



Church and Community Newsletter September 2026



From Revd Karen

At the time of writing it has just rained and you can almost hear the gardens and fields soaking it all up.

It has been a very busy summer. Most churches get a well-deserved rest in the summer as the schools are on holiday but not St Edward's. Marion, our operations director, counted 900 visitors inside the church on a Wednesday in August. We know that there had been a mere 600 when Robert counted visitors to the North Door back in August 2024. If you thought, it is busier in Stow than a couple of years ago, you are right and we have the numbers to prove it.

I've been sitting in church, or by the North Door, on Saturday afternoons and it has been wonderful to meet and greet so many people from around the world. Some are just here for a few minutes. Others stay for very much longer as they stop to pray, listen to the piano being played or just absorb the peace that is so much of a feature of St Edward's. I've also really enjoyed sharing a sermon series on prayer through the summer in our Sunday 10.30am service at St Edward's and then adapting it for the village services. In September we are changing gear as we focus on Creationtide and Harvest. Our Harvest Festival will be on the 11th October which will end that season. Then we enter the Remembrance Season and before you know it we have arrived at Christmas. Doesn't the year fly past.

In September we have a visit from our bishop. +Rachel is coming to the North Cotswolds Deanery to hear about the impact of a chaplain at the Cotswold School. Some of the larger churches are supporting this project. In the afternoon I've invited +Rachel to see the pioneering work that is being done at St Edward's with visitor engagement by a parish church. We really are leading the way in the C of E as churches look at how they can welcome visitors into church outside of their Sunday services. Full reporting in the next newsletter. Meanwhile – enjoy the rain.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR LOCAL FOODBANK

Thank you to everyone at St Edward's for your continued support of our work. Last year, over 22% of all donations came from our local churches. As you may be aware, sadly the need for emergency food in our area still remains incredibly high. During the last year, North Cotswold Foodbank has provided 1,794 emergency food parcels to people who can't afford the essentials. There will be further information in church about our Harvest Appeal.

Church Contacts

Reverend Karen Wellman
07510 221883
revdkaren@stedwardsstow.org.uk

Church office:

secretary@stedwardsstow.org.uk
operations@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/

Online services links

6 Sep: <https://bit.ly/StEd060926>
13 Sep: <https://bit.ly/StEd130926>
20 Sep: <https://bit.ly/StEd200926>
27 Sep: <https://bit.ly/StEd270926>

Blessing

We bless you,
God of Seed and Harvest
And we bless each other
That the beauty of this world
And the love that created it
Might be expressed through our
lives
And be a blessing to others
Now and always
John Birch

Heritage Week (11-20th September)



<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/>

Heritage Week is coming up, with plenty of fantastic venues to visit (for free!) in the Cotswolds and beyond. Some of them do not open their doors to the public very often, so if you have a special interest in heritage buildings or simply enjoy a great day out, do check out the listing.

Second-hand book stall

I am looking at refreshing our second hand book stock in September. If you have any quality books looking for a new home, please leave them in a bag and leave them under the church gift table. No DVD please, as they are not so popular nowadays

Fancy a sweet treat?

For the next couple of weeks we are offering delicious fudge on sales, made really locally to us in Kingham. Our stock is currently limited, but if you decide that you love them and you want to see them back again (and we can keep them away from mice) let me know!

Marion



Interested in first-aid training?

I'm looking at organising a one-day emergency first-aid training sometime in the autumn. The training day typically includes things such as assessing an emergency situation & responding safely, CPR and defibrillator, choking, burns, etc. If you feel this is something that may interest you (it costs around £50 per person) please let me know. Marion operations@stedwardsstow.org.uk

CHURCH FLOWERS

Sponsoring the church flowers is a lovely way to celebrate a birthday, anniversary or any other important date. It is also a beautiful way to commemorate a loved one. The Church flower ladies would be extremely grateful to hear from anyone who would like to do this with the date you would like.

Susan Brattin, Barbara Lee, Caroline Marsh

Email: secretary@stedwardsstow.org.uk

August's visitors feedback:



Vinny Phillips

Local Guide · 32 reviews · 19 photos



14 hours ago

NEW

Beautiful church, so much history within a stunning setting.



