

Welcome to our Services in Church

MAY

SUNDAY 7th Fifth Sunday Of Easter	11.00 am	Commemorative Service for the Coronation of King Charles III	Stow, streamed
SUNDAY 14th Sixth Sunday Of Easter	11.00 am	Mattins (lay-led)	Upper Swell
	11.00 am	Holy Communion	Stow, streamed
SUNDAY 21st The Sunday After Ascension	9.30 am	Holy Communion	Upper Swell
	11.00 am	Holy Communion	Stow, streamed
SUNDAY 28th Day of Pentecost	9.30 am	Holy Communion	Condicote
	11.00 am	Holy Communion	Stow, streamed

Please note that Parish Prayers and Listening to God are suspended due to absences, but we encourage everyone to pray privately and, if they chose, to look at the Listening to God passages on the website, which are available to download under "Online Services/Things to Download"

This Benefice Diary will be published as needed and any information contained in it is subject to change, if Covid-19 guidelines require this.

<http://www.scats.org.uk> will always have the latest news!

If you would like to sign up for occasional email updates please send an email request to secretary@stedwardsstow.org.uk



Benefice Diary

May 2023

From the Churchwardens

We are delighted to announce that, following a very positive interview process and subject to the normal procedures, the Revd Karen Wellman has been appointed Priest in Charge of the Benefice of Stow, Condicote and The Swells.

Karen is currently Vicar of St Mark's Teddington in the Diocese of London and will be moving to Stow over the summer at a date yet to be agreed. Please hold her in your prayers as she ends one chapter of ministry and prepares for a new one with us.

It is with great pleasure that the Churchwardens, PCCs and people of all the Benefice Churches welcome Karen, as we seek together to bring God's love and the message of the saving grace of Jesus Christ, our Lord, to everyone in our communities.

Please see on the next page further details from Karen herself, by way of introduction to us.

With best wishes from

Desmond, Chris, Adam, Jolyon and Hazel

CHURCHWARDENS:

Stow-on-the-Wold	Desmond Watson	831489
	Vacancy	
Condicote	Chris Wynn	830389
	Adam Fleming	
The Swells	Jolyon Grey	822215
	Hazel James	831367

NEW PRIEST-IN-CHARGE

Revd Karen has been the vicar of St Mark's since September 2015. Before that she was a curate in the Basingstoke Team Ministry. She grew up in London and moved to Portishead near Bristol when she was aged eleven. She was the first member of the family to go to university. She read Politics, Philosophy and Economics at Brasenose College and was one of the founder members of the Oxford C S Lewis Society.

Before ordination she worked in sales in publishing and computers. Whilst the children were small she worked as a groom in a riding stables, for Wokingham Borough Council Adult Social Care and she also trained as a garden designer.

Revd Karen is a Spiritual Director and the Kensington Area Bishop's Advisor on Spiritual Formation.

She is one of the very few ordained circle dance teachers in the UK and has led retreats and workshops on dance and movement as a way of moving into stillness.

She has three adult sons.

She is really looking forward to working and living in the beautiful part of the country that is Stow-on-the-Wold and the surrounding villages. The clowder of four cats and a lot of plants will be moving with her and with at least one son.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

We would like to thank Robert Barnett for everything he has done for St Edward's during his time as churchwarden. In particular we owe him a massive debt of gratitude for single-handedly masterminding and project managing the recent re-ordering project, which he carried out with vision, insight, enthusiasm and sheer hard work. At the recent APCM Robert stepped down from being a warden but he will remain on the PCC.

PCC Also at the APCM John Kennell ended his term of office on the PCC. Fortunately John is happy to continue to offer his extensive knowledge of, in particular, the church building and churchyard. He was thanked for his work over the last few years. Similarly, Helen Smith has completed her term as Deanery Synod Representative, for which she was thanked. We now have a vacancy for a second DS rep. If anyone is interested please let Desmond know. We are also pleased to welcome Elizabeth Allen on to the PCC and thank her for agreeing to take up this role.

ROAD CLOSURE The B4077 will be closed at Upper Swell for bridge repairs for 6 weeks from May 15th.

MU This month MU will be meeting in the Church Room on Thursday 11th May at 2.00 pm. This will be a mindfulness session with prayers, music and colouring-in. Everyone is welcome.

CLOSELY KNIT Closely Knit meets on Saturday mornings from 10 am to noon for crafts, coffee and chat. All are welcome. The group would be pleased to receive any donations of wool.

CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III

The emblem pays tribute to the King's love of the natural world, unifying the flora of the four nations of the United Kingdom: the rose of England, the thistle of Scotland, the daffodil of Wales and the shamrock of Northern Ireland. Together, the flowers create the shape of St Edward's Crown, with which His Majesty The King will be crowned during the coronation service at Westminster Abbey on Saturday May 6th. The emblem has been designed using the red, white and blue of the union flag.



SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE FOR THE CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III

On Sunday May 7th Bishop Robert will lead our Commemorative Service at 11.00 am in St Edward's Church, Stow. It will be a wonderful occasion and we do hope that you will be able to join us for this very special moment in the history of our country. At the end of the service we shall be serving fizz and nibbles in our newly-created space at the rear of the church.

Earlier that week on Thursday 4th May at 2.00 pm in church the pupils from Stow School will be holding their Coronation concert. Please do come along and support this event.

LOOKING AHEAD—DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

On Thursday June 8th, Stow MU branch will be holding a fundraising coffee morning in church from 10.00 am until noon. There will also be a special stall of MU cards and gifts on sale, with the proceeds in aid of the many MU projects at home and overseas.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

This year we are promoting activities for Christian Aid week being led by our friends at St Lawrence's Church, Bourton-on-the-Water. These include a talk entitled "From Prison Camp to Freedom and Beyond" by Canon David Cook who will share some of his life experiences, in the Far East, the UK and South Africa, including his years in a Japanese POW camp. The talk is on Tuesday 16th May at 7.30 pm in St Lawrence's Church at Bourton-on-the-Water, and donations will be welcome. On Saturday 20th May at Tesco in Stow there will be collections for Christian Aid and our support in donating would be gratefully received.

FILM NIGHT The next Film Night will be on Thursday 25th May, at 7.00pm in St Edward's Church with drinks from 6.45 pm onwards. This time we will be showing "Living" starring Bill Nighy. The trailer can be seen at www.youtube.com/watch?v=OV05kLt_-BU All are welcome.