at Holtridge, Gauntons Bank and Marbury Village Hall

MARCH:

- Tuesday 3rd** **COFFEE & CHAT**, The Swan, 10.15 a.m.
Everyone welcome.
- Thursday 12th** **MOBILE LIBRARY** at Holtridge, Gauntons Bank and Marbury Village Hall
- Tuesday 10th** **W.I. MEETING, 1.30 p.m.**, Village Hall
Speaker David Burness: A day in the life of a Paramedic. Competition: Old First Aid Item
- Tuesday 7th APRIL** **COFFEE & CHAT**, The Swan, 10.15 a.m.
Everyone welcome.

COFFEE AND CHAT at The Swan in Marbury

on
Tuesday, 3rd February,
Tuesday, 3rd March,
Tuesday, 7th April
from 10.15am to 11.45am.



All our community are welcome to come for coffee and cake and to meet friends and neighbours - a great way to get to know everyone in the lovely environment of the Swan.
We look forward to seeing you.

Items for the next magazine, April & May, should be submitted to Janet Makin, makinatmarbury@aol.com, by 15th March, please.

PARISH COUNCIL

Residents are welcome to attend meetings; however, if you wish to speak at the meeting, please contact the Chair or the Clerk beforehand. Public speaking time is limited and only Councillors may take part in discussions/decisions. Agenda and Minutes can be viewed on the Parish Council website: www.marburyanddistrict.org.uk

The next meeting will be on **Thursday, 19th March**, at 7.30 p.m.

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who has one of our Children's Society Boxes. This year St. Michael's was able to send the Society a cheque for £1,075.48 - £860.99 from our lovely box-holders, and £214.49 from collections taken at our Christingle Service and the Carol Singing evening at The Swan. The Society works to improve the lives of children and young people in the UK who face abuse, exploitation and neglect, and particularly at the moment when home life is increasingly hard (or non-existent) for many, these donations will make a huge difference.



Every single penny or pound is welcome and is put to really worth-while use by the Society. Boxes are emptied annually by us and returned to the box-holders – it's an easy way to make a big difference, so if you would be interested in joining us, please contact Carol on 01948 663087, 07960 748476, or by email at richardandcarol.sheard@btinternet.com

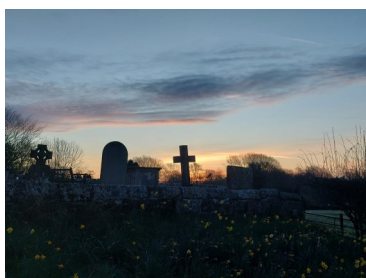
*The
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LENT AND EASTER

Join us at St Chad's, Tushingham as we begin the beautiful Season of Lent this year on Ash Wednesday, for a service of Holy Communion and Ashing, at 6pm on Wednesday, February 18th.

This will be followed by our Lent Gatherings: a time to come together as we Reflect on the humility of Jesus and His Love for us all - details to follow...



Easter Services: Join us at St. Michael's for Easter Breakfast as we welcome the dawn of Easter, Sunday, April 5th at 6.15am and later as Revd. Mike Rogers shares Holy Communion on this most special of days at 11am.

Don't miss the real Joy of Easter...x

PARISH COUNCILLORS: contact details

Joe Briggs	Wood Farm, Wirswall	SY13 4LF
Chair		01948 663733
John David	Rowan House, School Lane, Marbury john.david@marburyanddistrict.org.uk	SY13 4LH 01948 666065
Tracy Leese	5 School Lane, Marbury tracy.leese@marburyanddistrict.org.uk	SY13 4LH 07525 976790
Janet Makin	1 Heath Lane, Marbury janet.makin@marburyanddistrict.org.uk	SY13 4NE 01948 665724
Rob Perry	Pear Tree Farm, Norbury rob.perry@marburyanddistrict.org.uk	SY13 4HZ 01948 666350
Philip Shakeshaft	The Croft, Norbury phil.shakeshaft@marburyanddistrict.org.uk	SY13 4HS 01948 666221
Marian Turnbull	Ginger Cottage, Swanwick Green marian.turnbull@marburyanddistrict.org.uk	SY13 4HL 07949 784308
Fiona Wilson	2 Bradeley Green Cottages fiona.wilson@marburyanddistrict.org.uk	SY13 4HE 07801 928925
Vice Chair		

CLERK, PARISH COUNCIL:**Debbie Foulkes** clerk@marburyanddistrict.org.uk**Web Site:** www.marburyanddistrict.org.uk**BOROUGH COUNCILLOR:**

James Pearson Beechwood, 151 Hale Road, Hale, Cheshire WA15 8RU
James.pearson@cheshireeast.gov.uk 07947 572785

MP:**Aphra Brandreth** aphra.brandreth.mp@parliament.uk**Useful phone numbers and contacts for residents**

PCSO 7149 Sharon Jones	sharon.jones@cheshire.pnn.police.uk or 07773 196887 101 for non-emergency Police contact
Potholes	0300 123 5020 www.cheshireeasthighways.org FIX MY STREET: APP
Bus services:	Go-Too: 0300 123 5103 http://www.go-too.co.uk Flexilink: 0300 123 5110
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111(you can call anonymously)
Childline	0800 1111
Samaritans	116 123
vicar@stmichaelsmarbury.org	
churchwardens@stmichaelsmarbury.org	
admin@stmichaelsmarbury.org	(Carol Sheard)
treasurer@stmichaelsmarbury.org	(Nigel Green)