



# Church and Community Newsletter May 2026



## From Revd Karen

There were many services around the benefice this year. Our Good Friday service was able to take advantage of the new location of the restored Stow Crucifixion painting which now hangs in the Lady Chapel at St Edward's. We were able to hear the story of our faith as we sat between images of the crucifixion and resurrection. Many of our visitors stopped to listen and reflect. On Holy Saturday a group of us went to the Easter Eve service at the Cathedral where Graham, Verity, Charlotte and Daniel were confirmed. These were the first benefice confirmations since 2015. On Easter Day, Condicote ran their own service whilst I led services at Lower Swell and St Edward's. We baptized Derek on Easter Day and there was much celebration. Thank you to everyone who made the services possible.

Our new director of operations at St Edward's, Marion David, starts in June. Her focus is very much on visitor engagement.

I will be spending May on study leave. Services will be covered by senior staff. If you are on the WhatsApp group you can follow my progress. Percy will be accompanying me on visits to interesting churches and cathedrals. Picture below shows him at Gloucester Cathedral with one of their fundraising opportunities. I will pop back from Chester Cathedral for Pentecost and then see you in June.

With every blessing Revd Karen

## Church Contacts

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Condicote:  
Chris Wynn 01451 830389  
Adam Fleming

The Swells:  
Jolyon Grey 01451 822215  
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## 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

3 May: <https://bit.ly/StEd030526>  
10 May: <https://bit.ly/StEd100526>  
17 May: <https://bit.ly/StEd170526>  
24 May: <https://bit.ly/StEd240526>  
31 May: <https://bit.ly/StEd310526>



## Blessing

God bless your journey;  
the people and places,  
talking and listening,  
giving and receiving,  
fellowship, loneliness,  
sorrow and thankfulness.  
May all you embrace  
build and strengthen you  
on your daily walk with God.

## APCM dates

St Mary's Lower Swell: Wednesday 13<sup>h</sup>  
May 6pm in church



## From our new Director of Operations

Hello! My name is Marion and I am so thrilled to be joining the St Edwards' team, under Rev. Karen's leadership and in great company with Elizabeth. I live in Cheltenham with my husband Lambert and my teenage children Raphael (17) and Emilie (15) - together with our 3 rescue cats. I have spent the last 6.5 years as operations manager at Trinity Church, in Cheltenham and sit on Gloucester Cathedral Chapter as non-exec lay canon (another fancy word for trustee) with a particular focus on visitors' experience and engagement.

I started my professional life selling skiing holidays (I still recommend some good places), worked as international account & operations manager for an American company outsourcing HR Global mobility services for 8 years, then worked for the fashion company Superdry in their E-Commerce international customer services team before joining the staff team at Trinity Cheltenham.

I have a keen interest for all things creation care & church of England netzero 2030 (I'm a member of the Diocese NetZero Committee), I love old graffiti (my visit to your bell-ringing room was a real treat) as much as seeing budgets and accounts balancing at year end (because God is at work in the details of a finance spreadsheet as much as in our Sunday gatherings). My favourite hot drink would be a smooth coffee latte with pistachio syrup, between 2 visits to my local gym.

I really look forward to getting to know you all, and I can't wait for the opportunity to applaud you in person all for the great care that you have taken of your building and churchyard over the years. The community of St Edwards is faced with a unique opportunity over the next couple of years to engage missionally well with the thousands of people who walk through its door(s). We have a fantastic opportunity to lead the way with this regard, within our diocese and nationally, on how a thorough and sensitive engagement with our visitors can be a real source of Christian faith-sharing joy and renewal for our beautiful buildings.

See you around soon!

In Christ,

Marion

### A THANK YOU FROM CLOSELY KNIT

For all the donations of wool received. Your efforts have contributed to this wonderful collection of knitting for sale in church in aid of our town clock



And finally thank you to Bailey for donning an extra pair of ears and being our stand in donkey for the few hardy souls who braved a chilly Palm Sunday to walk into church from the Market Cross. Also thank you to Dennis for carrying the Cross. We might need to work on our unaccompanied singing for next year but an enjoyable time was had by all.

## Services

Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May 10.30am	Holy Communion, St Edward's Stow led by Revd Fred Trethewey
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> May 9.15am	BCP Matins, St Nicholas Condicote
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> May 10.30am	Holy Communion, St Edward's Stow
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> May 11.00am	BCP Matins (lay led) St Mary's Upper Swell
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> May 1.30pm	Wedding, St Edward's Stow
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> May 9.15am	BCP Holy Communion, St Mary's Upper Swell
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> May 10.30am	Holy Communion, St Edward's Stow
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> May 9.15am	Morning Prayer (lay led) in the Lady Chapel at St Edward's Stow
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> May 9.15am	BCP Holy Communion, St Nicholas Condicote
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> May 10.30am	Morning Service, St Edward's Stow
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> May 10.30am	Holy Communion, St Edward's Stow led by the Ven Katrina Scott

## Dates for your diary

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2pm** - Fundraising tea and cakes in aid of the Save Little Ed Stow Town Clock campaign in St Edward's Church

**8th – 12<sup>th</sup> September** – Music at Stow

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> 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** – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 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.

## COMING SOON....

News from Edwardstow Court, one of several local care homes where Karen runs services and offers pastoral support

More from the foodbank on how we might support them...in the meantime they are always grateful for donations at the usual points which include The Baptist Church, Tesco, Coop and The Old Bakery Tea Room.