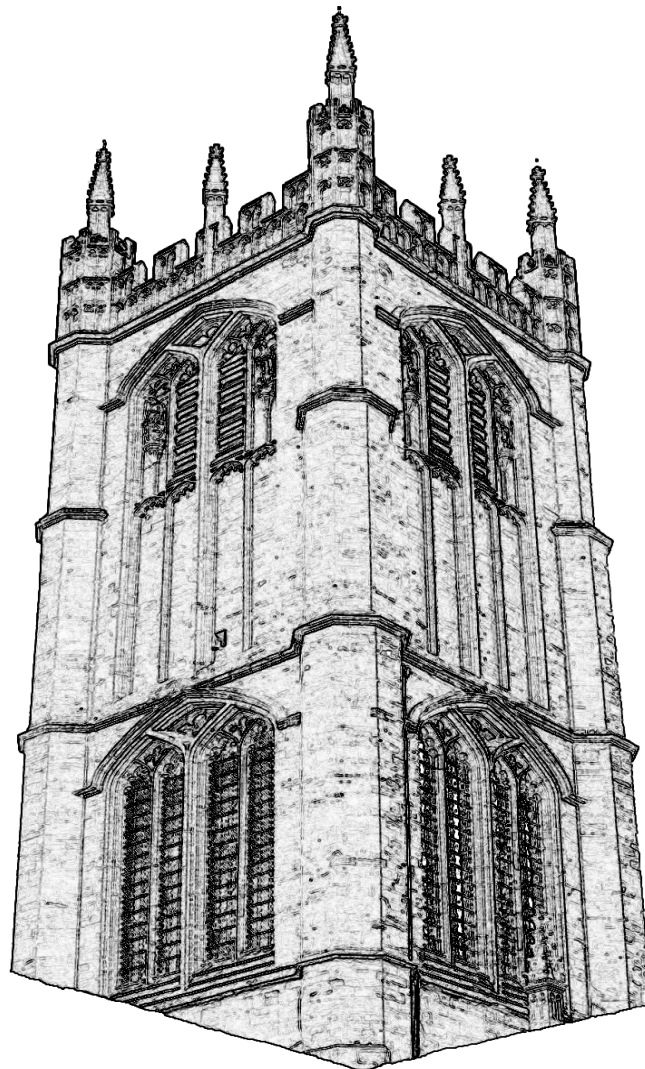


THE PARISHES OF LUDLOW & LUDFORD

# LUDLOW TOWER

*Parish Magazine*

*December 2009*



*Bringing you the latest news.....*

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

## THE PARISHES' OFFICE

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### CLERGY (Days off are shown in brackets)

Team Rector	<i>Vacancy</i>		
Acting Team Rector	Revd Richard Green	(Friday)	831113
Acting Team Rector	Revd James Stewart	(Friday)	856625
Assistant Minister	Revd Prebendary Ann Barge	(Tuesday)	877307
Minister in Secular Employment	Revd Steve Jarvis	(Saturday)	07879 442751
Curate	Revd. John Beesley	(Tuesday)	874383

### NORMAL SUNDAY SERVICES

St Laurence	8 am	Holy Communion BCP
	9.30 am	Parish Communion
		2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday Choral Communion
	11.30 am	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday Plainchant Matins
		4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Choral Matins
	3.30 pm	1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sundays Choral Evensong
		(No 3 <sup>rd</sup> service on the 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month)
St John	9.30 am	Holy Communion with Hymns
St Giles	11.15 am	Holy Communion
		1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday Family Service
		Last Sunday Godly Play

**Thank you to all our contributors.**

**COPY FOR THE JANUARY TOWER TO THE OFFICE PLEASE  
BY December 14 2009**

**Please send articles by email.**

**Please send information about events and subjects  
which you would like to appear.**

**What we do not know, we cannot pass on!**

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## CLERGY LETTER

Hark the glad sound, the Saviour comes,  
The Saviour promised long.  
Let every heart prepare a throne,  
And every voice a song.”

In the media this past week have been photos of casualties returning from Afghanistan (some tragically in coffins); photos too of Neda Agha Stan, the Iranian woman who was shot during her fight for democracy and freedom for her people. These pictures seem especially poignant as the Church begins the Holy Season of Advent and prepares for the coming of the Christ Child: the Prince of Peace: the vulnerable baby who was born into a world of conflict; whose family were refugees. The baby God who came to bring Good News to the poor and to set captives free; to bring light to those who dwell in darkness.