Lawrence W Salvoni

Local Guide · 80 reviews · 36 photos



a week ago

NEW

Very welcoming church. Public engagement was key. Plenty of local activities advertised and some craft items for sale.

From our visitors' book

4/8/26 - Moja & Charlie (Netherlands):

'It's always lovely visiting old and beautiful buildings, but this place feels extra special. Thank you for taking care of this place for us and future generations.'

Weddings at St Edward's this summer

With thanks to our couples for sharing words and photos of their special day; we have loved being part of your journey together.



Sarah and Jamie – June

"Sarah and Jamie met in 2022 through a mutual friend who had a very apt suspicion that the two would be a perfect fit. Following a lovely first meeting at a Scottish Burns Night party hosted by Jamie, the two began spending more and more time together, despite living two hours apart for the first several months. Eventually Sarah and Jamie settled down in a lovely home on a friendly Lane in Stow on the Wold, where they have learned a great deal about garden renovations and DIY.

Lovers of nature, they spend many of their weekends walking the beautiful paths of the North Cotswolds – often those that have a view of St Edward's Church from miles away – so when they got engaged in September 2025, St Edward's was the only church they could imagine celebrating their special day in. Sarah was proudly walked down the aisle by her father, John Eichhorn, with her mother Karen in attendance, older sister Lyssa as Maid of Honour, and nephew Kyle as Ringbearer. The beautiful olive trees and fresh



flowers dotting the aisle were grown and cared for by Jamie's parents, John and Fiona Thornton, while his brother Ross served as Best Man. Friends and family from the UK and US were happily in attendance, and the day was enjoyed by all. The following month, Sarah and Jamie donned their wedding attire a second time, for a reception in Illinois with Sarah's extended family there. A very special thank you to Elizabeth, Revd Karen, our organist Linda, and the wonderfully lovely people of Stow for making the experience so very special."



Mary and John - July

"We feel incredibly lucky to have gotten to know the congregation over the last year and to have been fortunate enough to have our wedding ceremony in this very special church.

Thank you so much to Reverend Karen, Elizabeth, Linda, Caroline and Susan and everyone else who helped on the day and who has been kind enough to have a chat with us when we have attended a service. We've also really enjoyed bringing our family to services over the past year and thank you all for greeting them with such warmth.

St Edward's is such a welcoming and inclusive place and will always hold a special place in our hearts - we will be back to visit whenever we are in the area!"



Services

Mondays at 9.00am	Morning Prayer in the Lady Chapel at St Edward's Stow
Wednesday 2 nd September 3.30pm	Wedding, St Nicholas' Condicote
Sunday 6 th September 10.30am	Holy Communion, St Edward's Stow
Sunday 6 th September 4.00pm	Family service followed by a BBQ in the Pound, St Nicholas Condicote
Saturday 12 th September 3.00pm	Wedding, St Nicholas' Condicote
Sunday 13 th September 9.15am	BCP Matins, St Nicholas Condicote
Sunday 13 th September 10.30am	Holy Communion, St Edward's Stow
Sunday 13 th September 11.00am	BCP Matins (lay led) St Mary's Upper Swell
Sunday 20 th September 9.15am	BCP Holy Communion, St Mary's Upper Swell
Sunday 20 th September 10.30am	Holy Communion, St Edward's Stow
Sunday 27 th September 9.15am	BCP Holy Communion, St Nicholas Condicote
Sunday 27 th September 10.30am	Morning Service, St Edward's Stow

Dates for your diary

8th – 12th September – Music at Stow - [Welcome](#) | [Music at Stow](#)

Saturday 12th September – Ride and Stride - [Ride+Stride](#) | [Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust](#)

Monday 21st September – Bishop Rachel visiting St Edward's

Friday 2nd October – Lumos - [Lumos Experiences](#) | [Stow On The Wold](#)

Regular Events

Wednesday Coffee Club - 9.00-10.30am in Huffkins

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

Mother's Union – First Thursday of the month at 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.

Baby and Toddler Group First Wednesday of the month 11.00am – 12.30pm at Edwardstow Court

Fish and Chip lunch First Friday of the month 12.15 – 2.00pm at Edwardstow Court – **Booking essential.**
To book your place call 01451 799100 or email: g.joyes@osjct.co.uk