



Benefice Newsletter July 2025



Blessing

You are the peace of all things calm
You are the place to hide from harm
You are the light that shines in dark
You are the heart's eternal spark
You are the door that's open wide
You are the guest who waits inside
You are the stranger at the door
You are the calling of the poor
You are my Lord and with me still
You are my love, keep me from ill
You are the light, the truth, the way
You are my Saviour this very day.
This prayer is supposed to be from the
1st century
From www.faithandworship.com

CALLING ALL CLEARER OUTERS!

We are planning a
big clear out of the
choir vestry soon.

Can you help?
Are there any vital
items you want to
keep?

Please speak to
Revd Karen,
Caroline M or
Elizabeth

Benefice Contacts

Reverend Karen Wellman
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Church office:
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Condicote:
Chris Wynn 01451 830389
Adam Fleming

The Swells:
Jolyon Grey 01451 822215
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Website and Social Media for St Edward's

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/14393/>

Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/people/St-Edwards-Church-Stow-on-the-Wold/61566790355827/>

Instagram:
https://www.instagram.com/st_edwards_stow/

Online services links

6 July: <https://bit.ly/StEd060725>
13 July: <https://bit.ly/StEd130725>
20 July: <https://bit.ly/StEd200725>
27 July: <https://bit.ly/StEd270725>

STOP PRESS....

St Edward's Church Wednesday Coffee from 16th July

The lovely people at Huffkins have offered a space for a midweek coffee morning for St Edward's on Wednesdays from the 16th July. This is between 9am and 10.30am only. Not only is there excellent coffee and cake but there are not many steps. If you have one of our St Edward's Wednesday Coffee Cards you can get 25% off your order if you come and sit with us. Community, chat and coffee – what is not to like? Cards are available from Revd Karen or Elizabeth.

RIP

Nicholas Clements of Upper Swell – funeral 8th July at noon at St Edward's, with the committal afterwards at St Mary's Upper Swell.

Marjorie Fennessy – funeral 24th July at 11am at Wellesbourne (Oakley Wood) Crematorium in Warwickshire. Thanksgiving Service will be at 3pm at St Edward's followed by tea and cake.

From Revd Karen

June has been a very busy month. We celebrated the weddings of Joe and Ami, and of Sophie and Tom at St Edward's. At St Mary's Lower Swell we opened up the mostly closed church to welcome baby Margarita into her journey of faith through baptism. Thank you Hazel for making St Mary's church look so lovely.

I've been into Lower Swell School to talk about the history of St Edward's and of Stow on the Wold. I found this picture – does anyone know why there is a photo of an Elephant outside the Kings Arms?



There have been some amazing concerts this month with Michael Omer and Friends giving a jazz concert and a cello concert under the banner of Music at Stow. Alistair McGowan stunned Stow with his poetry, comedy and musicality at a St Edward's concert. In July we have a new venture, Lumos is bringing their Cold Play by Candlelight concert to Stow. Google 'Lumos' and 'Stow on the Wold' for tickets as this is an external event.



One of the highlights for me this year so far, was our Pentecost service at St Edward's. We held a communion service at St Nicholas Condicote which allowed us to be more creative at Stow. The different styles of music and worship from the three parishes were brought together to celebrate Pentecost. Adam (music) and Karen (liturgy) pulled off a service with a great deal of help from the Holy Spirit given the lack of time to rehearse in both of our diaries. The congregational singing was excellent. The candles on the cake were defeated by the wind; we are on top of the hill of course! Cake was eaten, sherry was drunk and tourists were a bit surprised outside the North Door.

July is a much quieter month with no weddings or baptisms at our churches but this does give some space to plan into the autumn. We get so many visitors that it would be sensible to review what we offer to those who come from around the world and from the UK to visit us. A group of us who have the tourist churches (Chipping Camden and Blockley) are working with College Green and the Cathedral to refresh what we have and learn from each other. If anyone has ideas for what we might do differently, please contact Karen or Elizabeth.

Bats

We had a bat survey in June and it appears that we have a few bats on the very east end of the church roof. They are either long eared bats or pipistrelles or both. As some people really do not like bats there is no picture on this piece, but you can find out more about them at <https://www.bats.org.uk/>

We had one bat visit us at the Rectory last summer. We were unable to identify it as we were too busy trying to remove it whilst making sure that the Rectory cat did not prove that she can kill anything that squeaks. Astrid clearly thought it was a mouse with wings. The bat was released back into the wild unscathed but unidentified.

There will be two further bat surveys at the church over this summer to find out which type of bat we have. This will help us work out how and when the chancel roof can be repaired.

Support our Churches One Step (Or Pedal) at a Time



Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust (GHCT) is delighted to announce that Ride+Stride is back for 2025, taking place on the 13th of September.

Thousands of people take part in Ride+Stride every year to raise funds to support their local churches and county historic churches trusts. Participants seek sponsorship through visiting Gloucester churches by walking, cycling, on horseback, on public transport or by car. Or some arrange coffee mornings or lunches.

St Edward's will again be taking part this year. The 'official' Ride & Stride day is Saturday 13th September, but that is also the final day of the five-day Music at Stow Festival. Peter Dixon will again do his 20-mile solo walk, visiting ten ancient Cotswold churches. Because he will be busy with the Music at Stow Festival on 13th September, he will do his walk on Monday 8th September, before the Festival gets going.

There is plenty of scope for other group or individual activities. The money raised goes to Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust, but GHCT returns half of the funds to St Edward's. There will be a St Edward's Just Giving page, to which you can direct family and friends to support our efforts.

What activity could YOU, your children or your grandchildren do to support our efforts?

Further information can be found at: <https://ghct.org.uk/ride-and-stride>

Comfy Pews



The PCC hope you are enjoying the new pew cushions, which both enhance the appearance of the church and make it more comfortable for all of us.

They were far from inexpensive, but half of the cost of just under £3,000 was covered by generous individual donations, some in the form of sponsoring a cushion.

The other half was a gift from the busy Closely Knit group. Many thanks to all who contributed or knitted!



Services

Mondays 9.00 am (NOT Monday 21 st)	Morning Prayer in the Lady Chapel at St Edward's Stow
Sunday 6 th July 10.30am	Holy Communion, St Edward's Stow with bells before the service
Sunday 13 th July 9.15am Sunday 13 th July 10.30am	BCP Matins Communion, St Nicholas Condicote Holy Communion, St Edward's Stow
Sunday 20 th July 9.15am Sunday 20 th July 10.30 am	BCP Holy Communion, St Mary's Upper Swell Holy Communion, St Edward's Stow
Sunday 27 th July 9.15am Sunday 27 th July 10.30am Sunday 27 th July 2.30pm	BCP Holy Communion, St Nicholas Condicote Holy Communion, St Edward's Stow Dementia Friendly Service, Edwardstow Court
Saturday 2 nd August 2.30pm	Wedding at St Mary's Lower Swell

Dates for your diary

Friday 25th July – Lumos Candlelight Experience

Friday 15th August 7.30pm – Piano recital – Tyler Hay – a mixed programme of popular and some less well known works by a Leeds International Piano Competition competitor

Regular Events

Closely Knit - 10am-noon every Saturday in the Church.

Mother's Union - first Thursday of the month 2.00pm in the Church Room.

Cotswold Dementia Café Every 1st and 3rd Friday of the month, 2-4pm at the Baptist Church Hall off Back Walls. A community café offering friendship, support, advice and more for anyone living with or caring for someone with dementia.