The Holy Season of Advent is a time for eager anticipation, especially for our children – counting the days on their Advent calendars, busily preparing Nativity plays, Christingles and Carol Services.

It is lovely to be caught up in all their excitement – and I hope that none of us ever loses that child-like sense of wonder, but in all the busyness of our own preparations for Christmas, may we spend a short time each day this Advent in quiet preparation; and pray also for all those whose lives are in danger – not least in the Holy Land.

“In His love, Christ fills us with joy as we prepare to celebrate His birth, so that when He comes again he may find us watching in prayer, our hearts filled with wonder and praise.” *Common Worship*

*Ann Barge*

## FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP

During the early part of December, everyone one on the Ludlow Electoral Roll will be receiving a letter and supporting information regarding stewardship for the coming year. Please do give this information your very serious consideration. We fully appreciate that times are currently difficult financially for many people. However, please do consider whether you might be able to increase your giving in 2010. As the saying goes “every little helps”.

*James Stewart – Acting Team Rector*

## FROM THE BISHOP OF LUDLOW

There is a story of a church carol service where the misprinted first line of the carol read 'Away with the Manger.' Sadly a growing lobby wants to do just that and silence the Christmas message: keep the tinsel and the frills but throw out the baby. What I cannot quite understand is why people feel such a need unless there is something here they find uncomfortable or wish to silence. Nearly always it is those of no faith and not those of other faiths who shout.

The Christmas story, given a moment's thought, doesn't fit the sentimentalised and often stereotyped images. It's about God becoming one of us in order to transform us, coming down in order to lift us up. Here is God embracing poverty, accepting frailty, becoming a refugee, experiencing political repression and eventually dying, falsely accused, a criminal's death. Into that darkness he brings light and a love that triumphs over evil. He offers us that new way of living. As one writer put it 'With Jesus God became flesh and blood and moved into the neighbourhood.' The question this Christmas is: how are we going to treat the neighbours?

+ *Alistair*

## CHRISTIAN AID CAROL SINGING AND STREET COLLECTION DECEMBER 19TH

Christian Aid supporters will be singing in the Buttercross from 10.30-11.30 on Saturday, December 19th - you are all welcome to participate, to help us raise as great a sum as possible as well as getting ourselves and passers by in the Christmas spirit whilst also raising awareness of the continuing need to support the work of Christian Aid.

There will be a street collection between 10am and 4pm - with 6 collectors standing at strategic points around the town.

We need 12 volunteers from St Laurence, St John and St Giles, to rattle a tin - 6 between 1-2 and 6 between 2-3. If you are able to help in this important way, please contact me 01584 877199. If you can help but not between these hours please let me know. Other churches may be unable to fill their slots at other times, when your offer would be appreciated.

Thank you for your support for the work of Christian Aid throughout the year.

*Claire Wilcox*

## HOW ABOUT A 'WALK' TOGETHER.....

..... in the way of Jesus? Not literally through cornfields or on a dusty road in Palestine, but in spirit - remember the road to Emmaus when Jesus accompanied two disconsolate disciples? In his presence, St Luke says, their eyes were opened and they understood what had happened, the significance of Jesus' life death and resurrection.

In response to the many wishes for sharing insights of faith, **we are to hold three sessions in Advent after the 9.30 Parish Eucharist when we can do just that – learn from each other the wonderful Christian faith which is ours.** The sessions will not be long, but they will be deep! It is amazing what treasures we hold in the 'earthenware' jars that we are which we are called to share.

So, friend, will you walk a little way with me.....and let these times together be our preparation for the Feast of the Incarnation?

*Jeffry Wilcox*

## A WORD FROM ST. GILES'

In the October Tower we caught a glimpse of men at work on the church ceilings. Since then the fascinating Foxe brasses have been restored to their place, and work has begun (Monday 16<sup>th</sup> Nov.) on lime plastering the vestry. Next Sunday, 22nd we expect a transformation of it. In the following week a new carpet will be laid throughout the church, bringing all the work to a conclusion. On Sunday, January 10th we will be celebrating with a tea party, to which everyone is invited.

Peter Batsford and John Nash deserve special thanks for all their work, but so also do many other church members who have helped with cleaning, tidying and renovating the pews.

At another level, a series of meetings beginning last May will come to an end in January. In these we are looking thoughtfully and prayerfully for a common understanding of the special mission and calling that the Lord Jesus Christ has ready for us. We have tried to take account of our strengths and weaknesses and looked at those things that we believe most need to be attended to and done. What door before us is waiting to be opened? Prayer, honest searching, faith and obedience go hand in hand to find out.

