



Church and Community

Newsletter

October 2026



From Revd Karen

October is the planning season in the church. Marion, Elizabeth and I have had time to review the summer, recover from the shock of back to school and then note all the services coming our way in the next few months.

This year we can say with a great deal of confidence that St Edward's is the most visited church in the North Cotswolds. We have welcomed visitors from all over the world and the United Kingdom. It has been an absolute delight to chat with people who have travelled across continents to see the North Door or who popped over to Stow to visit family and then found the church. Many of them have taken home a souvenir of their visit in the form of a postcard, fridge magnet or cuddly toy. Marion and I have plans for next season and we will be putting in a significant mission grant application. Please keep this work in your prayers.

Much of the work of the churches happens outside of our Sunday services whether that is an open village church that offers a place of rest for walkers, or the many prayer resources we are able to offer visitors to Stow. This year at St Edward's we applied for, and were given, a small mission grant which enabled us to give away booklets on prayer as well as create a children's colouring table. We have found it hard to keep up with the hearts that we offer to visitors as a reminder that they are loved by God. Just keeping the doors of the box pews open has encouraged visitors to stop, sit, rest and reflect. There is often live music in church which calls people in.

There is a lot to look forward to this autumn as we enter the remembrance season. During October and November, we cannot rely on visitors to boost our congregations, so some of the special services have moved from the afternoon to the morning. The first of these is our All Souls Service which will now be on the 1st November at 10.30am. This is a service to remember those that we love and see no longer. There will also be a said service of Holy Communion at noon that day. Please keep a keen eye on the diary for service times and changes.

Director of Music

Nicholas Ashton has resigned as Director of Music at St Edward's Church. Revd Karen and the PCC would like to thank him for all of his support over the past eleven years and wish him all the best for the future.

Church Contacts

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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/

Online services links

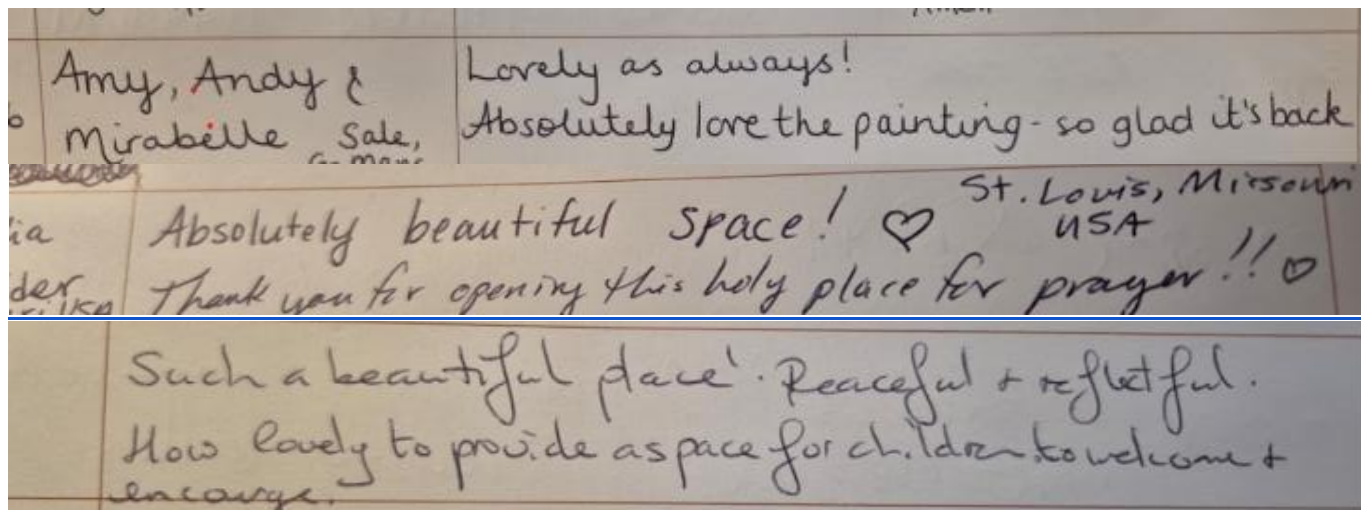
4 Oct: <https://bit.ly/StEd041026>
11 Oct: NO STREAMING
18 Oct: <https://bit.ly/StEd181026>
25 Oct: <https://bit.ly/StEd251026>
1 Nov: <https://bit.ly/StEd011126>

Blessing

Awaken me, Lord, to your life,
Open my mind to your abiding.
Awaken me, Lord, to your
purpose,
Open my will to your guiding.
*David Adam. Border Lands: The
Best of David Adam's Celtic Vision*

RIP: The funeral of Revd John Parkinson will be at 11.30am at Oakley Wood Crematorium on the 9th October. There will be a memorial service for Revd John in St Edward's at 11am on Friday 30th October to celebrate his life and ministry in Stow on the Wold.

Visitors' feedback:



What Future for Our Rural Churches? With Dame Fiona Reynolds

Join the **Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust** for an evening with **Dame Fiona Reynolds** as she tackles the urgent challenges facing our rural places of worship.

