

Welcome to our Services in Church

DECEMBER

SUNDAY 3rd

Advent Sunday 11.00 am Holy Communion Stow, streamed

SUNDAY 10th

Advent 2 9.30 am Patronal Service Condicote
With Communion

11.00 am Matins Upper Swell

6.00 pm Christmas Tree Celebration service Stow, streamed

SUNDAY 17th

Advent 3 11.00 am Holy Communion Stow, streamed

6.00 pm Candlelit Carol Service Upper Swell

THURSDAY 21st

5.30 pm School and Village Carol Service Lower Swell

SATURDAY 23rd

3.00 pm St Edward's Carol Service Stow, streamed
followed by refreshments

SUNDAY 24th

Christmas Eve 11.00 am Service of the Word with hymns Stow, streamed

5.00 pm Crib Service Condicote

11.30 pm First Communion Of Christmas Stow

MONDAY 25th

Christmas Day 9.30 am Service of the Word Condicote

11.00 am Christmas Communion Stow, streamed

SUNDAY 31st

Christmas 1 11.00 am Holy Communion Stow

Please note that on some occasions it may not be possible to stream all the main 11.00 am services from St Edward's Church. The website will always show the latest details, which may differ from printed material.

<http://www.scats.org.uk> will always have the latest news!



Benefice Diary

December 2023

From Reverend Karen:

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! In the Square and in the shops around Stow the decorations are going up and the lights are going on. In church we are always juggling the Advent season with its watching and waiting with getting ready for Christmas. We have a lot coming up with the Christmas Tree Festival followed by charity carol services and then our own church services across the benefice for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. I'm really looking forward to seeing how the churches across the benefice are celebrating Christmas.

This year we do have one change at St Edward's as the Christmas Tree Festival is unplugged. There are no lights on the trees and no big tree outside the church. It was a decision we had to take but perhaps it signals a simpler season this year. The Wellman family are going to shop locally as much as we can. If the house isn't perfectly tidy or if we don't have a colour coordinated tree or if someone forgets to defrost the pudding or the cat eats the cake, then it really doesn't matter. The first Christmas was in a stable or lower room of the house, if you look at a more modern translation. There was no roast dinner, tree or last minute dash to the pre-Christmas sales. There was celebration, hospitality and there was joy.

Perhaps that is where we can reset our Christmas expectations.

May your Advent and Christmas be joyful however you celebrate them.

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

2023 ST EDWARD'S CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Most people are now aware that unfortunately Bernice and Derek Magson are not able to be involved in the Festival this year, owing to Derek's accident. They have always played such a large part in previous festivals, for which we thank them, and we send Derek our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Susan Brattin and a small team are working to ensure the Festival goes ahead, although some aspects will be changing. Derek was responsible for all the electrical installations associated with the Festival and it was reluctantly concluded that exhibitors should be asked not to include any lights on their trees this year. However, the trees will still smell wonderful and we will have forty different trees on display.



Christmas trees (4 ft high) which have been used during the event will be available to buy for £20.00. If you would like to order a tree, please contact Val Watson on 01451 831489.

This year there will be a raffle running throughout the Festival, with cash prizes and more. We are hoping that not only those living locally will buy tickets but also our visitors from further afield who wouldn't necessarily still be in Stow on the Sunday, when the raffle will be drawn. If you are able to take a book or two of raffle tickets to sell to your family, friends and neighbours in advance of the Festival, please contact Sue on 01608 654150.

MU

On Friday 1st December the North Cotswold Deanery MU Advent Carol Service will be held in St Edward's Church at 2 pm, with Reverend Karen officiating. Everyone is very welcome.

LOST RING

A ring was found recently in the third pew from the front on the left as you face the altar. If this is yours, please contact Val on 01451 831489. If it is not claimed by 6th January we will take it to the police station.

RIP

The funeral of Douglas "Dougie" Rose took place in St Edward's on 22nd November. We send our condolences to his family and friends.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

For details of services in Stow and villages please see page 4. We are delighted to be hosting several carol services this December for local organisations.

The Carol Service at St Edward's on 23rd December at 3.00 pm will be followed by refreshments. We do hope to see lots of people from the community there.

RECYCLE YOUR OLD CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR CHARITY

We will be collecting old Christmas cards between the 6th and 14th of January, to donate to the Thirlestaine Breast Centre. Please keep the cards whole and do not cut them, and place in the box at the back of the church.

Also, don't forget that we're still collecting used stamps for the RNIB. Please leave one centimetre (1/2") of paper around the stamps and place them in the box near the Visitor's Book. Thank you.

MANY THANKS

to everyone who supported the MU Deanery coffee morning on 2nd November. Over £340 was raised, which will be used to fund MU projects at home and worldwide.

DONATIONS BOX IN ST EDWARD'S CHURCH

A new fixed donations box has been installed in church recently. This will enable visitors to make donations via debit or credit card. The red safe is still near the South Door for cash donations.

We are still keen to remind people that we are able to turn any foreign currency (current or outdated), which they no longer require, into cash. You simply need to pop the currency in an envelope or bag marked Foreign Currency and post it in the red safe. You do not need to separate out different currencies. Just lump them all in together. Thank you!

WARM HUB

The warm hub at the library is now running again. If you would like to donate items for the hub please see Val Goddard at the library on Wednesdays as she will know what is needed that week.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ONE HOUR

Could you spare an hour to help serve refreshments at the Christmas Tree Festival? If so, please sign up on the board at the back of church.

CLOSELY KNIT meets on Saturday mornings from 10 am to noon for crafts, coffee and chat. All are welcome. The group is delighted to report that sales of knitted goods during the month of November raised £193 for St Edward's Church funds.