The expected visit from Holy Trinity, Aston in Birmingham has had to be postponed until the New Year. Everyone is disappointed, but we will be looking forward to their coming.

On Prisoners' Sunday Peter Batsford told us about his work at Shrewsbury Prison, introducing it with words from Matthew 25, verse 36...."I was in prison, and you came to visit me." Looking forward to Advent; on Wednesday evenings at 6.00pm Matthew will be bringing a group of singers to lead services in Plainsong.

The first Family Service on Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> has caused excitement already as we look to hear about 'Send a Cow' and aim to do something about it! And lastly, along with all the Ludlow churches we look forward to the re-enactment of the Nativity through the streets of the town on Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> December at 6pm. There will be a great singing of carols as the Shepherds, the Kings and the Angels come and join in. You too, do come!

*Philip Jepps*

## ST. GILES' UGANDAN COW

Philip and Daphne went to search for a donkey for the 'Nativity and Big Carol Sing' to be held in the town on December 21st at 6.00pm. The quest took them to Shortwood Farm off the Gloucester Rd. Mr. and Mrs. Legge, who make their farm a wonderful place for families to take their young children to, very gladly offered to bring their donkey to Ludlow for the occasion. Mrs. Legge suggested that we might perhaps make a donation of £10 to their favourite charity, 'Send a Cow'.

Their enthusiasm for the charity is so great that last year they travelled to Uganda for a fortnight to visit many places where a cow and a plot of land has been given to a small group of poor people, who then had been given a year's training in all the skills needed. In their turn they are expected to make generous contribution in kind to people round about.

Mrs. Legge will be the speaker at our Family Service on December 6<sup>th</sup>. For our part, we will endeavour to fund the gift of one cow, the plot of land, the year's training – a target of £750.

Enthusiasm is already running high, especially amongst the young members of the congregation! Ideas are coming thick and fast for raising the money. Next month we will report back how the project will have gone.

*Daphne Jepps*

# ST GILES' CHURCH

Sunday 10 January

3 pm – 5 pm

## A Celebratory Tea-Party

To give thanks for work completed: ceilings painted, the Foxe Brasses restored, new carpet and transformed vestry.

**All are welcome**

## A-Z of Churchyard Conservation

### L is for Lettering

[www.stonecarving.co.uk](http://www.stonecarving.co.uk)

In days gone by all gravestones were made from local stone and carved by hand. Letter carvers had different abilities and styles. The stones varied in colour and lent themselves to different styles of lettering. Families were free to choose what wording they wanted, without strict guidelines. Gravestones therefore, were a unique combination of the carver, the stone, and the families, tastes, choice of words and budget.

This uniqueness is reflected in the beginning of *Great Expectations*, where Pip recalls that his first notion of what his deceased parents were like “*were unreasonably derived from their tombstones. The shape of the letters on my father’s, gave me an odd idea that he was a square, stout, dark man, with curly black hair*”.

The art of letter-cutting was reinvigorated by craftsmen like Eric Gill (1882-1940), and Britain has led in the techniques during the past century. We are lucky to have talented letter carvers working in the tradition today, creating memorials of beauty to uniquely honour the memory of loved ones.

***Caring for God’s Acre, the conservation charity for churchyards and burial grounds,***  
**01568 611154, [www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk](http://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk)**

# DON'T BE ALONE ON CHRISTMAS DAY

Spend Christmas Day at the Ludlow Conference Centre with gentle entertainment, a traditional Christmas roast with all the trimmings, The Queen's speech and ending with tea. You must book in advance by phoning John or Pam Aitken on 01584 877279. Volunteer drivers are available if you would like a lift.

**St Leonards Cottage, Linney, LUDLOW, SY8 1EE Tel: 01584 877279**



**Christmas Day at the Ludlow Conference Centre  
(formerly Bishop Mascall Centre)**



I am writing to appeal for some helpers on Christmas Day. It still seems early to be thinking about Christmas but it is only a few weeks away and if we are to offer lunch again this year to people who would otherwise be alone, we need to be sure we have enough help.

Last year the helpers were great and Pam and I really enjoyed helping to organise the lunch and to cook a traditional Christmas meal for over 30 people. We're planning to repeat it this year which is why we are seeking people to help ensure everything runs smoothly from 10 am till 4 pm.

