

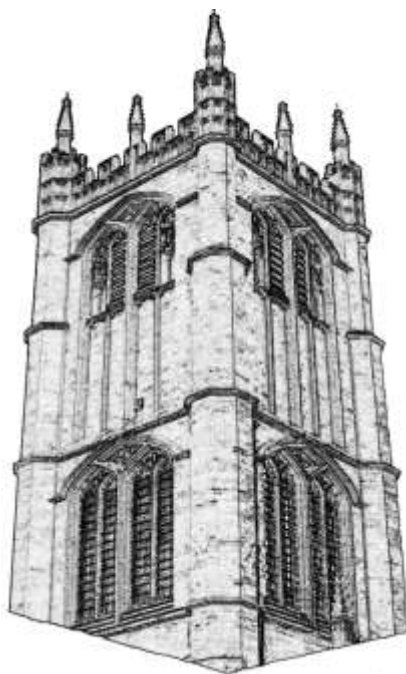
LUDLOW TEAM MINISTRY

LUDLOW TOWERS

*Ludlow & Ludford
Parishes Magazine*

December 2011 - January 2012

St. Johns



St. Giles



St. Laurence

Bringing you the latest news.....

(Contributions to offset the cost of printing this magazine are gratefully received)

THE PARISHES' OFFICE

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The Office is manned each day, but only open to the public on Mondays & Fridays between 10 am and 12.30 pm.

Parishes' Secretary	Mrs Lesley Draper	872073
Parishes' Administrator	Mrs Susan Goble	872073

CLERGY *(Days off are shown in brackets)*

Team Rector Designate	The Venerable Colin Williams	(Thur)	872001
	Rector's Office (direct)		875907
Team Vicars	Revd Richard Green	(Fri)	831113
	Revd Maree Wilson	(Fri)	856731
Assistant Priest	Revd Prebendary Ann Barge	(Wed)	877307
Curate	Revd John Beesley	(Tues)	874383

NORMAL SUNDAY SERVICES

St Laurence	8 am	Holy Communion BCP
	9.30 am	Parish Communion
		2nd Sunday Choral Communion
	11.30 am	2nd and 4th Sunday Choral Matins
	3.30 pm	1st and 3rd Sundays Choral Evensong
		(No 3rd service on the 5th Sunday of the month)

St John	9.30 am	Holy Communion with Hymns
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St Giles	11.15 am	Holy Communion
		1st Sunday Family Service
		Last Sunday Godly Play

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SUNDAY SERVICES IN DECEMBER 2011

4 December:

St Laurence	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	9.30am	Parish Eucharist with Holy Baptism
	3.30 pm	Choral Evensong
St John	9.30am	Holy Communion
St Giles	11.15am	Family Service

11 December:

St Laurence	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	9.30am	Parish Eucharist
	11.30 am	Morning Prayer [said]
	3.30pm	Confirmation service
St John	9.30am	Holy Communion
St Giles	11.15 am	Holy Communion

18 December:

St Laurence	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	9.30 am	Parish Eucharist
	3.30pm	Choral Evensong
St John	9.30am	Holy Communion
	3.00pm	Christmas Celebration with Carols
St Giles	11.15am	Holy Communion with a Carol Service

25 December: Christmas Day

St Laurence	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	9.30am	Christmas Eucharist for all the family, <i>bring gifts & toys to be blessed.</i>
	11.15am	Christmas Service of Lessons & Carols
St John	9.30am	Holy Communion
St Giles	11.15am	Holy Communion

SUNDAY SERVICES IN JANUARY 2012

1 January:

St Laurence	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	9.30 am	Parish Eucharist
	3.30 pm	Evening Prayer [said]
St John	9.30 am	Holy Communion
St Giles	11.15 am	Family Service

8 January: Epiphany

St Laurence	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	9.30 am	Parish Eucharist at St John's <i>(Please see St John's Service)</i>
	11.30 am	Choral Matins
St John	9.30 am	Dedication Eucharist – <i>with St Laurence</i>
St Giles	11.15 am	Holy Communion

15 January:

St Laurence	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	9.30 am	Parish Eucharist
	3.30 pm	Choral Evensong
St John	9.30 am	Holy Communion
St Giles	11.15 am	Holy Communion

22 January:

St Laurence	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	9.30 am	Parish Eucharist
	11.30 am	Choral Matins
St John	9.30am	Holy Communion
St Giles	11.15am	Holy Communion

29 January:

St Laurence	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	9.30 am	Parish Eucharist
St John	9.30 am	Holy Communion
St Giles	11.15 am	Holy Communion

SUNDAY READINGS FROM THE BIBLE
FOR DECEMBER 2011

4 December: Second Sunday of Advent Purple

OT: **Isaiah 40: 1-11**
 Psalm 85 1-2, 8-end
NT: 2 Peter 3, 8-15a
Gospel: **Mark 1: 1 – 8**

11 December: Third Sunday of Advent Purple

OT: **Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11**
 Psalm 126 or Canticle: Magnificat
NT: 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24
Gospel: **John 1: 6-8, 19-28**

18 December: Fourth Sunday of Advent Purple

OT: **2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16**
 Canticle: Magnificat or Psalm 89: 1-9
NT: Romans 16: 25-27
Gospel: **Luke 1: 26-38**

25 December: CHRISTMAS DAY Gold/White

SET I

OT: **Isaiah 9: 2-7**
 Psalm 96
NT: Titus 2: 11-14
Gospel: **Luke 2: 1-14 [15-20]**

SET II

Isaiah 62: 6-12
Psalm 97
Titus 3: 4-7
Luke 2: [1-7] 8-20

SET III

OT: **Isaiah 52: 7-10**
 Psalm 98
NT: Hebrews 1: 1-4 [5-12]
Gospel: **John 1: 1-14**

SUNDAY READINGS FOR JANUARY 2012

1 January: (I) Naming & Circumcision of Jesus White
or: (II) Second Sunday of Christmas White

	<i>SET (I)</i>	<i>SET (II)</i>
OT:	Numbers 6.22-end Psalm 8	Isaiah 61.10-62.3 Psalm 148 (1-6) 7-14
NT:	Galatians 4: 4-7	Galatians 4.4-7
Gospel:	Luke 2: 15-21	Luke 2.15-21

8 January: (I) THE EPIPHANY White
or: (II) The Baptism of Christ (First of Epiphany) White

	<i>SET (I)</i>	<i>SET (II)</i>
OT:	Isaiah 60: 1 – 6 Psalm 72 (1-9), 10-15	Genesis 1: 1-5 Psalm 29
NT:	Ephesians 3: 1- 12	Acts 19: 1-7
Gospel:	Matthew 2: 1 – 12	Mark 1: 4-11

15 January: Second Sunday of Epiphany White

OT: **1 Samuel 3: 1-10**
Psalm 139: 1-5, 12-18 [or 1-9]

