



# Church and Community Newsletter March 2026



## From Revd Karen

This year Easter is very early. It only seems to be five minutes ago that we were celebrating Christmas and now Lent is upon us. This year there are no Lent Groups. We are however focusing on a theme of 'Living in God's Hospitality' in sermons from Christmas to Easter. A very generous academic has sent me half a bookshelf of books on the theology of hospitality which is forming part of my Lent study. I may need longer than forty days...Whether you are taking up something new or abstaining from something may this Lent take you deeper into a relationship with the triune God who is very welcoming.

## Director of Operations

At the time of writing we have 5 applications for this role. Interviews will take place on the 6<sup>th</sup> March. Please keep this process in your prayers as we discern the way forward for St Edward's Church.

## Confirmations

We are delighted that three young people from the villages will be confirmed on Easter Eve at Gloucester Cathedral. It is a very large cathedral so if you would like to explore confirmation this Easter then please contact Revd Karen.

## Easter Services

There will be services across the parishes this Holy Week and Easter. Revd Karen will be taking a break after and will most likely be in the garden catching up with the horticultural backlog.

## St Edward's Church Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll will be revised prior to the Annual Meeting which will be held on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April. If you would like your name to be added please speak to Sue Lipthorpe or email [secretary@stedwardsstow.org.uk](mailto:secretary@stedwardsstow.org.uk)

## Church Contacts

Reverend Karen Wellman  
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Church office:  
[secretary@stedwardsstow.org.uk](mailto:secretary@stedwardsstow.org.uk)

Condicote:  
Chris Wynn 01451 830389  
Adam Fleming

The Swells:  
Jolyon Grey 01451 822215  
Hazel James 01451 831367

## 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/](https://www.instagram.com/st_edwards_stow/)

## Online services links

1 March: <https://bit.ly/StEd010326>  
8 March: <https://bit.ly/StEd080326>  
15 March: <https://bit.ly/StEd150326>  
22 March: <https://bit.ly/StEd220326>  
29 March: <https://bit.ly/StEd290326>

## Blessing

Lord help me to:  
Welcome change and not dismiss it,  
Accept the challenge and not feel overwhelmed,  
Grasp the opportunity and overcome the obstacles,  
Look forward and not to the past and accept that change is a part of life.  
Let me see the change as a door opening, not closing,  
And guide me into the future step by step.  
*Dinah Taylor, Eastbourne*

## **BIG BOOST FOR LITTLE ED**



The campaign to save 'Little Ed' – the Stow-on-the-Wold town clock – has been boosted by a £3,000 donation from Stow Town Council.

The clock, which sits proudly on the St Edward's Church tower, needs £32,000 of repairs to its clockface, autowinder and mechanism.

With the town council donation and sales from the Closely Knit 'knit and natter' group, which meets in the church every Saturday, the fundraising campaign has already hit the £7,000 mark. Donations are also coming in from townspeople and businesses.

Stow Town Mayor, Councillor Alison Tighe said: 'The Town Council is proud to be helping to save Little Ed. Our town clock is a historic feature of our beautiful market square in Stow-on-the-Wold. 'We're especially pleased to support the restoration of the clock as we mark the 550th Anniversary of our Royal Charter for two fairs granted by Edward IVth. Little Ed has been marking time in our town for decades and it will be wonderful to see the clock smartened up for our townsfolk and visitors.'

Sue Lane from Closely Knit, which is leading the fundraising campaign, said: 'We are thrilled that the town council has backed our campaign to Save Little Ed - the Stow Town Clock. It's wonderful news. The clock is a landmark in our town square and such an important part of our town's heritage. We want to express our gratitude to the town council for its support. It's a big boost to our fundraising campaign.'

Diane Close, who is knitting a replica of Little Ed which will form part of a display charting the progress of fundraising, said: 'We are hoping that businesses in Stow will follow the lead of the town council and back the campaign to Save Little Ed. A clock has been chiming the hours and quarters of our town for four and a half centuries. It's the sound of our town and is a twin attraction to the famous Tolkien door at our church. The clock is loved by local people and is photographed by visitors from all around the world.'

