



Church and Community Newsletter April 2026



From Revd Karen

This year Easter is almost as early as it can be. Thank you to Peter and Jeff who have moved the altar in the Lady Chapel at St Edwards so that we hold the hour before the cross (2pm Good Friday) next to the newly restored Stow Crucifixion painting.

This year we have four confirmations at the Cathedral on Easter Eve when Charlotte, Dan, Verity and Graham will be confirmed by the bishops in a special celebration which brings together churches from across the diocese. Please hold them in your prayers.

On Easter Day we have two services at 9.15am in the benefice with a family service at Lower Swell which will include an Easter Egg hunt. Condicote are holding a lay-led service at the same time. Thank you to Annette for organising this. The main Easter celebration at Stow is at 10.30am where we will be baptising Derek as part of the service. Thank you in advance to everyone who works so hard to make these services happen.

We are delighted to announce that the new Director of Operations at St Edward's is Mrs Marion David. She will be joining us in the summer. She has lots of experience running churches and knows the cathedral very well. I will ask her to introduce herself in the next newsletter.

It is a very busy time for all of us so if you see a stray vicar, organist, flower arranger or church administrator in the town it is important to check their caffeine levels and put them somewhere safe to recover. Chocolate may help.

Church Contacts

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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

5 Apr (Easter): <https://bit.ly/StEd050426>

12 Apr: <https://bit.ly/StEd120426>

19 Apr: <https://bit.ly/StEd190426>

26 Apr: <https://bit.ly/STEd260426>

Blessing

Christ is Risen: The world below lies desolate
Christ is Risen: The spirits of evil are fallen
Christ is Risen: The angels of God are rejoicing
Christ is Risen: The tombs of the dead are empty
Christ is Risen indeed from the dead,
the first of the sleepers,
Glory and power are his forever and ever
St. Hippolytus (AD 190-236)

APCM dates

St Edward's Stow: Sunday 26th April 12 midday in church
St Nicholas Condicote: Wednesday 29th April 6pm in church
St Mary's Lower Swell: Wednesday 13^h May 6pm in church

Little Ed Hits Big Target



The fund to save 'Little Ed – the Stow Town Clock' has hit the tremendous milestone of £10,000. The restoration campaign, which is aiming to raise over £30,000 to repair the clock face and mechanism, also has a smart new logo. Sybil Ruscoe said: 'Thank you to everyone who has contributed so far. Your support is greatly appreciated. It's a wonderful achievement to hit the £10,000 mark but we still have a long way to go.'

'Thanks also to my old school friend, Nick Edwards a graphic designer based in Shropshire, who very kindly created our sparkling new logo for free.'

Sybil added: 'I'm proud to be helping out with the campaign. Little Ed – the Stow Town Clock - means so much to me. I've lived here for 21 years and the chiming of the hours and quarters are the soundtrack to my life here – especially when I'm out digging on my allotment. It's sad to see Little Ed missing some of his numbers and I would be heartbroken if we lost our town clock.'

The Closely Knit team are continuing to create some marvellous goods for sale. It's their work that's driving the 'Save Little Ed' campaign and they have raised the majority of the cash so far.



Some of our smiling superstars from Closely Knit



The group will be fundraising by serving tea and cake on the Stow 550 Charter Day on Sunday, May 24th and have organised a Grand Draw for the same day. Tickets are £1 each - please see Susan Liphthorpe if you'd like to buy a book or even better, if you'd like to sell some draw tickets!!

TV Stars on BBC News!

Closely Knit has been gifted a bundle of knitted goods from a woman called Jean who lives in Charlton Kings. She saw the publicity about 'Save Little Ed' on BBC TV's Points West and wanted to help. She has donated no fewer than 45 beautifully knitted cardigans and jumpers in a wide variety of sizes, styles and colours - a big 'thank you' to you Jean!

Closely Knit invited her to come to a Saturday knitting session. However, she is less mobile now and was just delighted to have an outlet for her hobby. She loves knitting and is very happy to keep knitting for Little Ed. Closely Knit has had a large donation of wool which will be delivered to Jean which will keep her busy for some time. Then she will let us know when to collect her beautiful handiwork. It is wonderful to have her support.



If anyone has any oddments of wool, Closely Knit will be delighted to receive donations.

And get well soon to Jo, Closely Knit's crochet queen, who has recently been in hospital for an op.