NT: Revelation 5: 1-10

Gospel: **John 1: 43-51**

22 January: Third Sunday of Epiphany White

OT: **Genesis 14: 17-20**
Psalm 128

NT: Revelation 19: 6-10

Gospel: **John 2: 1-11**

29 January: (I) Fourth Sunday of Epiphany White
Or: (II) The Presentation of Christ (Candlemas) White

	<i>SET (I)</i>	<i>SET (II)</i>
OT:	Deuteronomy 18: 15-20 Psalm 111	Malachi 3: 1-5 Psalm 24
NT:	Revelation 12: 1-5a	Hebrews 2: 14-18
Gospel:	Mark 1: 21-28	Luke 2: 22-40

PATTERN OF DAILY WORSHIP
IN AND AROUND THE TOWN:

Monday	8.00 am Morning Prayer 8.30 am Holy Eucharist <i>(doors open from 7.30 am)</i> 5.30 pm Evening Prayer	St Laurence Ashford Carbonell
Tuesday	8.00 am Morning Prayer 8.30 am Holy Eucharist <i>(doors open from 7.30 am)</i> 5.30 pm Evening Prayer 8.00 am Morning Prayer 5.30 pm Evening Prayer	St Laurence Ashford Carbonell
Wednesday	8.00 am Morning Prayer 8.30 am Holy Eucharist <i>(doors open from 7.30 am)</i> 11.00 am Holy Eucharist 5.30 pm Evening Prayer 5.30 pm Evening Prayer	St Giles St Laurence Ashford Carbonell
Thursday	7.30 am Holy Eucharist 8.00 am Holy Eucharist <i>(doors open from 7.30 am)</i> 5.30 pm Evening Prayer 5.30 pm Evening Prayer	St Laurence Ashford Carbonell
Friday	8.00 am Morning Prayer 8.30 am Holy Eucharist <i>(doors open from 7.30 am)</i> 5.30 pm Sung Compline	St John St Laurence

CALENDAR - DECEMBER 2011

<i>Date</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>
1	Thurs	12-2pm 2.30pm 6 pm	Worlds Aids Day Vigil – <i>St Laurence</i> Afternoon teas Ashford Carbonel & Knowbury Village Halls Worlds Aids Day Service – <i>Ashford Carbonel</i>
2	Fri		
3	Sat	10am 10-12 11am	Caynham Christmas Coffee Morning – <i>Caynham Church</i> Ashford Carbonel Christmas Coffee Morning & Produce Sale – <i>Village Hall</i> Wedding: Herrman & Bonner – <i>St Laurence</i>
4	Sun	11am 11.15am 3.30pm	2nd Sunday of Advent St Laurence “Talk Time” Caynham Christingle Service Ashford Carbonel Advent Service
5	Mon		
6	Tues	2 pm	Fours Rivers Service
7	Wed		
8	Thurs	10am 10.30am	Bedstone Rehearsal 10.00am - 12.30pm – <i>St Lau.</i> Prayer Group (check venue)
9	Fri	10am 10.30am	Bedstone Carol Service (10.00am - 12noon) – <i>St Laurence</i> St Laurence Prayer Group - <i>Clifton Court</i>
10	Sat	11am 7pm	Christian Aid Carols at the Buttercross & Street Collection Ludlow Choral Society – <i>St Laurence</i>
11	Sun	3pm 4pm 3.30pm	3rd Sunday of Advent Knowbury Christingle Service Ashford Carbonel Christingle Service Confirmation Service – <i>St Laurence</i>
12	Mon	10.30am 7pm 7 pm	Prayer Fellowship – 3 <i>Greenacres, Ludlow</i> Parish Wives Carol Service – <i>St Giles</i> Shropshire Volunteers Carol Service – <i>St John’s</i>
13	Tues	2pm 2.30pm	Four Rivers Nursing Home Advent & Carols Service by C.T.A.L. Mothers Union Meeting & Carol Service – <i>Ludlow Conference Centre</i>

14	Wed	10am	Ludlow Junior School Carol Service - <i>St Laurence</i>
15	Thurs	2pm 2.30pm	Ludlow School Service - <i>St Laurence</i> Afternoon teas Ashford Carbonel & Knowbury Village Halls
16	Fri	10am 10am	Schools Break St Laurence Primary School Service - <i>St Laurence</i> Ludlow Infants School Service – <i>St John</i>
17	Sat	2pm	Wedding: Hickman & Samuel – <i>Stoke St Milborough (MW)</i>
18	Sun	3pm various 11.15am 3pm	4th Sunday of Advent Joint Carol Service for Culmington Group at Stanton Lacy Carol Services –AC,K,RC,B – <i>please check the Christmas publicity leaflet</i> St Giles Carol Service St John’s Christmas Celebration with Carols, Ludlow Town Band & Refreshments
19	Mon		CFCG packing up Richards Castle Carol Singing
20	Tues	2pm	CFCG Collection C.T.A.L . Home Communion – <i>Four Rivers</i> Ashford Carbonel Carol Singing
21	Wed		Knowbury Carol Singing
22	Thurs	7.30 pm	Parish Office closed until 3rd January Carols in the Castle
23	Fri	7 pm	Nine Lessons & Carols – <i>St Laurence</i>
24	Sat	5pm 6.30pm	Richards Castle Christingle Caynham Carols
25	Sun		Christmas Day
26	Mon		St Stephen
27	Tues		
28	Wed		
29	Thurs		
30	Fri	1pm 7.30pm	Wedding: Davies& Stanton - <i>St Giles(AB)</i> Baptism Prep Evening – <i>St John’s tbc</i>
31	Sat	1pm	Wedding: Payne & Gimlick – <i>Bromfield (MW)</i>

FOR ALL CHRISTMAS SERVICES PLEASE CHECK THE CHRISTMAS PUBLICITY LEAFLET AVAILABLE IN ALL LUDLOW TEAM CHURCHES

CALENDAR - January 2012

<i>Date</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Time</i>	
1	Sun	3pm	New Year's Day – 1st of Christmas Joint Eucharist Service for the Culmington Group - <i>at Bromfield</i> Carol Service – <i>Ashford Bowdler</i>
2	Mon		
3	Tues	2 pm	Parishes Office re-opens today C.T.A.L. Service - <i>Four Rivers</i>
4	Wed		
5	Thurs		
6	Fri		Epiphany
7	Sat		
8	Sun	9.30 am	2nd of Christmas - Baptism of Christ St John's Dedication Festival – <i>St John's</i> (no service at St Laurence please feel welcome to join us at St John's)
9	Mon		
10	Tues	12.30pm	Mothers Union Meeting New Year Lunch with Entertainment – <i>Ludlow Conference Centre</i>
11	Wed		
12	Thurs		
13	Fri		
14	Sat		
15	Sun		2nd Sunday after Epiphany
16	Mon		Bitterley with Middleton PCC
17	Tues	2pm	Home Communion – <i>Four Rivers</i>
18	Wed		
19	Thurs	7.30pm	Ludlow Deanery Meeting – <i>2 College Street, Ludlow</i>
20	Fri		
21	Sat		Ludlow Orchestra Concert – <i>St Laurence</i>
22	Sun		3rd Sunday after Epiphany
23	Mon		
24	Tues		Ashford Carbonel PCC
25	Wed		
26	Thurs		