Last year's lunch was such a happy occasion and made a difference to so many people. Although some helpers felt that they weren't given enough 'work' to do, having time to talk to people who were sitting by themselves meant that even the shyest person began chatting and enjoying themselves and I believe that this was a huge factor in creating the special atmosphere on the day. The day was enjoyed by both guests and helpers, and I am sure this year's will be one to remember as well.

Please, if you are not spending Christmas with family or friends, ask yourself whether you might like to contribute to this very special event. Have a look at the list, fill in what you would like to do and return it to me at the address above. If you have any questions or would like to know more about what is involved in hosting the lunch, don't hesitate to call Pam or me on 01584 877279 or email [johnaitken01@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:johnaitken01@yahoo.co.uk).

We hope you will be able to assist us, but until we know we have the support, we cannot start taking bookings. It isn't a difficult job but I promise you, it's an immensely rewarding one.

*John and Pam Aitken*

# LUDLOW HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY

The Chaplaincy Team at Ludlow Hospital has been in existence now since 2004. The Team consists of three full-time chaplains, currently Father Richard Green of the Church of England, Deaconess Gloria Baillie of the Methodist Church (also representing the other Free Churches) and Father Jim Robinson of the Roman Catholic Church, together with a group of lay people. The lay members are drawn from the C of E, the Baptist Church and the Society of Friends, so the team is truly ecumenical.

The main purpose of the Chaplaincy Team is to provide pastoral care for members of the hospital community – patients, staff and visitors. To this end, members of the team visit the hospital from time to time – some more often than others, as other commitments allow – but the main focus of our work are the regular services we hold during the year. Each month there is a Eucharist, and three times a year – at Christmas, Easter and Harvest – we have special, non-Eucharistic services. The day before each service, a pair of chaplaincy team members will visit every patient in the hospital with an invitation. Then, on the day of the service, perhaps about an hour or so beforehand, they will go round again to collect the invitations. Those who have indicated that they would like to attend the service are then brought from their beds; those who are unable to move from their beds can have Holy Communion brought to them, and at the other services we visit them to sing carols or say prayers with them.

Those who are part of the team find what they do extremely rewarding. As with all teams, from time to time we could do with new members, and now is just such a time. Having read what we are about, do you think it might be for you? If you are interested in finding out more about what we do and what it's like to be part of the team, please do get in touch with me.

*Father Richard Green*

**The January issue of the Newsletter  
will be available on Sunday 27 December.**

**The Parishes Office will be closed from  
12 noon Wednesday 23 December and re-open Monday 4  
January**

**Messages left on the office telephone (872073)  
will receive attention in the meantime.**

## “STILL WATERS” @ BARN HOUSE

– a haven when times are tough.

*Michael & Marilyn James of Ashford Bowdler write about an exciting new development in one of our smallest parishes ...*

We moved to Ashford Bowdler nearly three years ago with a view to renovating a very run down property. The reason we chose this house was because it had the facility to create an annex. We had a dream which this summer has been fulfilled. We wanted to design a beautiful space for tired church workers to relax and find some peace to enable them to return invigorated to their sometimes arduous duties. The work has been extensive and in true “Grand Designs” fashion has taken much longer than anticipated. However, what was once a cold and dirty workshop is now a spacious and inviting sitting room complete with log burner. The original kitchen has been gutted and completely updated. The bedroom with its gaping ceiling and unplastered walls is now fairly luxurious and a new bathroom has been built where a shed once existed. Everything has been renewed to the best of our ability. One of the lessons we have learned is that where *we* may be tempted to demolish and start again, *God* has other ideas. Our beautiful new home is a result of many months of tiring and sometimes tedious restoration. It is the same with us: God does not scrub us out and start again. He takes endless pains to remove the grit and grime and restore us to the people he designed us to be. He gives us ‘beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, a garment of praise for a spirit of heaviness.’ (Isaiah chapter 61, verse 3) As we welcome people here we are beginning to see the fulfilment of our dream and the reason why the Lord led us to this particular place.

*Michael and Marilyn have called this wonderful place “Still Waters” in reference to Psalm 23, which says “He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside still waters; He restores my soul”. For more information about Still Waters, please contact Michael and Marilyn on 01584 831602 or email them at [thestillwaters@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:thestillwaters@tiscali.co.uk).*

**For Christmas services times in Ludlow team ministry and churches of other denominations locally see the pink brochure available in churches from Sunday 6 December**

## VACANCY CONSULTATION MEETINGS

Following Brian's departure as Team Rector, the diocese will begin the process of consulting with the parishes of the Team in preparation for the appointment process for a successor.

