



Benefice Newsletter

August 2025



From Revd Karen

Most priests are able to take some slow time in August but not in a Benefice with four lovely churches. We have three weddings in August and three in September. Please hold all our couples in your prayers as they start their married life together.

I have had some problems with the phone at the Rectory so I've moved the official number for the Benefice to a work mobile. The new number is 07510 221883. Please bear with me as I move contacts across from the old mobile and work out where all the buttons are!

Benefice Contacts

Reverend Karen Wellman
07510 221883
revdkaren@stedwardsstow.org.uk

Church office:
secretary@stedwardsstow.org.uk

Condicote:
Chris Wynn 01451 830389
Adam Fleming

The Swells:
Jolyon Grey 01451 822215
Hazel James 01451 831367

A poem written for Marjorie Fennessy and read at her Thanksgiving Service

She dances somewhere there across the gay
and lighted circle, dances on the edge of
colour, on the fringe of sound, away on the
borders of my mind. The arc-lamp burns a
path towards her as she moves to catch the
music, as she swings and sets and turns.
We weave our dancing pattern in this bright
enchanted ring: the darkened faces watch,
alert and powerful beyond the light

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

3 Aug: <https://bit.ly/StEd030825>
10 Aug: <https://bit.ly/StEd100825>
17 Aug: <https://bit.ly/StEd170825>
24 Aug: NO STREAMING
31 Aug: <https://bit.ly/StEd310825>



St Edward's Church Wednesday Coffee

The lovely people at Huffkins have offered space and a 25% discount on drinks and food for a midweek coffee morning for St Edward's on Wednesdays between 9am and 10.30am only. With one of our St. Edwards Edward's Wednesday Coffee Cards you can get 25% off your order if you come and sit with us. Community, chat and coffee – what is not to like? Cards are available from Revd Karen or Elizabeth.

Percival and Petunia - The Pigeon Saga



For four days in July we hosted Percival and Petunia in church. It was so hot on the Monday that we opened the North Door to get a bit of a through draft. Perhaps in search cooler airs, Percival and Petunia joined us for the end of morning prayer. Unfortunately having received suitable spiritual nourishment (and cooling) they became disoriented and were unable to retrace their flight out. A very helpful member of staff at the Co-op told advised us it was flocking season. It seems P & P had had their minds on flocking things rather than looking where they were going. (Sue La suggests they were in search of matrimonial union).

Our problem inspired a wonderful community response: The bird keeping Co-op assistant advised small seed to entice them to the door; Adam fetched seed from Tesco; Karen put it down (with a tourist managing bollard); Sue L suggested scary bird noises. Percival and Petunia were unmoved. Undeterred by early failures, Karen recruited the help of her house guest to play distressed pigeon noises (you can find anything online late at night). Percival and Petunia slept through the experience so the next step was throwing things in attempt to rouse them. Feedback from the house guest rated the stay high on entertainment value. Lindsey takes credit for brining Donald's fake hawk into church - partial success - Percival left.

The more tenacious Petunia lurked a few more days, before leaving on Thursday morning in response to the return of the painting. Obviously lacking in art appreciation

Thank you to everyone for your ideas. A special thank you to Robert who mopped the pigeons' distress from the floors, and the altar cleaning team who removed that particular alter blessing - and finally Fillies cleaning company who did a wonderful job getting the church clean for the weekend.

God loves all creation and pigeons; the priest in charge not so much!

IT'S BACK!

The Crucifixion painting has been restored and is now back on show in its new place in the Lady Chapel at St Edward's. Ingrid gave us a wonderful talk about the restoration process – we'll put some of the information in the next newsletter and on our social media so watch this space...



Church safari and Picnic – Bank Holiday

On Sunday 24th August we are celebrating our diverse parishes safari style. Many are away, but remainers will start with a short communion service at Condicote at 9.15 am before travelling in shared cars to Stow for a shorter musical service at 10.30. Complete the safari with lots of tea, cake and bring your own sharing picnic at St. Mary's Lower Swell. The school field is opposite the church and there is plenty of shade if it is very sunny or we can reclaim the church if it is wet.

Focus on... Bellringers



For centuries church bells have sounded, calling people to worship, in celebration of special occasions, in remembrance and to mark dedicated events.

In the early days, the bells were “chimed” to make a sound, but the ringers had little control over the order in which the bells sounded and therefore the “music” they played.

The origins of what we call **change ringing** lie in the sixteenth century when church bells began to be hung with a full wheel enabling the bell to swing in a full circle and back again. This gave ringers control of their bell, which allowed sets of bells (rings) to be rung in a continuously changing pattern. Music is created by moving bells up and down the ringing order to a defined sequence known as a method.

Bellringing is a team activity that stimulates the brain and helps keep you fit... it also makes a glorious sound! Many consider ringing to be their contribution to church life, others do it for the pure pleasure it brings.

WE NEED YOU!

If you would like to join a merry band of ringers, please come along to see this great tradition of Bell Ringing. You need to be fit enough to climb up ladders/stairs, any age from 12 to 80's. Under 18's will need to be accompanied by legal guardian. Please see contact details below.

Phil Street
Mobile: 07707773430,
Email: Phillip.street@btinternet.com

Practice: Second Tuesday of the month. (7.30pm to 9.00pm).
Then the Queens Head for light refreshments.

Service Ringing: First Sunday of the Month (10.00am to 10.30am).

Services

Mondays 9.00 am	Morning Prayer in the Lady Chapel at St Edward's Stow
Saturday 2 nd August	Wedding at St Mary's, Lower Swell
Sunday 3 rd August 10.30am	Holy Communion, St Edward's Stow with bells before the service
Sunday 10 th August 9.15am	BCP Matins Communion, St Nicholas Condicote
Sunday 10 th August 10.30am	Holy Communion, St Edward's Stow
Thursday 14 th August 11.00am	Holy Communion, Newlands Court
Sunday 17 th August 9.15am	BCP Holy Communion, St Mary's Upper Swell
Sunday 17 th August 10.30 am	Holy Communion, St Edward's Stow
Sunday 17 th August 2.30pm	Dementia Friendly Service, Edwardstow Court
Sunday 24 th July 9.15am	BCP Holy Communion, St Nicholas Condicote
Sunday 24 th July 10.30am	Morning Service, St Edward's Stow followed by a Benefice picnic at St Mary's Lower Swell
Saturday 30 th August 2.00pm	Wedding at St Edward's Stow
Sunday 31 st August 10.30am	Holy Communion, St Edward's Stow

Dates for your diary

Friday 15th August 7.30pm – Piano recital – Tyler Hay – a mixed programme of popular and some less well known works by a Leeds International Piano Competition competitor

Thursday 21st August 1.00 pm – Lunchtime piano recital – Nicholas Ashton and Michael Brown

Wednesday 3rd September 3-4pm – MU "Wave of Prayer" in the Lady Chapel at St Edward's.

This is a continuous expression of our commitment in prayer to each other. It runs throughout the year so that the work and members of each and every area in which Mothers' Union is active is prayed for at some point. It is quite powerful to realise that at any point in time members of the MU (over 4 million members in 84 countries) will be praying, round the clock and around the world!

Tuesday 9th – Saturday 13th September – Music at Stow – details here [Welcome](#) | [Music at Stow](#)

Saturday 27th September – Piano and Viola recital

Regular Events

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

Mother's Union – No meeting in August

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.