27	Fri	12.30pm 7.30pm	C.T.A.L. Lunch & Discussion – <i>The Garden Room, Methodist Church</i> Baptism Prep Evening – <i>St John's</i>
28	Sat		
29	Sun		4th Sunday after Epiphany / Presentation Joint Service for Culmington Group at Onibury Joint service for Ashfords Group at TBC
30	Mon		
31	Tues		

PLEASE LET THE PARISHES OFFICE KNOW OF ALL YOUR FORTHCOMING EVENTS AND SPECIAL OCCASSIONS, SO THAT WE CAN ADD THEM TO THE CALENDAR. SEND TO:
office@stlaurences.org.uk



WAITING AND WATCHING FOR CHRIST – ADVENT 2011

**Advent Carol Service – St. Laurence
Sunday, November 27 at 5.30 pm.**

Waiting and watching for Christ in light & darkness, music, prayer and silence

**Sermons at St Laurence – 9.30 Parish Eucharist
'Advent People'**

Wisdom from some of our retired clergy:

Sunday, November 27 The Revd. Preb. Neil Macgregor 'Isaiah'

Sunday, December 11 The Revd. John Perry 'John the Baptist'

Sunday, December 18 The Revd. John Haslam 'Mary'

**Sung Night Prayer –Wednesdays 30 November and 7, 14, 21
December - St. Giles – 6.00 pm**

To help us to pause amidst the pre-Christmas rush, to re-focus and to remember what it is we are doing, there will be a series of services of Sung Night Prayer on Wednesday evenings in St Giles' Church each Wednesday of Advent at 6pm., led by the Revd. John Beesley. Whether you can come every week or only once, you are welcome to join us and to make the most of the calm and prayerful space

offered by both St Giles' Church and the service itself which lasts for about 30-40 minutes.

Midday Prayer and Reflection – St. Laurence's – Friday, 2, 9, 16 & 23 December – St. John's Chapel – 12.30pm to 1.00pm

A simple form of midday prayer followed by an Advent Reflection by the Rector and time for reflective prayer.



CHRISTMAS 2011 AT ST. LAURENCE'S, ST JOHN'S AND ST. GILES

St. Laurence:

Carol services

Friday 9 December	Bedstone College	10.00 am
Wednesday, 14 December	Ludlow Junior School	2.00 pm
Thursday, 15 December	Ludlow CE School	2.00 pm
Friday, 16 December	St. Laurence's CE School	10.00 am

Thursday, 22 December

Carols in the Castle	Ludlow Castle Chapel	7.30 pm
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Friday, 23 December

Service of Nine Lessons and Carols by Candlelight (Please be seated by 6.40 pm)		7.00 pm
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Saturday, 24 December – Christmas Eve

Crib & Christingle Service		4.00 pm
First Communion of Christmas (Midnight Mass)		11.15 pm

Sunday, December 25 – Christmas Day

Holy Communion (BCP)	8.00 am
Christmas Morning Eucharist	9.30 am
Service of Lessons & Carols*	11.15 am
<i>*(Please bring toys and presents to be blessed)</i>	
Holy Communion (BCP)	12.45 pm

St John's:

Friday, 16 December

Ludlow Infant School Carol Service 10.00 am

Sunday, 18 December

Christmas Celebration 3.00 pm

Sunday, 25 December

Christmas Morning Holy Communion 9.30 am

St. Giles:

Monday, 12 December

Parish Wives' Carol Service 7.00 pm

Sunday, 18 December

Holy Communion and Carols (*with mince pies*) 11.15 am

Sunday, 25 December – Christmas Day

Christmas Morning Holy Communion 11.15 am



CLERGY LETTER

Christmas Shopping doesn't get any easier as the years go by. What do you get the man or the woman who has pretty much everything that they want? I speak against my own gender here, but men are always a particular problem to me. I can't buy my brothers ties every year! But go beyond that and handkerchiefs and it gets so much harder to work out. I know though that I am not particularly easy to buy for either! Whenever people ask me what they should buy me I just shrug my shoulders and say 'surprise me'!

But let none of that take away the value of taking the trouble to go Christmas shopping and trying to buy just the right gift. It is remarkable how even the smallest gift can gladden the heart of the person to whom it is given. It can make them feel that they are not forgotten, that they matter – even the box of handkerchiefs to the right person at the right moment can achieve so much!

Christmas is of course exactly the right time for us to give gifts, because the Festival owes its origins to the most spectacular gift of all. In coming among us to be born as one of us, God makes us a gift of Himself. A gift with no conditions and no strings attached. He gives freely of himself to us without reserve. As with any other gift, his gift of Himself is placed in our hands – and it is for us to decide what use to make of it: Whether to open it and cherish it, whether to cast it adrift and ignore it or whether simply to throw it away. The choice is laid at our feet. Part of God’s graciousness to us in giving himself to us in Jesus Christ is that he does not force himself upon us. Instead he takes the enormous risk of gifting himself to us, but leaving us to choose how to make use of the gift.

All of which means that for us who call on the Name of Jesus Christ, Christmas represents an enormous challenge. At this Christmas season as at all others, we see Jesus born among us as a tiny, helpless, defenceless child – entirely dependent on us if he is to achieve his purposes of love. For us surely there is only one appropriate response – to give of ourselves to God as freely and as fully as he in love for us has given of himself to us.

The appropriate response to God ‘s giving of himself to us is surely best summed up in the well-known words which we will sing again this Christmastide:

*‘What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a Shepherd, I would give a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man I would do my part.
Yet what I can I give him, - give my heart.*

May the Season of Christmas bring great joy and blessing to all who will read this edition of ‘The Towers’.

Colin Williams



LETTER FROM THE BISHOP

Christmas will soon be upon us and with it all the usual rush of presents, parties and family gatherings. In among the frenzy it is good to reflect again of what we are celebrating. St John masterfully records:

‘In the beginning was the Word (Logos) and the Word (Logos) was with God and the Word (Logos) was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all

things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Someone asked me the other day if God has a name. It's a good question and the one Moses asked God at the burning bush. In Hebrew the answer came back YHWH adapted in English to Jehovah. Literally God's reply is 'I AM' or the verb to be. What emerges is that YHWH, God's personal name is 'I Am who I Am.' God is the eternal being, the source of all existence. If you like God ... IS and that is his name. All time, existence, being, the dynamic movement of the universe are all encompassed in and upheld by 'I AM.' This is an answer to the biggest of questions: is the universe random brute fact or is there a being behind, in and through it all that gives it ultimate meaning and purpose? The Bible throughout says the answer is God, whose name and substance is 'I AM.' Every time you read in the Bible the word LORD this is YHWH, God's personal name.

St John wrote in Greek not Hebrew. That opening sentence has such depth. Logos was his way of writing about the rational principle that governs the universe. It was not a static noun like definition but the meaning and life that runs through the universe and human existence. St Jerome in the 4th century wrote it like this: 'In the beginning was the verb.' 'The Word is the verb and verb is God' wrote Victor Hugo centuries later.

