

Welcome to our Services in Church and streamed

JULY

SUNDAY 3rd

Trinity 3 11.00 am Holy Communion Stow, streamed

SUNDAY 10th

Trinity 4 11.00 am Benefice
Sung Eucharist Stow, streamed

SUNDAY 17th

Trinity 5 11.00 am Eucharist with hymns Stow, streamed
11.00 am Mattins Upper Swell
(lay-led)

SUNDAY 24th

Trinity 6 11.00 am Service of the Word Stow, streamed

SUNDAY 31st

Trinity 7 11.00 am Benefice Eucharist Stow, streamed

Rev Tony Whitaker's last service with us will be a Benefice Eucharist at Stow at 11.00 am on Sunday July 10th.

Most Thursday mornings on Zoom there will be Parish Prayers at 9.00 am followed by Listening to God at 9.30 am. Please feel free to attend either or both of these by following the link on the website.

Please note that we will continue to use the one-way system for returning to pews via the North Aisle after receiving Communion. Anyone wishing to continue wearing a mask should feel at liberty to do so and sit in church in a socially distanced way.

This Benefice Diary will be published as needed. Please note that any information contained in it is subject to change, if guidelines in relation to Covid-19 require this.

THE BENEFICE WEBSITE will always have the latest news!

<http://www.scats.org.uk>



From the Churchwardens

The Diocese and Deanery should shortly consult us about any proposed changes to stipendiary ministry patterns/ benefice boundaries which affect us. The relevant Diocesan Committee will then consider our vacancy in September. If (but only if) they reach a decision at that meeting, we will submit our Benefice Profile, the post will be advertised and applicants shortlisted and then interviewed probably towards the end of this year. If someone is chosen, they will need to give 3 months notice in their current post, so might join us shortly before Easter, some 17 months after our vacancy began. There is nothing we can do to speed up this process and we are urged to be patient and to continue to pray for the right person to be appointed, which we certainly shall do. But we have made clear that delaying the decision beyond September would not be acceptable because it is avoidable.

With best wishes from

Robert, Desmond, Chris, Adam, Jolyon and Hazel

CHURCHWARDENS:

Stow-on-the-Wold	Robert Barnett	870349
	Desmond Watson	831489
Condicote	Chris Wynn	830389
	Adam Fleming	
The Swells	Jolyon Grey	822215
	Hazel James	831367

BLESSINGS AND WEDDINGS OVER THE SUMMER MONTHS



This month sees the start of a busy season of blessing and wedding services at St Edward's, Stow. We are delighted to be welcoming eight couples over the next three months. We are very grateful to a small group of ministers who have been working with the couples in preparation for their special days. Planning for the services has been going on for quite some time, involving Nicholas, our organist, the North Cotswolds Bell Ringers, who will be ringing at some of the services, our Flower Team and others who, in the background, make sure that everything goes

smoothly for the couples and their families and friends on the big day. Please remember in prayer this month Catherine and Andrew (Blessing 8th July), Laura and Martin (Blessing 9th July), Claire and Kris (Wedding 23rd July) and Jessie and Stefan (Wedding 30th July). May God bless each couple in their life together.

BAPTISM AT LOWER SWELL

A baptism service will take place at Lower Swell at 11.00 a.m. on 16th July, with Rev. Canon Katrina Scott officiating. We send our good wishes to all those involved as the family are welcomed into the family of the church.

CHURCH ROOM, STOW

After several years of lying dormant, the Trustees of the Church Room Stow, are delighted to report that the Church Room, Church Walk, Stow GL54 1BD is back in business and open for bookings! We welcomed our first clients at the end of June. We have plans to spruce up the Church Room externally but inside the space is clean, functional and ready to go. It offers a super location for a wide range of activity groups to use. The Church Room has disabled access, a small, well-equipped kitchen, ideal for serving light refreshments and a seating capacity of 50. Our hire charge is a competitive £12 an hour. For more information, please email Desmond at watsonbon@btinternet.com or telephone 01451 831489. Please spread the word!

SAVE THE DATES—ADVANCE NOTICE

Thursday 11th August The North Cotswold Deanery Mothers' Union fundraising Coffee Morning & Bookstall in St Edward's Church, 10.30am

Saturday 17th September concert 7.30 pm at Holy Ascension, Oddington.

Friday 9th December for the 2022 Christmas Tree Festival lunch. The festival will take place from 8th until 11th December. Please note that forms for businesses and organisations wishing to exhibit a tree will be available in September.

STOW ALMSHOUSES CHARITY

Whilst thinking about the Church Room, we should not forget the building next door, the Stow Almshouses. The Charity, historically connected to St Edward's Church, provides much needed accommodation for people who otherwise might not have anywhere else to call home. The cottages themselves date back many years. Funds for their maintenance and improvement are always in demand. Your support financially would be most welcome. For more information about the almshouses and how you might be able to help, please see the Trustees website at <https://stowalmshouses.org/>. If you would like to consider making a donation, please see the link in the top right hand corner of the website homepage. Thank you. Desmond

PLANT SALE

Many thanks to all who supported the plant sale at the end of May, either by donating cuttings and plants or by coming along and buying items on sale. Almost £300 was raised for the St Edward's Flower Fund and thanks to Susan Brattin and her team of flower arrangers for this and all they do to make our church so beautiful.

SERVICE SHEETS

We have been reviewing the amount of printing that is done of service sheets, notices and the Benefice Diary, for two reasons. The first is the fact that our printing partners, Lower Swell school, have moved into temporary accommodation without their printer and the second is that we're trying to save on paper and to minimise printing costs. So, over the summer we will hand out one document each month which will explain from where the readings will be taken but we will not include the actual readings. These will still be posted in full on the website so that they can be printed out at home if needed. It will mean, however, that we do not consign lots of paper to the recycling bin each month. We will be happy to continue delivering paper copies to some members of the church who do not have online access and who do not attend services in person. However, we will be checking with everyone that currently receives the monthly deliveries whether they still wish to receive their delivery or not.

MU AND CLOSELY KNIT

Stow MU will be holding their next meeting in the Lady Chapel at 2pm on Thursday 7th July. All welcome.

Closely Knit meets in St Edwards on Saturday mornings at 10am — noon and a range of larger knitted and crocheted goods (cardigans, blankets etc) will be available for sale at that time, together with the smaller items usually on display. Appointments can be made to purchase larger items not on display by contacting Val Watson on 01451 831489.

REVEREND TONY WHITAKER'S LAST SERVICE WITH US

Please remember that the Benefice will be bidding farewell to Tony and Monica at 11.00 am on Sunday 10th July. We are so indebted to them both, and wish them well in their new home in Chinnor, Oxfordshire.