You are welcome to join Closely Knit for a knit and natter every Saturday in the church between 10am and 12 noon. Sybil said: "The talented team at Closely Knit have even got me knitting for the first time since about 1967. I'm not sure yet exactly what I'm knitting though! The women are an inspiration and great fun to be with.'

Closely Knit has also been given a beautiful Christening gown set made by Gillian Joy of Yorkshire. It's brand new and includes a gown, hat, all-in-one bodice and shoes. The price tag is a bargain £30. Please see one of the Closely Knit team if you'd like to buy this.



If you would like to help to 'Save Little Ed – the Stow Town Clock', you can use the QR code below to make a donation. Simply point your mobile phone camera at the QR code and you'll be taken to our Give A Little page. You can also make a cheque payable to PCC Stow on the Wold – please put your cheque in an envelope marked 'CLOCK' and pop it in the red safe beside the church door. You can also hand your cheque to Church Treasurer, Peter Dixon and let him know it's for the 'Save Little Ed' fund.



We were sad not to receive grants from North Cotswolds Rotary and the Honourable Company of Gloucestershire but we will be seeking donations from other charities and trusts. If you do know of any organisations that could help – especially local family trusts or charities – please email sybil@sybilruscoemedia.com or ring her on 07767 77 77 87.

It costs £80,000 a year to keep the doors open at St Edward's and all this money comes from our congregation. We do not receive any funding from the central Church of England. We are a small congregation and keeping our church open isn't an easy task. The population of our town has fallen as homes become tourist accommodation. We also appreciate that money is tight for many people with the ever-rising cost of living. But because we are self-funding, work like restoring our lovely old clock is an extra cost, on top of our day-to-day church running costs. We appreciate any help you can give to 'Save Little Ed.'

THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO 'SAVE LITTLE ED – THE STOW TOWN CLOCK.'

RIP

We are very sad to hear that Christopher Reeve has passed away. His funeral will be at St Edward's Church at 11.30am on Monday 20th April.

Services

Mondays 9.00am (no service Monday 6 th)	Morning Prayer in the Lady Chapel at St Edward's Stow
Thursday 2 nd April 11.00am	Holy Communion, Newlands Court
Thursday 2 nd April 6.30pm	Maundy Thursday Holy Communion, St Edward's Stow
Friday 3 rd April 2.00pm	Good Friday Reflections, St Edward's Stow
Sunday 5 th April 9.15am	Family service for Easter Sunday, St Mary's Lower Swell
Sunday 5 th April 9.15am	Lay led Easter Day Service, St Nicholas Condicote
Sunday 5 th April 10.30am	Holy Communion for Easter Sunday, St Edward's Stow with baptism
Sunday 12 th April 9.15am	BCP Matins, St Nicholas Condicote, led by Dr Dilys Neill
Sunday 12 th April 10.30am	Holy Communion, St Edward's Stow
Sunday 12 th April 11.00am	BCP Matins (lay led) St Mary's Upper Swell
Sunday 19 th April 9.15am	BCP Holy Communion, St Mary's Upper Swell led by the Revd Canon Craig Bishop
Sunday 19 th April 10.30am	Holy Communion, St Edward's Stow led by the Revd Canon Craig Bishop
Sunday 19 th April 2.30pm	Dementia Friendly Service, Edwardstow Court
Wednesday 22 nd April 3.00pm	Prayers and hymns at Beechwood Park
Saturday 25 th April 1.00pm	Wedding blessing, St Edward's Stow
Sunday 26 th April 9.15am	BCP Holy Communion, St Nicholas Condicote
Sunday 26 th April 10.30am	Morning Service, St Edward's Stow

Dates for your diary

Saturday 11th April 7pm and 9pm Lumos: A Fleetwood Mac Candlelight Experience

Saturday 18th April 7pm – Music at Stow concert: Bach to the Future.

A musical trip down memory lane, featuring jazz, humour and original songs. Michael Omer's jazz-piano cabaret shows have been seen in London and New York. The show remembers iconic figures from our shared musical past ... plus cool jazz, and a breathtaking "instant musical" finale!

Sunday 24th May 2pm - Fundraising tea and cakes in aid of the Save Little Ed Stow Town Clock campaign in St Edward's Church

Regular Events

Wednesday Coffee Club - 9.00-10.30am in Huffkins

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

Mother's Union – Thursday 2nd April 2.30pm 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.