The 'I AM' is the 'Logos,' the 'Verb'. St John continues: *The Word (Logos) became flesh and for a while lived among us.* Amazingly Jesus claimed to be the 'I AM.' I think the late C. S. Lewis got it right when he wrote that... 'you cannot say simply that Jesus was a good man or a good teacher.' Christmas is about more than celebrating the birth of a person who became a good teacher. Lewis continued 'because he claimed to be God he was either mad like a man who claims to be a poached egg or bad because he is deceived and deceiving or he is who he claims to be, God.' St Matthew gives him the title Immanuel, God with us.

This Christmas why not check out the claims. Who is this child born of Mary? What did he do and say? What might that mean for us?

+Alistair



NOTES FROM THE RECTOR

Advent and Christmas

This Edition of 'The Towers' contains full details of special services and events in our three churches during Advent and Christmas. Do make time if you can to take advantage of our special services during Advent so that at Christmas we can be ready for the Christ Child to be born again in our hearts and lives. And do please join in our keeping of Christmas in as many ways as possible, so that together we can rejoice in God's goodness to us in coming to live among us as one of us

So many people from our three churches will be working hard to prepare our churches for the keeping of Christmas. Thank you in advance for all the hard work which will be carried out by so many between now and Christmas Day

Christian Aid at Christmas

Carol Singing will take place at the Buttercross from 11.00 am on Saturday, December 10 in order to raise money for Christian Aid. Do come along and join in if you can. Street collections for Christian Aid will also be taking place that day. All offers of help with this welcome - see Claire Wilcox if you can help or look out for announcements in the weekly newsheet.

Confirmation 2011

Bishop Anthony will be presiding at a service of Confirmation for candidates from the parishes of the Ludlow Team in St. Laurence's on Sunday, December 11 at 3.30 pm.

Those being confirmed are :

Paul Ferguson
Nick Rayner
Erica Waite
Merlin Unwin
Sarah Thomas
Lydia Jones
Jo Austin

Marcus Griffiths
Joanne Povall
Erin White
Chloe Lloyd
Marie-Elise Adams
Maisie Wall
Jim Edwards

Do please hold all our candidates in your prayers as December 11

approaches. Do please also come and join us for the Confirmation Service itself so that they can be encouraged by your prayerful presence

Willow Rowley

Welcome to Willow Rowley who will be baptised during the Parish Eucharist at St. Laurence's on Sunday, December 4. Willow is the daughter of Natasha and Carl and sister to Lucy and Matty who are junior choristers in St Laurence's Choir.

Mulled Wine and Mince Pies for Shoppers

From 10am-12 noon on two Saturdays in December - Dec. 10 and 17 - mince pies and mulled wine will be served to shoppers in St. Laurence's church porch and carols will be sung. Do take advantage of this if you are out and about shopping on those mornings – and spread the word!

Nativity Figures at St. Laurence's

The recent flood in the cellar at 2, College St. has sadly rendered the large Nativity Figures which we have used for the last few years unusable. At the time of writing it looks as if we have secured the loan of a wooden set of figures for us to use this Christmas. That will enable us to take stock before Christmas 2012 as to how we want to proceed with replacing our own set.

Sunday, January 8 – St. Laurence's and St. John's together at St. John's

As has been the custom for some years, St. Laurence's and St. John's will have a shared Parish Eucharist at St. John's at 9.30 am on Sunday, 8 January. This will enable us to give thanks together for St. John the Evangelist, Patron Saint of St. John's – and also to celebrate together the Feast of the Epiphany which is being kept that day. For the people of St. Laurence this doesn't mean that they do not have a Parish Eucharist that day – it simply means that it takes place at St John's together with the people of St. John's. Last year we had a good turnout for this service – let's try and do even better this year!

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

This year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity falls as always from January 18-25. Here is some news of how the Week is being marked in Ludlow:

The Ludlow Week of Prayer Service takes place at Ludlow CE School at 3.00 pm on Sunday, January 22. The preacher is to be Canon Christopher Walsh, Parish Priest of St. Peter's RC Church

Daily Prayer As in previous years, there is also to be Daily Ecumenical Prayer in the churches of Ludlow as follows:

Wed 18 th	10:30am at Methodist church	led by Rev Frances Biseker
Thu 19 th	2:00pm at Baptist Church	led by Rev Jon Edwards
Fri 20 th	7:30pm at St. Peter's	led by Father Chris Walsh
Sat 21 st	10:30am at Mascall Centre	led by Living Waters
Mon 23 rd	10:30am at Friends Meeting House	led by Friends
Tues 24 th	7:30pm at Elim	led by Rev Tim Coles
Wed 25 th	2:00pm at St Giles	led by the Ven. Colin Williams

There will also be exchange of congregation members between the various churches on the morning of Sunday, January 22.

Parishes' Retreat

As already trailed in last month's 'Tower' there is to be a Retreat for any from the Parishes of the Ludlow Team who would like to join us at the Llangasty Retreat House near Brecon from 4 pm on Tuesday, 24 April until 2 pm on Thursday, 26 April. It will be ably and prayerfully led by the Revd. Nick Helm, now working in this Diocese as Development Officer, but formally Adviser on Spirituality to the Bishop of Sheffield. These days offer an opportunity to come away and be quiet before God, with led reflections and meditations, worship and also space for personal reflection and prayer – all in the setting of the lovely surroundings of the Black Mountains

Cost: – full board for the two days is £120. Application forms are available in Church or from 2, College St.. Bookings by January 31 please.

Colin Williams



CHURCHWARDENS' CORNER

A smaller corner this month – we are reiterating a few items from last month underlining their importance.

Fund raising events 2012 – Can you help?

2012 is almost here – like every other year, it will be busy - particularly in June and July – the Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics respectively. However, the need for fund-raising does not stop, but mindful of these celebrations, we must think of events that are fun for all as well as good money spinners. We are hoping to have an auction of promises and a barn dance – the organisers need helpers as well as participants. Please let us know if you are available for either – don't hold back. Meanwhile, if any of you have any ideas for any other events we'd love to hear from you.

Wish list

You may know that the cellar underneath the parish offices has suffered from severe flood damage. Unfortunately, the nativity group has been completely ruined and we do need to replace it. We have plans for a temporary solution for this Christmas, but wonder if, among our congregation, there is someone who would consider gifting such an item for future use. If anyone feels able to donate the money for such a project, then we would be delighted to hear from you.

Stewardship letter

You will have received your letter from us about our stewardship and level of giving. We emphasise that we know some people cannot increase their level of giving – what is important to us is that we are all members of St Laurence's community. But we do ask everyone to think and pray hard and to respond accordingly.

Finally

We are all available on the phone and at church. Please ring should you wish to discuss any of the above.

Brian Thomas, Ewart Carson, Claire Wilcox.



FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

16 October 2011	Jude O’Gilligan & Charlie Barlow	St Giles
23 October 2011	Charlie-Ray Mantle Alicia Ann Harris Ollie Crowther	St John’s St John’s St John’s
29 October 2011	Alexander Hasler	St Laurence
30 October 2011	Sophia Tuner Finley & Keira Hyde	St John’s St John’s

Weddings

29 October 2011	Andrew Hasler & Elise Collins	St Laurence
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Funerals

6 October 2011	Gervaise Theaker	St Laurence
7 October 2011	Frederick Maund	St John’s
11 October 2011	Ethel Graham	St Giles
21 October 2011	Anne Oakley	St John’s
27 October 2011	David Marshall	St Giles
28 October 2011	Gwen Powell	St John’s
4 November 2011	Ralph Jones	St John’s
8 November 2011	Violet Bagley	St John’s



NEWS FROM St JOHN’S

St John’s has embarked upon some initiatives that we hope will see us moving forward in our faith and worship. We have formed a ‘Services Review Group’ at which both the language and music is under discussion. Some themes from the mass by Dom Gregory Murray are already being

gently introduced by Colin Reeves during our Communion Service, but there are other versions to consider. We are also looking at the selection of hymns available to us.

St John's midweek discussions have resumed, the theme being 'What Do We Believe?' The first session, led on Wednesday 9th November by Preb. Ann Barge is on 'Heaven'. The second, on 23rd November, introduced by Ven. Colin Williams is on 'Jesus'.

Meetings are at St John's. They start at 7.30pm and are followed by discussion with tea/coffee and end with Compline. All are welcome.

Recent events

We are still opening St John's on a Wednesday morning for coffee [10.30 to 12.00] until further notice and have nominated the third Wednesday of the month to especially welcome recently bereaved people. In October members of our kneelers group came together to show their work in progress and to share any difficulties. One kneeler was nearly finished – and looks stunning. The others, in various stages of completion bear testimony to the skill and expertise of the embroiderers. Thank you so much everyone.

In October, Carla and Peter Phelps hosted a three course Harvest Lunch for 35 people. It was, as usual, a lively convivial occasion with superb food.

We have been pleased that St John's has recently been the venue for two services involving the wider community. The first, a diocesan-led service for those involved in youth work, and the second, the Parish Bereavement Service. St John's is a large, welcoming church which has the potential to be an important focus for events and services in Ludlow.

Future events

***Coffee morning** to be hosted by John Robson at West Winds, Gravel Hill on **Thursday 24th November 10.30 to 12.00** in aid of St John's funds.

*** Shropshire Volunteers Carol Service Monday 12th December at 7pm.**

***St John's Christmas Celebration Sunday 18th December 3pm.**

As last year, we welcome Ludlow Concert Band [Leader Amanda Pope, Conductor Colin Reeves] to lead our singing. There will also be a choir

and seasonal readings. We follow this joyful event with refreshments. Please come and join us in this celebration of Christ's birth.

***Ludlow Infant School Nativity Christmas Service 16th December 10am.**

***St John's Patronal Service Sunday 8th January 930 am.**

We invite the congregations of St Laurence and St Giles to join us at our 9.30 Eucharist. This is followed by refreshments and mulled wine.

Sheila French



THE CHURCH SHOP

Do you remember all those lovely little gifts we used to give and receive with such pleasure? All of those special things that only appear at Christmas? Well many are now available at the church shop; we have created a real feast for our senses.

Come and choose from a selection of Advent candles and calendars; add to your glass tree decorations; find a toy that was once a favourite. There is a range of Fair Trade decorations and gifts, including Advent calendars with chocolate. You'll find candles and room-scenters to use yourself, or as gifts.

There is no need to worry about finding something for the friend or relative who seems to have everything, we'll have something different in the shop.

And if you didn't get one last year, we have an excellent range of nativity sets - a reminder of the reason for our celebrations.



NEWS FROM ST GILES

Prayer News Fellowship

Our Prayer Fellowship at St Giles meets every 2 weeks on Monday mornings at 10.30 at 3 Greenacres & has been doing so now for well over 20 years.

It has become a real strength in our church because when we have problems or illness we “take it to the Lord in prayer” & it is always amazing how wonderfully He answers us.

We begin each meeting with greeting each other over a cup of coffee & then begin the meeting with Bible Study followed by prayer amongst us for all the needs which have been put to us & there are often many!

Each month every member of the group is issued with the latest requests for prayer & also the many answered prayers received. Many people have been really grateful for the prayer support given them by the group.

We welcome anyone to join us from any church or even no church. The dates of the meetings can be found on the weekly news sheet every other week. We look forward to giving you a warm welcome.

Revd John Beesley

Several people in our congregation have asked me to express our great appreciation of John’s ministry amongst us & how we enjoy the Gospel wisdom he gives us from the pulpit in a concise understandable way. Thank you John.

Confirmation

We are much looking forward to the Confirmation Service on Dec. 11th at St Laurence’s church when St Giles’ will be presenting two candidates to the Bishop.

Please remember all the candidates in your prayers that their faith may not only be confirmed but also continue to grow strong in belief & trust.

Carol Service

Another day to look forward to is on Sunday Dec 18th when there is to be a Carol Service in St Giles’ church starting at 11.15 a.m. It should be a wonderful & uplifting start to the Festive season when we have the chance of thanking God for all His love for us. Do please try to come & join us & bring as many family members with you as you can. It is always such a happy occasion & the children love it.

Garden House

Quite recently we have found that the floor upstairs in the Garden House is rotten in a small area & therefore unsafe so our Sunday school work has to take place in the chapel area of the church. This is quite a problem &

your prayers as to the best way to deal with the matter would be appreciated. Thank you.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR FROM ALL AT ST GILES'

M.Wright

ADVENT AT ST GILES'

Each Wednesday evening during Advent Rev John Beesley will be holding Sung Night Prayer at 6 p.m. to help us to focus our attention on the true meaning of Christmas and why we are celebrating. Do please come along and join us if you can.

Our Christmas Service at St. Giles'

We are especially looking forward to the Christmas Service at St Giles' this year as Christmas Day falls on a Sunday. We hope as many of you as possible will come and join us on this very special day when the church will be decorated and the familiar carols sung. Please bring all the family with you and start the day in the best possible way by thanking God for His wonderful gift to us at Christmas.

Christmas Holiday Time

During the school Christmas holidays after Christmas there will be music & craft workshops for young children similar to the ones which were held in the summer. All are welcome & details of when & where they are to be held can be obtained from Mrs Daphne Jepps on 01568 780517

Reminder

Churches Together Around Ludlow are having a Living Nativity Procession on Monday Dec. 19th starting at the Co-op Stores at 6 p.m. & ending at the Castle. [See the poster on page 32 – Ed.]



FOR 'BIG SOCIETY' READ 'LOCAL'

Politicians tend to be strong on rhetoric and weak on delivery. 'The Big Society' is the latest slogan backed by 'we are all in this together'. National governments can create a climate and provide leadership but only local communities are in a position to translate those aspirations into programmes that work.

Yet the idea of 'The Big Society' did prompt CTAL to explore what that might mean for churches in Ludlow. Do they have a special part to play? Two open meetings led to the formation of a working group charged with the initial task of auditing needs and available resources in the area. It was essential to proceed with hard information not untested assumptions, and to see what was already being done in the area that is giving attention to the most vulnerable. We reckoned that those most at risk from cutbacks in services and benefits would be families with young children, school leavers and the elderly.