To this end, there will be a 'vacancy consultation' meeting, to which all parishioners in the parishes of Ludlow and Ludford are invited. This will take place on Saturday 5 December, from 9.30am-1pm in the Drama Studio, Harley Centre, Ludlow College.

The meeting will be led by Prebendary Graham Earney, the Local Ministry Officer for the diocese. Graham sums up the purpose of the meeting in a letter he has sent to the churchwardens, and from which I now quote:

*We will act as facilitators and enablers to allow those present to talk about the kinds of communities they live in and the needs of those communities. Together we will also look at what sort of Church God is calling us to be. This will not be a process to choose the next Incumbent, nor even to write the Statement of Needs, but it will help those who will share in the task of writing the draft Statement of Needs which will be agreed at the Section 11 meeting with the Archdeacon.*

All PCC members are asked to make attending these meetings a priority and they are open to all residents of the parishes concerned – not just regular churchgoers – so please spread the word.

### HOLY DUSTERS

Visitors to St Laurence's often remark on how well the church is cared for.

This is due in no small part to the work of the Holy Dusters. Each volunteer takes responsibility for dusting a small area of the church or cleaning some brass, which can be done at any time to suit themselves.

Dusting and brass polishing for me are times for quiet reflection, away from everyday problems.

We always appreciate more help and anyone who would like to join us would be most welcome. Please contact me via my pigeon hole.

*Pat Schofield*

**A WEEKEND OF MUSIC AT  
BROMFIELD PARISH CHURCH**

**FRIDAY 19 FEBRUARY 7.30pm**

***THE ROBERTS ENSEMBLE***

An evening of varied vocal and instrumental music performed by

Paul Roberts, *piano and organ*; Nicola Roberts, *soprano*;

Tim Roberts, *cello*; and Amy Roberts, *oboe and violin*

Tickets: £7.00 purchased on the door (including refreshments)

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**SATURDAY 20 FEBRUARY**

**COME AND SING 'MESSIAH'**

Conducted by Douglas Clarke (to celebrate his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.)

**4:00 pm Rehearsal    Tea Break    7:00 – 8:30 pm Performance**

We do hope that you will be able to join us for this a very special occasion.

Please bring your own copy of 'Messiah'. The choruses we will be singing are:

Chorus Nos: 4, 9, 12, 17, 21, 22, 24, 28, 33, 44, 53

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided in the break between the rehearsal and performance but we suggest you bring a packed tea or purchase refreshments at 'The Clive' on the other side of the A49 from Bromfield Church.

Registration: £5 per singer payable in advance.

Audience:        Retiring collection for Church Funds

Please return the registration form below by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2010 to:

Mr Douglas Clarke, Roman Lea, Tipton Lane, Leintwardine SY7 0LN

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**COME AND SING MESSIAH SAT 20<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2010**

I would like to take part in this event.    Voice Part: SOP/ALTO/TENOR/BASS

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

TEL NO.....

I enclose a cheque for £5 payable to St. Mary's Church Bromfield.

Please reserve me.....tickets for the Friday evening concert.

Signed.....Date.....

# FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING OF CHURCH TOGETHER AROUND LUDLOW

## **The Churches of Ludlow and its environment are doing many things together**

Just one of the comments made at the Annual Meeting of CTAL which show that much that is encouraging is happening. Undoubtedly some important things will have been missed out inadvertently.

During the last year the members of the local churches of all denominations met in the Castle grounds to sing carols; took part in the Methodist Covenant Service at the beginning of the year, joined together in each other's churches in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in January and brought the week to a close with a Prayer and Praise service in Ludlow School; had more ecumenical house groups than ever during Lent; made a public statement about their faith in the town centre on Good Friday; held various services throughout the year for worship and fellowship; provided £900 worth of Christian books for Ludlow library suitable for both adults and children; and had a Quiet Day at Hennor near Leominster. In addition to all that CTAL was much in evidence in the support given to Wesley's café, Acts 2 (worship in local schools), Food parcels, the exhibition that during the Ludlow Festival drew attention to some of the issues in Israel/ Palestine, the monthly Lunch Group, Christian Aid, worship in Residential homes, the Christian Ecology group, and Fair Trade.

