

# Benefice Newsletter October 2025



#### From Revd Karen

The seasons have turned again and it is autumn. By the time this newsletter has been printed we will have celebrated our Harvest Festival in all the churches and both schools. There are pictures of the Harvest Festivals at Stow and Lower Swell churches as well as our fabulous Harvest Lunch at St Edward's. We are planning the next benefice lunch for after Christmas.

As the seasons change in the countryside around us we need to be mindful that the season is changing in the church locally and nationally. As a PCC we are very mindful that at St Edward's we are a major tourist attraction which is run by one full time priest, very part time administrative hours, no church wardens and a small group of dedicated volunteers. This is not sustainable long term. As a first step, we need more people to join the opening and closing team. If you, or anyone you know, would be able to volunteer to help keep the church open for visitors we would love to hear from you.

## YOUR CHURCH NEEDS YOU!

St Edwards's Church gets thousands of visitors each year. We are delighted that we are able to open the church every day to offer a place of welcome, pilgrimage and peace. If you love our church's place in the town please consider volunteering as part of a team that opens and closes the church throughout the year.

We are such a popular church that we also need ad hoc vergers for weddings and funerals to help set up and clear away the service and to make sure that there is an appropriate balance between the needs of visitors who want to take photos and space for these events to take place. You do not need to be part of the congregation, just someone who loves our church and town. We can offer remuneration for the verger role.

Please contact Revd Karen or Elizabeth if you would like to discuss.

## **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 though our lives
And be a blessing to others
Now and always
AMEN

John Birch



## **Benefice Contacts**

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

Church office: 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\_edward s\_stow/

#### Online services links

5 Oct: <a href="https://bit.ly/StEd051025">https://bit.ly/StEd051025</a>
12 Oct: <a href="https://bit.ly/StEd191025">https://bit.ly/StEd191025</a>
19 Oct: <a href="https://bit.ly/StEd191025">https://bit.ly/StEd191025</a>

26 Oct: NO STREAMING

#### **PCC at St Edwards**

A huge thank you to Robert who has stepped down after many years and we may never know quite how much hard work.

And welcome to Ingrid who has now joined us.

#### **Harvest Festival**

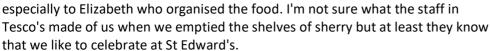


We opened Lower Swell Church for Harvest this year and enjoyed singing hymns in the beautifully decorated church. The children of Condicote led the harvest festival earlier in the month and we enjoyed a fabulous BBQ afterwards on the pound. There are no pictures as I was so busy chatting and eating. Sorry!





St Edward's were blessed by a visit from a Dorset choir who were touring the area and very kindly agreed to delay their departure slightly and sing for us at the start of the service. The Harvest Lunch after the service was a huge success with around thirty of us sitting down to eat lunch at the back of church after a reflection on the harvest of the church in our service earlier that morning. Thank you to everyone who made it possible,







Our next benefice lunch/ celebration will be on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2026.





# **Percy's Progress**

With thanks to Sue Lane



Percy and Petunia flew into the church
The vicar scattered seeds onto the floor
Hoping to lure them both out through the door
Only greedy Petunia took the bait
Percy took his time and thought he'd wait
She scoffed the seed and flew out of the church
Leaving Percy way up high still sitting on his perch
waiting for Petunia to return home
He was left all alone,
Alas, realising she was now gone, Percy felt sad,

The vicar felt bad

So took poor lonely Percy under her wing
He started helping her do her thing
Now Percy and the vicar go off on their travels together
Hawkesbury, dancing, knitting, coffee mornings and Music at Stow
And what do you know?
He's found friends and fame
He's Percy the Pigeon and glad he came
Into the church that day
Like all pilgrims he found his way



#### **Music at Stow**



What an incredible range of concerts this year!
Thank you to Music at Stow for their wonderful organisation and tidying up afterwards! This year we are especially grateful that they made space for a lovely wedding on the same day as the Led Zeppelin tribute band.







Well done Peter for completing the walk around 10 churches on the Monday before Music at Stow!

It very often clashes with Music at Stow so we can't open the church to Ride and Striders on the day but perhaps next year some more of us could do some walking and fundraising...



### **Services**

Mondays 9.00 am Morning Prayer in the Lady Chapel at St Edward's Stow

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October 3.00pm Prayers and hymns at Beechwood Park

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 11.00am Holy Communion, Newlands Court

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2pm Stow School Harvest Festival, St Edward's Stow

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October 10.30am Holy Communion, St Edward's Stow with bells before the service

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October 9.15am BCP Matins Communion, St Nicholas Condicote Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October 11.00am BCP Matins (lay led) St Mary's Upper Swell Holy Communion, St Edward's Stow

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October 9.15am BCP Holy Communion, St Mary's Upper Swell

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October 10.30 am Holy Communion, St Edward's Stow

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October 9.15am BCP Holy Communion, St Nicholas Condicote

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October 10.30am Morning Service

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2.30pm Dementia Friendly Service, Edwardstow Court

# Dates for your diary

Thursday 6th November 10am - MU Stow Branch coffee morning

Saturday 8th November 3pm - Piano recital by Jill Crossland with tea and cake available

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November – Lumos

Sunday 30th November 3pm – Advent Carol Service at St Edward's Stow

## **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 October at 2pm in 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.