We do not accept the fond notion that volunteers and charitable funds will make up for any shortfall in statutory provision. These, as always, contribute to a caring community but professional skill and good management is necessary in meeting social needs and co-ordinating services. It is too easy to denigrate professionals be they social workers or teachers and sneer at much disparaged bureaucracy. The Welfare State, with all its imperfections represents the greatest achievement of post war Britain and we would dismantle its structures at our peril.

We become increasingly aware that this is no short term recession for which we can too easily blame bankers or the previous government. The economic outlook is very bleak with the Euro uncertainty now compounding our problems. An improvement in living standards has accompanied an assumption of continuing economic growth. That was never sustainable in the long run in a world of finite resources and with developing countries claiming their fair share. We in Britain, as in much of the western world, enjoyed our years in the sun and we do not easily accept that it will set as it did on the Empire. Our comfort has generally been at the cost to other parts of the world and that gulf between rich and poor has become wider in recent years as wealthier nations seek to protect their interests. The disparity is reflected within our own nation as unemployment, homelessness and poverty contrast with a bonus culture for the privileged.

So our concern is to see how churches within the contained local community of Ludlow might contribute to creating a more cohesive society and address the needs of the more dispossessed and vulnerable, recognising that this is likely to be a long term programme not a short term fix. The nation may never be able to maintain many of the benefits we have enjoyed in recent decades so we have to prepare for a very different

social environment. That will require some profound adjustments and real sacrifice from those who have enjoyed personal prosperity. Resources globally and nationally are limited and it is a delusion to imagine that poorer countries can achieve the standards currently confined to more developed ones. Neither is it feasible that the majority in this country will ever share in the comforts of the wealthy – 'trickle down' was another piece of political rhetoric. We have seen 'draw up' and uncontrolled greed. All of this will result in increasing frustration and anger amongst those denied access to power and resources. We are beginning to see the consequences as an element in the summer riots, the sit-ins at St Paul's, and in many other parts of the world.. Justifiably or not, the St Paul's episode led to a perception of a Church more concerned with protecting its own property and institution than comprehending and responding to that anger and sense of alienation. The protesters have sparked a crucial debate which reflects some of our own concerns; is the Church a monument or a movement?

We may need to take a hard look at ourselves and reposition the Church so that it lives out a 'bias to the poor' and convinces of its relevance. This may prove to be a defining moment in the life of the Church if not for the nation - and then a true resurrection with the values which the Church shares prevailing over the priorities that have corrupted our society. That of course will see the Church accused of playing politics – remember Faith in the City condemned as a Marxist document? But politics is about how a society orders itself and the Church must always be fearless in advocating justice and fairness. It has a prophetic role and must look beyond the immediate to express hope in its truest sense; following Jesus in being radical even though constrained by traditions which incline it towards conservative caution.

So the Church has an important campaigning role but also must use its limited resources to give practical service through personal care or in developing projects to plug gaps in provision. Many of our established charities and voluntary organisation have their roots in church-based initiatives and there are innumerable opportunities in any community for individual Christians to be of service. Already in our discussions with local organisations we have come to appreciate the range of networks in Ludlow that give support to those in need. We were well advised to proceed with caution and do a lot of listening. But it is clear that there could be better co-ordination between organisations, and if we are to achieve anything that

must also apply to the churches. CTAL has depended over much on a limited number of individuals from congregations around the town. Here is an opportunity to share resources and energy so that we can play our full part in ensuring that Ludlow remains a thriving and mutually supportive community through the uncertainties that lie ahead. There needs to be a spiritual as well as a social dimension.

We have been greatly encouraged by the enthusiasm of the Town Council to lend every support. Their own document 'Ludlow Future' is an important statement of their intent.

The CTAL group under the chairmanship of Neil Richardson will ensure that churches are kept informed of progress.

Michael Day



LUDLOW TEAM MINISTRY MOTHERS' UNION BRANCH

On Tuesday 8th November the Rector chaired the AGM of the MU with his usual diplomacy and cheerfulness. He led members in Prayer after which the usual business of an AGM was conducted. Both the Branch Leader, Shelagh Jenkyns and the Secretary, Pat Baulch, were standing down after years of service to the MU, but Pat has agreed to remain on the committee for the time being.

The new Leader of the Branch is Betty Millington (St John's); Gill Parker (Stanton Lacy) remains Treasurer; the Committee members are: Jean Giles (St Giles), Vera Ingram (Bromfield), Pat Baulch, Janet Jeffs, Shirley Lloyd, Elizabeth Nixon, Barbara Penson and Rosemary Roberts (all from St Laurence) with the post of Secretary remaining vacant, to be resolved by the committee sharing the work with someone still to be elected as 'the' Secretary.

Thanks to the diligence of the Treasurer the Branch remains solvent having paid its dues to the MU and having raised over £350 for MU work overseas for Children in Africa.

The Rector thanked Shelagh, Pat and the committee for all the work they have done on behalf of the Mothers' Union and within the Team, and assured Betty and the new committee that he would continue to pray for

them. The MU is one of the groups which embraces the Team with members belonging from north, south east and west, for which he is thankful. The Rector reminded members of their founder Mary Sumner's commitment to prayer and 'prayer in action'. As a body the MU witness to the knowledge and love of Christ, individually, and with the clergy in the parishes of the Ludlow Team.

If anyone, man or woman, baptised in the Christian faith, is interested in finding out more about the Mothers' Union and its work they would be welcome at the next meeting after the Christmas Festivities when the talk will be about 'The Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer' to be held at the Ludlow Conference Centre at 2.30 pm on Tuesday 14th February 2012.

Elizabeth Nixon



LIFTS TO CHURCH

Once again, may I appeal for help in bringing less mobile members of the congregation to St Laurence's for the 9.30 am Parish Eucharist? Some of those who have helped in this way over the years are no longer available, and it would be a great pity if this facility were to fall away. If a regular commitment is not possible, any offer of occasional help would be most welcome.

Michael Day, 01584 873940



THE TRIUMPH OF TITUS IKABOD. A CHRISTMAS TALE FOR LUDLOW COUNTY INFANTS SCHOOL

It is Advent time in Ludlow, the first weeks of December.
The trees are clenched against the cold, the sun a fading ember.
A shivering squirrel claps its paws and scampers to its dray
As winter draws the curtain on the shortest, bleakest day.
Along the glittering Sandpits Road, outside the Infants School
Beyond the gate, proud parents wait, defying frost so cruel
That baby brothers can't see through the windscreens on their buggies,
And even nappies freeze inside their baby sisters' huggies.
At last! At last! At twenty-past the gates burst open wide,
And children rush and children gush - a foaming, frenzied tide.

Now, why so wild? For every child is waving a newsletter....
"Not now , my love , let's get you home, the sooner, dear, the better....
And zip your jacket up before you spoil that sweater..."
"No! Read it now!" The children howl, "It's got some super news!
It's all about our Christmas Play - and it's from our Mrs Matthews!"
Well, what proud parent could resist such plaintive infant pleas,
Despite the failing wintry light and deepest of deep freeze? ...