In this insightful talk, Fiona will look back at the historic national movements to save our heritage — comparing the successful survival of country houses with the overlooked struggle of country churches. It is a vital conversation about declining congregations, historical neglect, and how we can find sustainable, community-led ways to keep these beautiful buildings alive.

- **Date:** Wednesday, 12 November 2026 6pm
- **Venue:** Royal Agricultural University (RAU), Cirencester
- **Tickets:** £12 in advance / £15 on the door
- **Booking:** Secure your place online at ghct.org.uk/tickets

A Song for Harvest

Cauliflowers fluffy and cabbages green
Strawberries sweeter than any I've seen
Beetroots purple and onions white
All grow steadily day and night

*Refrain: The apples are ripe and the plums are red
The broad beans are sleeping in their blankety bed*

Blackberries are juicy and rhubarb's sour
Marrows fattening hour by hour
Gooseberries hairy and lettuces fat
Radishes round and runner beans flat

Refrain

Orangey carrots and turnips cream
Reddening tomatoes that used to be green
Brown potatoes in little heaps
Down in the darkness where the celery sleeps

Refrain

Little Ed Leaves St Edward's



There was great excitement at the end of September when Little Ed, our church clock, left Stow for repairs.

Experts from the Cumbria Clock Company abseiled down the church tower to remove Little Ed for renovation. They also dismantled the clock hammers and mechanism for refurbishing.

Sue Lane from Closely Knit – the knitting and crocheting group that's raised the lion's share of fundraising for the repairs – said: 'It was such a historic day. We have worked so hard, fingers to the bone - knitting, knitting and knitting to raise the money. It was absolutely wonderful to see the beginning of the restoration.'

Knitter Susan Liphthorpe said: 'We couldn't believe what we were seeing as the clock came down.'

It's been many months of fundraising and everyone has been so generous. We're so looking forward to seeing the return of Little Ed to the clock tower and the new gilded Roman numerals.'



The Little Ed Fundraising has now reached £32,000 – just three thousand pounds from the target.



Thank you for all your support to 'Save Little Ed – the Stow Town Clock.' If you would like to donate to the campaign, please use the QR code. You can also make a cheque payable to PCC Stow on the Wold – please put your cheque in an envelope marked 'CLOCK' and pop it in the red safe beside the church door. You can also hand your cheque to Church Treasurer, Peter Dixon and let him know it's for the 'Save Little Ed' fund.

It costs £80,000 a year to keep the doors open at St Edward's and all this money comes from our congregation. We do not receive any funding from the central Church of England. We are a small congregation and keeping our church open isn't an easy task. The population of our town has fallen as homes become tourist accommodation. We also appreciate that money is tight for many people with the ever-rising cost of living. But because we are self-funding, work like restoring our lovely old clock is an extra cost, on top of our day-to-day church running costs. We appreciate any help you can give to 'Save Little Ed.'

THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO 'SAVE LITTLE ED – THE STOW TOWN CLOCK.'

Presidency for Parishioner

Sybil Ruscoe, a member of the congregation and the Farming & Countryside Advisor for The Archers on Radio 4 – the world's longest running drama – has been elected President of Moreton Show for the next year.

Services

Mondays at 9.00am (not Monday 19 th)	Morning Prayer in the Lady Chapel at St Edward's Stow
Sunday 4 th October 10.30am	Holy Communion, St Edward's Stow
Sunday 11 th October 9.15am	BCP Matins, St Nicholas Condicote
Sunday 11 th October 10.30am	Harvest Festival Service, St Edward's Stow
Sunday 11 th October 11.00am	Harvest Festival, St Mary's Upper Swell
Sunday 18 th October 10.30am	Holy Communion, St Edward's Stow led by Revd David Cook
Sunday 25 th October 9.15am	BCP Holy Communion, St Nicholas Condicote
Sunday 25 th October 10.30am	Morning Service, St Edward's Stow
Sunday 1 st November 10.30am	All Souls Service, St Edwards' Stow
Sunday 1 st November 12 midday	BCP Said Communion, St Edward's Stow

Dates for your diary

Friday 9th October 6-8pm – Cheese and Wine Evening at Edwardstow Court. Free entry but please book your place - call 01451 799100 or email: g.joynes@osjct.co.uk

Thursday 5th November 10am-12 noon – MU Coffee Morning in St Edward's Church. Why not come along and buy your Christmas cards? The ladies from Gloucester will be bringing a range of gifts and cards for sale in aid of MU Enterprises. Funds raised go to MU projects worldwide and at home. Everyone would be most welcome to pop in and join us.

Saturday 14th November 2-4pm – Remembrance Tea Dance at Stow Primary School. Tickets £3 payable on the door.

Thursday 17th December 7pm in St Edward's Church - The History of Christmas, a talk by Philip Bowen. Tickets will be available in November for this fundraising event in aid of the "Little Ed - Save the Stow Town Clock" fund.

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