



Church and Community Newsletter July 2026



From Revd Karen

This is my third summer in the Cotswolds with two to go. It really is lovely here and I can see why so many people come to visit us. We have been blessed this year with some gorgeous weddings at St Edward's and St Nicholas' with another three to go. I hope you enjoy the pictures.

We have come to a significant point of change at St Edward's as we live out our welcome to tourists and visitors. You will see more notice boards and welcome signs around the site as well as more offerings in our shop. Marion and I had a really good visit to the Tewkesbury Abbey Shop and are really grateful to their shop manager for his advice. There will be toy sheep!

Although these changes should not affect our regular Sunday congregation, I am aware that change can be unsettling, so over the summer so my focus in our services at St Edward's is prayer and praise. The worshipping community is at the heart of all that we do and I'm really looking forward to going deeper into prayer and singing in praise. More leaflets are coming on how to pray. I had lots of these on my computer from ten years ago and I'm really hoping they are still there. Wish me luck as I dive into my hard drive!

Blessing

Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours."

— Teresa of Ávila

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

5 Jul: <https://bit.ly/StEd050726>
12 Jul: <https://bit.ly/StEd120726>
19 Jul: <https://bit.ly/StEd190726>
26 Jul – NO STREAMING

STOP PRESS....

New Lighting for the Nave

As most people know, the nave lighting failed its most recent inspection and we are now in a position to move forward with a new lighting scheme. The PCC have chosen a contractor and they will be giving a presentation in the church at 4pm on Monday 20th July. This will be open to anyone who is interested and we do hope that as many people as possible will come.

RIP

The funeral of Caroline Marland will take place at 1.30pm on the 8th July at St Edward's. In her working life she was the managing director of the Guardian Media Group. She was a much loved member of the Newland's community and will be missed by us all.

An update from our Director of Operations:

By the time you will be reading this, our beautiful church of St Edwards will be well in the middle of our peak visitors' season. A very special shout out to all of you who made the kneelers; I've had so many visitors commenting on their beauty and uniqueness.

Thanks to a grant from the Diocese Mission Fund, some free faith resources will soon be on display. There will be several children's trail sheets available on one of the coffee tables. If you meet any young families in or around church, do encourage them to make the most of it!



Tick Tock Save Our Clock Update

The campaign to 'Save Little Ed – the Stow Town Clock' has now hit £22,000! Thank you to everyone who has helped get us this close to our £25,000 target in just six months. The women of Closely Knit – our Saturday knit and natter group – have led the charge and we're so grateful for the support we have received. The Gloucester Diocesan Advisory Committee has now recommended approval of the work on the clock face and its mechanism. The St Edwards PCC has applied for a faculty – this is basically permission from the Gloucester Diocese to undertake the work. Meanwhile, there is a 30-day consultation period now running and the details are posted inside the church.



Thank You for Your Support. And thank you to everyone who supports Closely Knit - any wool or book donations are always welcome.

Pictured are the Closely Knit team and friends collecting at the Stow 10K. Thanks to the 10K for making 'Save Little Ed – the Stow Town Clock' it's community partner.

A couple of local music events coming up

Music at Stow in St Edward's Church

8th-12th September – flyer opposite and details and booking here [Welcome | Music at Stow](#)

Summer Music Festival at Edwardstow Court

Saturday 8th August

Open Mic Performances | 2pm–4pm

ABBA Stars Tribute | 4pm–5pm

BBQ

Memphis Mike's Elvis Tribute Show | 6pm–7pm

Edwardstow Court, Fosseyway, Stow-on-the-Wold GL54 1FG

2pm–7pm

FREE ENTRY

Everyone is welcome, so bring your family, invite your friends and join us for a fantastic summer afternoon of music and fun!

FESTIVAL AT A GLANCE

TUESDAY 8th SEPTEMBER
Emma Johnson & Friends
CLASSICAL & JAZZ
Caring
GOES TO TOWN

WEDNESDAY 9th SEPTEMBER
Exultate Singers & Craig Ogden
The Harpers' Music
MUSIC FOR GUITAR & VOICE

THURSDAY 10th SEPTEMBER
Jacqui Dankworth
STEPHEN
SONDHEIM
CENTENNIAL

FRIDAY 11th SEPTEMBER
The Counterfeit Beatles
THE
ALTERNATIVE
BEATLES

SATURDAY 12th SEPTEMBER
Detroit Soul Collective
SOUL
NIGHT

Weddings this year at St Edwards...more to come in later months...

With huge thanks to our couples for words and photos; we have been delighted to be a part of your journey together.



Emma and Nathan – April 2026

" Nearly a decade ago, in Christchurch, student nurse Emma met Nathan in a small bar, where Nathan asked if he could buy her a drink. From that simple beginning, their journey together began. Over the years, they have built a wonderful life together, filled with love, laughter, and many happy memories. Their family has grown to include two pygmy goats and their beloved cats, Ernie and Shirley, who have all played their part in making their house a home—and were even included on their wedding cake!

Emma and Nathan celebrated their Wedding Blessing surrounded by their closest family and loved ones. Taking pride of place as Chief Bridesmaid was Violet, their loyal German Shepherd, who made sure everything ran smoothly on the day. Emma was proudly walked down the aisle by her father, Paul Rayner, while her beautiful veil was lovingly handmade by her mother, Sheena Rayner, adding a special personal touch to the occasion. Also in attendance were the groom's parents, Brenda and Gary Beddow, along with their siblings and loved ones, all gathered together to celebrate this special occasion and share in the joy of Emma and Nathan's commitment to one another. May this day be filled with happiness, cherished memories, and the love of those who mean the most to them. May the years ahead bring continued laughter, adventure, and countless moments to treasure together."



Aynsley and Josh – May 2026

"Having spent the last year getting to know the wonderful congregation at St Edward's, it was a special moment to hold our wedding day there. Everyone we have met has been so welcoming, accommodating, and caring, which has gone such a long way in making us feel like a true part of the community. St Edward's and its congregation will forever hold a place in our hearts.

A special thank you to Elizabeth, Revd. Karen, and everyone who has been a part of our journey."



Services

Mondays at 9.00am	Morning Prayer in the Lady Chapel at St Edward's Stow
Friday 3 rd July 1.00pm	Wedding, St Edward's Stow
Sunday 5 th July 10.30am	Holy Communion, St Edward's Stow
Wednesday 8 th July 1.30pm	Funeral, St Edward's Stow
Sunday 12 th July 9.15am	BCP Matins, St Nicholas Condicote
Sunday 12 th July 10.30am	Holy Communion, St Edward's Stow
Sunday 12 th July 11.00am	BCP Matins (lay led) St Mary's Upper Swell
Sunday 19 th July 9.15am	BCP Holy Communion, St Mary's Upper Swell
Sunday 19 th July 10.30am	Holy Communion, St Edward's Stow with Baptism
Sunday 26 th July 9.15am	BCP Holy Communion, St Nicholas Condicote
Sunday 26 th July 10.30am	Morning Service, St Edward's Stow

Dates for your diary

Friday 10th July 10.30-12.00 – Scam Awareness Talk at Edwardstow – how to identify, avoid and report scams. For more information and to book your place email: g.joynes@osjct.co.uk

Monday 20th July 4.00pm – Presentation in church on new Nave Lighting

Saturday 8th August 2.00-7.00pm – Summer Music Festival at Edwardstow Court: an afternoon packed with live entertainment, delicious BBQ food and plenty of opportunities to sing, dance and celebrate with friends and family.

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

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

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.joynes@osjct.co.uk