Let me confess. I know , more or less, the Great Nativity Plan,
But it had been TOP SECRET since preparations began.
Now, what was quite so special about this Great Event?
I'll summarise, I'll dot the i's , for this was the intent.
To make the Christmas story real, to bring to Jesus' birth
To life and light the wonder of how Christ came to earth,
The County Infants' Nativity will take place in a barn
Just two miles out of Coreley, at Upper Dhustone Farm.
The byre is big enough, it reads, for every mum and dad.
The cattle, horse and ass are real - thanks to kindly Farmer Gadd.
Two shepherd lads from off Brown Clee will bring a real sheep
To offer baby Jesus as he wakens from his sleep.....
Three Magi posed a problem... Wise men ? ... Numbering three? ...
Instead we've chosen a Gypsy Queen , deep into astrology,
Who lives alone by Crampton Stone at Abdon-Under- Clee.
A wise water diviner , an extremely clever man,
Is the second of our "Magi"; our third is Simple Stan -
The village idiot, they say , but we think he's so bright :
"Blesséd are the truly cracked, for they let in the light."
And now, our greatest challenge: the mother of Our Lord;
He who did prompt the bended knee, whom kings themselves adored....
From furthest Bewdley, single mother, young eighteen year Terez Maria,
A refugee from Kurdistan who fled her home and hearth in fear,
Since she had dared pursue her heart, conceived her son in love
Outside the bonds of marriage. She named him "My brave dove."

"So, parents, friends and family , come , join us , set aside
All preconception , prejudice this joyful Christmastide.
The children , every boy and girl, will be that angel throng
Who heralded Messiah's birth in full and glorious song!"
Well, come they do, in crowd-on-crowd to this Nativity,

To Farmer Gadd's enormous barn at Dhustone Under Clee.
 Terez Maria brings many a tear to many a mother's eye
 As Jess , her child, sleeps undefiled with cattle feeding nigh....
 But who is this? ... A man in grey... with clipboard ... mobile phone ...
 Steps forward... switches on a torch... and says in pompous tone:
 "I'm sorry, but I have no choice. I've filed a full report.
 This reckless ... foolish ... pantomime will have to be cut short.
 I'm Health and Safety (Entertainments) West Mercia Division.
 The regulations , take my word, make absolutely full provision
 For threats to public, personal welfare, health , security.
 These "Magi" , for example, have not had their CRB.
 This livestock lacks the necessary TB vaccination.
 That manger is in danger of complete disintegration.
 Despite the star which shone afar and drew these "wise men" hence,
 The fire doors aren't illumined... and as for frankincense...
 A substance banned by E.U. law a "High hallucigenous"...
 Loose , filthy straw upon the floor... an utter safety menace!!"
 With this he stamped his size five foot, but knew not where he trod;
 He did impale the long black tail of TITUS IKABOD!
 A by-the-manger-snoozing fearsome , feral farmyard cat,
 Who took offence at such a rude and BUMptious bureaucrat,
 Sprang with a screech and sank his teeth into that pin-striped bum.
 The agent screamed, convinced at last that this was Kingdom Come.
 The Christchild woke, began to cry, whereupon the adoring cattle
 Rose from their knees by slow degrees and sniffed the scent of battle.
 To rousing cheers, these Grenadiers drove Herod from the byre,
 Whilst angel voices lullabied the infant King Messiah.

"If only men , " said little Ben," had half the sense and faith
 Of animals, the world would be a better place."
 "Aye, lad" , smiled his dear old dad," and this is what I'd say:
 With Health and Safety on the job , would Christ have stayed away?"

***** Ian Barge 6.12.08

There is absolutely no foundation in fact for this story . My admiration for
 Ludlow County Infants does not imply that its staff would trespass upon
 such radical ground. With the exception of Mrs Matthews, all names are
 fictitious. As for Health and Safety, all it lacks is a due sense of the absurd:
 the foundation stone of all true sanity. IB

A-Z OF CHURCHYARD CONSERVATION



U is for *Urtica dioica*



Or Stinging nettles as we know them. This hardy perennial is extremely good for us being full of vitamins, minerals and fibre. It also has anti inflammatory properties, often used as a tea to help hay fever.

Managing nettles

Ladybirds use nettles for raising their larvae. Many species of moth and butterfly lay their eggs on nettles sited in sunny areas. A wide range of other beneficial insects feed on the stinging nettle. So mid-June would appear to be the best time for cutting nettles to allow insect numbers to build up and then be moved on.

To control nettles in grass, cut regularly when shoots appear in spring and repeat cuts each time the shoots reach 6-12 inches. Hand pulling nettles is also a good way of controlling these beneficial (but sometimes invasive) plants.

A great book by Piers Warren - '101 Uses for Stinging Nettles'



V is for Valerian – *Centranthus ruber*



Red valerian is a lovely long flowering cottage garden plant, originally from the Mediterranean, which now grows wild in many places, on walls and old buildings, on sea-cliffs and railway banks and on waste ground. The flowers are a source of nectar for bees and also many butterflies and moths, including the hummingbird hawk-moth.

Having a woody rootstock means that it has a slight ability to damage walls constructed of small bricks or stonework. This tendency should be considered against the conservation value and attractive appearance of the plant. Consider keeping it in places which are very visible and easily accessible for re-pointing.

Caring for God's Acre, the conservation charity for churchyards and burial grounds, 01568 611154, www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk



STAY-AT-HOME CHRISTMAS?

Are you staying at home for Christmas? Would you open your home and share Christmas with a student from China, India, or some other part of the world, who would otherwise be stuck at an almost deserted UK university? HOST invites you to give Christmas, perhaps for the first time in their life, to someone who is a guest in this country, who would love to experience your way of life and make your stay-at-home Christmas special. HOST will match you with one or two guests to suit your household. More volunteer hosts are urgently needed for 1-3 days at Christmas, and weekends all year round. Please see www.hostuk.org or call HOST on 020 7739 6292

HOST UK, Unit 8 Water House, 8 Orsman Road, London N1 5QJ



Generosity is not measured by how much you give away to others - but by how much you keep for yourself.

[See Mark chapter 12 verses 41-44.... Ed.]



FORTHCOMING

Friday December 2nd at 8.00.p.m. – St. Laurence Church

A CONCERT OF SEASONAL MUSIC AND READINGS
by THE BRITTEN SINGERS of Hereford, Directed by Pamela White.

The choir sings a varied and wide ranging programme: from Madrigals to music made famous by The Beatles.

The singers gather from a wide area; including, from Ludlow, our Team Rector, The Venerable Colin Williams, and from Caynham, Rosalind and James Caird.

It promises to be a very enjoyable evening!

All proceeds from the concert will be shared between The Terence Higgins Trust and St Laurence's Church.

