



Benefice Newsletter May 2025



From Revd Karen

Happy Easter! The season of Easter lasts 50 days starting on Easter Day and ending at Pentecost which is on the 8th June this year. We have lots of pictures of our Easter Services around the Benefice this year. We started Easter with a bang at Stow when party poppers celebrated the risen Christ and we are planning another big service for Pentecost. Details will follow.

This is my second year in the SCATS benefice and my second Easter. Thank you to everyone who made the services happen. College Green and the senior staff are very impressed with how we are responding to the challenge of being Christian Communities in our part of the North Cotswolds and my license has been extended to the full five years. This means I can get rid of the moving boxes and look forward to another three years with you all.

Blessing

A prayer for farmers by Laurie Lyter-Bright

God of all Creation,
we give you thanks for those who cultivate the earth,
for those who wake before dawn and labour in the fields,
for those who care for livestock,
for those who plant and tend with care.
We pray they know they are appreciated beyond measure.
Amen

Benefice 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_wards_stow/

UPCOMING APCM DATES

St Nicholas, Condicote
Monday 12th May 4.30pm in church

St Edwards, Stow
Sunday 18th May at midday in church



Looking back over Holy Week and Easter

Holy week ended with a beautiful Maundy Thursday service with music led by Nicholas. The sanctuary was stripped of all its hangings and left empty for the Good Friday service.



On Good Friday Joy our Baptist Missional Listener and myself handed out hot cross buns to many of the business owners of the town to say thank you for being the welcoming

face of Stow.

I then led a meditative service with readings, world music and silence of the last hour before the cross. The doors were open and many visitors to Stow stopped to join in with the worship.



On Holy Saturday St Edward's church was busy with Easter Preparations with beautiful arrangements by the flower team. That evening an Easter Vigil was held at St Nicholas' Church Condicote, (with Nicholas playing the new electronic organ) where we read the great story of God's relationship with humankind from Genesis to the gospels. Party poppers were let off to celebrate the resurrection.



On Easter Morning Adam and Rev Karen started the celebration at St Mary's Lower Swell with a simple family service. For the first time ever we had an Easter Egg hunt in the middle of a hymn. The children were brilliant and found all the eggs. At St Edward's Stow we followed the theme of celebration with wonderful music and more party poppers. Sherry was of course shared afterwards. We have some interviews with some of our visitors and regulars on the WhatsApp as well as details of the music played.





Thank you to everyone who took part in making the services happen. It is always a community project to get the churches ready for Holy Week and Easter and welcome regulars and visitors to our services. Happy Easter.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday 8th May VE Day – Proclamation at the town cross at 11am, celebrations on the cricket field from 5.30pm and the lighting of a beacon at 9.30pm

Friday 9th May - Music at Stow present a celebration of 1940s Swing music to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day.

Venue: St Edward's Church, Stow

Time: 7.30 pm on Friday 9th May 2025

Tickets £20 from <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/music-at-stow/t-krqgymz> or on the door

Wednesday 18th June - Alistair McGowan '3 in 1' - Music, Poetry and Comedy from one of Britain's best known actors and comic impressionists

Sunday 29th June - Cellissimo (Five Cellos) Afternoon Tea Concert, Sunday 29th June 2025, 3-5pm

Communications

We are working hard to improve our communications. If you know anyone who would like a copy of our benefice newsletter, please let us know. We have a Facebook page and Instagram page which is sharing what we do locally, nationally and internationally as we have so many visitors. We also have a community WhatsApp group. To join you need WhatsApp on your phone and to contact myself or Elizabeth. If we can't work out the technical side of it because it is new to us as well, we will have to find a teenager who understands it. Every day is a school day at the SCATS benefice!

News from our local schools

Lower Swell Primary School took over St Mary's for their Easter Celebration. We can't share photos but I can report that the children led the whole service including the prayers. Some of the older children have been learning the violin and it was amazing to see their confidence in performing some simple pieces after just one term.

If you hear shouts of excitement around Stow Primary School it is not exclamations of delight that the vicar has popped in to visit. They are learning to swim this term and have a portable pool in the school.

Services

Mondays (not 5 th or 26 th) 9am	Morning Prayer in the Lady Chapel at St Edwards
Thursday 1 st May 11.00 am	Holy Communion, Newlands Court
Sunday 4 th May 10.30am	Holy Communion, St Edward's Stow with bells before the service
Saturday 10 th May 1.30pm	Wedding Kirby and Jonathan, St Edward's Stow
Sunday 11 th April 9.15am	BCP Matins, St Nicholas Condicote
Sunday 11 th April 10.30am	Holy Communion, St Edward's Stow
Sunday 11 th May 11am	BCP Matins, St Mary's Upper Swell
Sunday 18 th May 9.15am	BCP Holy Communion, St Mary's Upper Swell
Sunday 18 th May 10.30 am	Holy Communion, St Edward's Stow
Sunday 18 th May 2.30pm	Dementia Friendly Service, Edwardstow Court
Sunday 25 th May 9.15am	BCP Holy Communion, St Nicholas Condicote
Sunday 25 th May 10.30 am	Holy Communion, St Edward's Stow

Dates for your diary

Monday 12th May at 4.30pm - APCM, St Nicholas Church, followed by the PCC meeting

Sunday 18th May after the service – APCM, St Edward's Church

Sunday 8th June – Service for Pentecost at St Edward's – watch this space (and the WhatsApp group!) for further details

Regular Events

Closely Knit - 10am-noon every Saturday in the Church.

Mother's Union - first Thursday of the month 2.00pm 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.