

Welcome to our Services in Church
MARCH

SUNDAY 3rd

Third Sunday Of Lent	11.00 am	Holy Communion	Stow Church Room
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SUNDAY 10th

Fourth Sunday Of Lent	9.30 am	Matins	Condicote
	11.00 am	Holy Communion	Stow Church Room
	11.00 am	Matins (lay-led)	Upper Swell

SUNDAY 17th

Fifth Sunday Of Lent	9.30 am	Holy Communion	Upper Swell
	11.00 am	Holy Communion	Stow Church Room

SUNDAY 24th

Palm Sunday	9.30 am	Holy Communion	Condicote
	11.00 am	Holy Communion	Stow Church Room

THURSDAY 28th

Maundy Thursday	7.00 pm	Holy Communion	Stow Church Room
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FRIDAY 29th

Good Friday	2.00 pm	Contemplative Service	Stow Baptist Church
		for the last hour at the cross	

SATURDAY 30th

Easter Eve	8.00 pm	Easter Eve Vigil	Condicote
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SUNDAY 31st March

Easter Day	9.30 am	Holy Communion	Lower Swell
	11.00 am	Holy Communion	Stow Baptist Church

The Bible Study Course will take place at 2 pm in the Church Room or 7 pm at Lindsey's house on Monday 4th, Wednesday 13th, Monday 18th and Monday 25th March.

<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

March 2024

From Reverend Karen:

It does not seem possible that we are at the end of February and Easter is just around the corner. The date of Easter moves each year which can catch us all out—in case you wondered Easter Day is the first Sunday after the full moon which appears on or after the spring equinox. The equinox is the 21st March so the earliest Easter can be is the 22nd March and the latest is the 25th April. We have one of the early ones this year on the 31st March.

We are very grateful to our Baptist friends who are kindly offering us the use of their church on Back Walls pending our repairs to the heating system in St Edward's. There will be a service at Stow Baptist Church on Good Friday at 2 pm and at 11 am on Easter Day. We will also have an Easter Eve service at Condicote and an Easter Day service at Lower Swell. Details will be on the website.

In my last parishes we used to have a dawn service on Easter Sunday where we lit a fire as dawn broke, set off fireworks and told the Easter story. This is not as easy to do in the countryside and I'm not sure fireworks at 5am would win me any friends. It is rather different in the big smoke!

Thank you to everyone who is keeping worship going in the Benefice, whether it is the challenge of mending the heating system at St Edward's or keeping the village churches warm and welcoming in the cold weather. Many thanks!

Reverend Karen Wellman	831567
revdkaren@stedwardsstow.org.uk	

CHURCHWARDENS:

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

PAROCHIAL ELECTORAL ROLL

The date of the St Edward's Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) will be announced after the PCC have met in March. In the meantime, please do consider joining the Parochial Electoral Roll if you are not already on it. Being a member entitles you to vote at the APCM. You would need to complete an application form and copies will be available at the back of church in due course or in the Church Room. For any further details please contact Derek Magson on 833840.

MU

This month the group will host a Lent Lunch on Thursday March 14th at noon in the Church Room. Everyone is welcome, so please feel free to come along and bring your family and friends. There will be a simple lunch (bread, cheese, fruit) between noon and 2 pm in aid of Mothers' Union projects worldwide.

RIP

The funeral of Frances Clapham took place in St Edward's Church on Thursday 22nd February. Even though the temperature was chilly there was a massive amount of love and affection for this dear lady who served our Benefice for many years. She served as churchwarden for over 12 years, working with Revd Fred Rothery, Revd Jane Gardner and Revd David Francis. She also led the flower arranging team and was the organiser of the St Edward's Flower Festival for many years. In addition she was a member of Mothers' Union, including acting as Stow Branch Treasurer for over 30 years. We send our condolences to her husband Robin and children Bridget, Lindsey, Lorraine and Shaun and their families.

FILM NIGHT

6.45 for 7.00 pm start, Thursday 21st March in Church Room. The film will be 'Downton Abbey: A New Era'. All are welcome.

CONCERTS - SAVE THE DATES

20th April at 5pm Recital by concert pianist Jill Crossland (to include works by Bach and Mozart).

and

Friends of St Edward's present...

Lydbrook Band

From the heart of the Forest of Dean

St Edward's Church

Saturday, 18th May at 7pm

Tickets £12 from Borzoi Bookshop or online at

<https://www.wegottickets.com/event/611868>

PARISH AUDIT

Revd Karen is keen to hear the views of the congregation and she handed out forms recently for people to complete. Please do take one from the back of church or from the Church Room. You are asked to give your views on various aspects of our parish life and the community. As this task will require time for thinking and praying we are asked to return the forms by Easter. Thank you.

LENT

The Bible Study course based on the gospel of St Mark continues on a Monday in the Church Room at 2 pm and at Lindsey's house at 7 pm, (NB w/c 11th we meet on Wednesday 13th) for an hour. You can come to all the sessions or just drop in as each one is a standalone study. If you would like the material ahead of time please email Revd Karen for a digital copy at

revdkaren@stedwardsstow.org.uk

CLOSELY KNIT

Closely Knit meets on Saturdays from 10.00 am to noon, for coffee, chat and crafts. If you would like to come along and join the group you would be made very welcome. During March we will meet in the Church Room, until the heating in church is repaired. If you have any spare wool you would like to donate, please bring it along to church or contact Diane on 07957 231693.

SECOND-HAND BOOKS, STAMPS & FOREIGN CURRENCY

Please continue to bring along any second-hand books for us to sell in church, used stamps (with a one cm or 1/2" margin around) for RNIB, and any unwanted foreign currency (current or outdated).

REYNOLDS TEAGUE HOMES

A vacancy for accommodation for a local person, including access to communal gardens and off-street parking, has become available. Anyone interested should contact Bernice Magson on 01451 833840.

NEWSLETTER AND PEW SHEETS

If you know of anyone who would like to start receiving the Benefice Diary and pew sheets with details of prayers and readings each month, please contact Sue on 01608 654150.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY Bible Study Course—Monday 4th, Wednesday 13th, Monday 18th and 25th March. Details above.

Lent Lunch—Thursday 14th March from noon onwards in Church Room.

Film Night "Downton Abbey: A New Era" Thursday March 21st 6.45 pm.

20th April and 18th May—concerts, see opposite

Spring Plant sale in aid of the St Edward's Flower Fund, on Stocks Green on Saturday June 1st from 10 am onwards.