Living Nativity Street Theatre



Monday 19th December 2011

Enjoy the story unfolding before your eyes

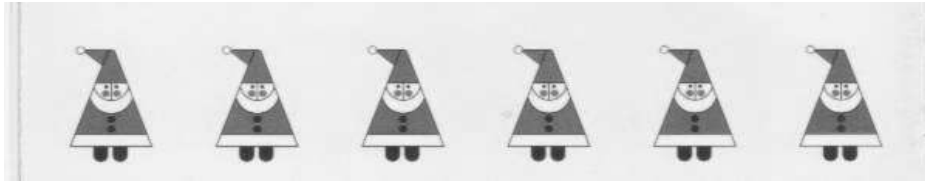
6pm

from One-Stop, Tower Street processing to

Ludlow Castle

Join in carol singing lead by local primary school children and enjoy hot chocolate at the Castle

Call Tim on 07734 106 275 for further information



South Shropshire shoppers buy once and give twice at Ludlow's Cards for Good Causes charity Christmas shop

Shoppers can buy Christmas cards from more than 25 national and local charities in Ludlow. Cards for Good Causes – which sells charity cards across the UK every year – opens its Ludlow shop on **Friday 14th October at St. Laurence's church shop.**

Gill Leary said, “We're delighted to be back in Ludlow. Everyone is so generous and really help us raise more for our charities. Charity cards are a great way to buy once and give twice – once to the person who receives your card and once to your favourite charity.”

Ludlow charity Christmas card shop is one of a countrywide network of shops. Cards for Good Causes Limited (CFGCL) pays the participating charities (or their trading subsidiaries) at least 75p in every pound from their card sales, less the VAT payable on the amount retained by CFGCL. The retained amount covers CFGCL's costs of running the temporary charity Christmas card shops. In addition to these costs, the participants have to pay for the production and distribution of their cards.

The shop, staffed by local volunteers, is open from 10.00am to 5.00 pm Monday to Saturday from Friday 14th October to Saturday 17th December
Look out for the red triangular Santa sign!



NEWS FROM HEREFORD DIOCESE

Rare Treasures of Hereford Cathedral

Just Published: £4 from the cathedral shop

This new guide features the Mappa Mundi, a 13th century map of the world that is one of the most remarkable and important medieval works of art in existence, which records how scholars interpreted the world in spiritual as well as geographical terms.

Hereford also possesses a near-perfect 1217 copy of Magna Carta, one of the eight oldest copies surviving of perhaps the most famous document in English history.

In addition, the cathedral has a unique chained library which contains 229 medieval manuscripts including the Hereford Gospels, made in England in the 8th century.

If you haven't visited Hereford recently, the cathedral close has just undergone a three-year makeover (don't miss Elgar and his bicycle) and on the south side of the cathedral is the cafe and garden, as well as the entrance to the permanent exhibition of Treasures.

Peter Purslow

Historic Churches of Herefordshire & Shropshire

A Diocesan Calendar starring 13 of our churches is now available.
Cost: £7.50 cellophane wrapped with sturdy envelope for gift posting.

Available in Diocesan Offices Hereford & Ludlow,
Hereford & Ludlow Visitor Centres and Ludlow Church Shop.
By post add £1 postage and packing

The Calendar, The Diocesan Office Hereford HR4 9BL

Great Christmas present



**ARABLE OPEN DAY AT HIGH MEADOW FARM, ASHFORD
CARBONELL, LUDLOW**

by kind permission of Nick Tilt & Family

Thursday 8th December 10.30am-3pm

Speakers: Dr Alastair Leake – The Allerton Project - Soil Management
Ian Robertson – Glenside Bioscience Soils Analysis
Paul Doyle – Masstock Agronomy
Karen Williams – Masstock – Renewable Energy



Diocesan News Service for Magazine Editors.

Copy in writing for January issue by **1st December 11** to:
Anni Holden, Communications Officer,
The Palace, Hereford HR4 9BL

Thank you to all our contributors.

**COPY FOR THE FEBRUARY TOWERS TO THE OFFICE
PLEASE BY 10th January 2012**

****Please note Deadline dates for 2012:****

Material arriving after the preferred date cannot be guaranteed to be included . **Material arriving after the final date will definitely NOT be included until the following month:**

Issue	Preferred Date	Final Date
February	10 Jan 12	17 Jan 12
March	7 Feb 12	14 Feb 12
April	6 Mar 12	13 Mar 12
May	10 Apr 12	17 Apr 12
June	8 May 12	15 May 12
July/August	6 June 12	13 June 12
September	7 Aug 12	14 Aug 12

October
November
December/January

11 Sept 12
9 Oct 12
6 Nov 12

18 Sept 12
16 Oct 12
13 Nov 12

Please send articles by email to office@stlaurences.org.uk
Please send information about events and subjects that you would like to appear.

What we do not know, we cannot pass on!



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	Mr Brian Thomas, Tallis House, Overton	878719
	Mrs Claire Wilcox, 4 Lower Broad Street	877199
PCC Secretary	Mrs Val Hardwick, Sparchford Cottage, Culmington	861658
Electoral Roll	Mrs Claire Wilcox, 4 Lower Broad Street	877199

ST LAURENCE'S, LUDLOW

8am Sidesmen's Rota	Mr and Mrs R Burns, 8 Poyner Rd	872419
Children's Church	Vacant	
Communion Rota	Mrs Fay Carson, Fairfield, Linney	879155
Conservation Trust	Mrs Rosemary Wood, Merchant House, L. Corve St.	877771
Director of Music	Mr Shaun Ward, Parishes' Office	872073
Flowers	Louise Griffiths, 35 Friars Garden,	876203
Gift Aid Secretary	c/o Parishes' Office	872073
Pastoral Links	Mrs Mary Williams, 23 Gravel Hill	875884
Sacristan	Mrs Antonia O'Kennedy, 17 Friars Garden	877309
Servers Secretary	Mrs Antonia O'Kennedy, 17 Friars Garden	877309
Stewarding	Mrs Pam Latchford, 3 Poyner Rd	874990
St Laurence Shop	Mrs Di Corston, 13 Whitbatch Close	873778
Tower Captain	Mr Tony Greatrex, Rose Cottage, Orleton	01568 780764
Tower Floodlighting	Forms at St Laurence Shop	
Treasurer	Mr Mike Beazley, Old Gate House, Ludlow	873570
Verger	Mr Joe Brennan, Parishes' Office	872073

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	Mr Don Craft, White Gates, St Julian Ave	874323
Treasurer	Mr Peter Phelps, Hill Crest, Gravel Hill	873179
Secretary	Mr John French, 4, Coach House Fields, Livesey Rd	876142
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Hello! - Can you read me? – over!

Over the next few issues of this magazine we are trying out ways of making it more attractive and readable – especially for folk with poor eyesight.

The Editorial Committee would like to get your feedback and comments on these trials before we settle on the final format. Please let us have your comments and constructive criticisms so we can try to do better!

Please contact Susan Goble at the office on 872073 with your thoughts and comments. Thank you!!

LARGE PRINT

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★ ★ ★ Editor's Note ★ ★ ★ ★

Opinions expressed in contributed articles in this magazine are those of the contributor and do not necessarily represent the position of the PCC or the Editorial Committee.