Donations to the 'Save Little Ed' campaign can be made via this link <https://givealittle.co/c/StowClock> or please use the QR code:





## EASTER LILIES

This beautiful white, trumpet shaped flower is a symbol of purity and rebirth and has long been associated with Easter.

We would love to use these beautiful flowers in our church decorations at Easter in memory of those we love but see no more. Would you like to help by sponsoring a lily at £3.50 per stem in memory of a loved one? Please contact Susan Brattin 01451 832447 or [susan@brattin.co.uk](mailto:susan@brattin.co.uk).

*Luke 12:27:* Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

## Biscuits and Blessings

Every month Revd Karen and Elizabeth take biscuits or chocolate and blessings out to the town. We go into some of the many businesses in Stow and say thank you for all they do for the life and welcome of the town. This month we had a special guest who really enjoyed visiting Just for Dogs at the top of Digbeth Street. She then proved that Huffkins really is dog friendly.



## Mothering Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March

This year the service falls on the third Sunday of the month when we usually have an informal service at St Edward's. There will be a service of Holy Communion at St Mary's Upper Swell at 9.15am. The service at Stow has not yet been planned but it will include some time to remember mothers who are no longer with us and some space for some of the complexities of motherhood and the mother church. There will be a celebration as well. And sherry! And probably biscuits.



## Do you have a love of flowers and enjoy arranging them?

We would love you to help us in the church. You do not have to be an expert flower arranger, a jug of flowers, even cow parsley, can look just as beautiful as a more formal arrangement. It's fun and a great way to meet some of the many tourists who visit us. You don't have to be a regular churchgoer either, just someone who would enjoy helping to enhance the beauty of our wonderful building.

**Interested and would like to learn more?** Please contact Susan Brattin 01451 832447 or [susan@brattin.co.uk](mailto:susan@brattin.co.uk)

### REYNOLDS TEAGUE HOMES ALMSHOUSES, EVESHAM ROAD STOW-ON-THE-WOLD

There is a vacancy for persons in need of single accommodation who are resident in the Parish of Stow-on-the-Wold and over 65 years of age. The accommodation of the Home comprises one bedroom, a bathroom, kitchen and living area. The Home is on the ground floor.

Residents have the benefit of communal gardens and private shared parking.

Further details from Kendall & Davies Solicitors, Bourton-on-the-Water.

Tel: 01386 840233.

## Services

Mondays 9.00am (no service Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> )	Morning Prayer in the Lady Chapel at St Edward's Stow
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> March 10.30am	Holy Communion, St Edward's Stow with bells before the service
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March 11.00am	Holy Communion, Newlands Court
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> March 9.15am	BCP Matins, St Nicholas Condicote
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> March 10.30am	Holy Communion, St Edward's Stow
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> March 11.00am	BCP Matins (lay led) St Mary's Upper Swell
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> March 9.15am	BCP Holy Communion, St Nicholas Condicote
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> March 10.30am	Morning Service, St Edward's Stow (Mothering Sunday)
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March 3.00pm	Prayers and hymns at Beechwood Park
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March 9.15am	BCP Holy Communion, St Mary's Upper Swell
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March 10.30am	Holy Communion, St Edward's Stow
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2.30pm	Dementia Friendly Service, Edwardstow Court
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> March 10.30am	Holy Communion for Palm Sunday, St Edward's Stow, starting with (optional) walk from the Market Cross 10.20am

## PLANNED SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April 6.30pm	Maundy Thursday service, St Edward's Stow
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2.00pm	Good Friday Reflections, St Edward's Stow
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> April 9.15am	Family service for Easter Sunday, St Mary's Lower Swell
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> April 10.30am	Holy Communion for Easter Sunday, St Edward's Stow with baptism

## Dates for your diary

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 7.30pm** – Jazz Piano: Marcel Zidani plays Keith Jarrett - the Koln Concert

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March 6.30pm** - Music at Stow concert - baritone Henry Neill and pianist Ashok Gupta

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April** – Lumos: A Fleetwood Mac Candlelight Experience

## Regular Events

**Wednesday Coffee Club** - 9.00-10.30am in Huffkins

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

**Mother's Union** – Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 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.