### FROM THE REGISTERS

#### **BAPTISMS**

8.11.09	Benjamin Rawlings	St Giles
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#### **WEDDINGS**

#### **FUNERALS**

30.10.09	Jane Bell	S/Crem
30.10.09	Margaret Griffiths	St John
4.11.09	Jim Powell	St John
18.11.09	Mary Howells	St John
21.11.09	Mildred Saunders	St John
23.11.09	Kay Coxon	S/B Crem

## REFLECTIONS ON A YEAR IN ST LAURENCE'S CHOIR

Advent Sunday is a time of new beginnings, and for me it has an added significance. Two years ago, before I moved to Ludlow, I attended the Advent carol service. I was at a very low point in my life, and in that service I found a new sense of hope: the music, incense and the whole atmosphere created by the service lifted me up and showed me a glimpse of something better. Advent Sunday last year was my first Sunday in the choir!

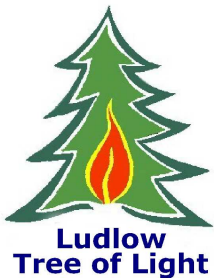
Contrary to the opinion of some, we do not sing in the choir for our own glory or satisfaction, although we enjoy what we do, but as an act of service, which we hope makes a contribution to the worship: we are members of the Church community who are united by a love of music, varying degrees of musical knowledge and ability, and a willingness to put our gifts to use. The children recently touched on the use of our senses as an aid to remembrance. Our senses are also important in our worship: the beautiful building in which we are privileged to meet, the stained glass, the music, the candles and the (occasional) use of incense all create a rich pattern to enhance our worship. Without these elements our worship can become mundane. I came to Ludlow from a small village where it was no longer possible to sustain a choir, and although there was a great sense of community and 'belonging' in the Church, it was difficult to create an atmosphere of beauty and awe in our worship.

Any form of music requires much practice, and a striving for excellence, and being in the choir is no exception: it is a big commitment with practices during the week and before each service, two services on a Sunday and additional services from time to time. Unfortunately this means that it can be difficult to find time to meet with, and take part in activities with the rest of the congregation. It is not always easy to focus on the worship, as we have to concentrate on the music and always be thinking ahead and having the next piece ready. Another aspect of the choir which is often overlooked; that it provides a means of outreach to young people, offering them a musical and Christian education and experience. This is something we take seriously and hope to build on in the future.

It is a privilege to be a member of St Laurence's and in particular of the choir, and to be involved in leading the worship. I hope our efforts enhance that worship, and that at least from time to time, we enable others to have that uplifting experience, that glimpse of heaven (if that is not too presumptuous!), or at least that sense of hope and something beyond our everyday lives which I experienced at the Advent carol service two years ago.

*Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!*

*Katherine Bromley*



The Rotary Club of Ludlow

Public Relations Officer: Rotarian Rosemary Wood

01584 877771 rosemary.wood3@virgin.net



## **BISHOP OF LUDLOW TO 'SWITCH-ON' THE LUDLOW TREE OF LIGHT**

The official switch-on of the Ludlow Tree of Light will take place in Events Square at 5.00 pm on Friday 11 December. The ceremony will be performed by Alistair Magowan, Bishop and Archdeacon of Ludlow. Everyone is welcome; Rotarians will be offering mulled wine and sausage rolls, medieval musicians will be playing, and Father Christmas is expected to arrive, with his sleigh!

Each light on the tree will commemorate a loved one, celebrate a special event, or pay tribute to a person or cause. The cost of dedicating a light is £5, and all monies received will be divided equally between between Ludlow and District Riding for the Disabled; Macmillan Cancer Support; Midlands Air Ambulance; and 'Working Together'.

Ludlow Rotary Club is issuing a 'Call to Carol Singers' to join Rotarians and members of the public in singing around the Tree. "We are calling all carol singers to join us for the official switch-on, which takes place at 5.00 pm in Events Square on Friday 11 December", said Michael Evans, President of the Rotary Club of Ludlow. "It would be marvellous if as many groups or organisations as possible could gather around the Tree of Light, and join us in carol singing after the lighting ceremony. Choirs, choral societies, scouts, brownies, youth clubs, rambles, cyclists, all are welcome. And we hope members of the public will also join us at 5.30 on Tuesday 15 December, when members of Ludlow New Voices – the Youth Choir of the Marches – will be singing around the Tree."

On Saturday 12 December, The Rotary Club of Ludlow is organising a street collection for its four Tree of Light Charities. "We will be working with representatives from each of the charities, and together we will cover the town centre", said Rotarian Rosemary Wood, Chairman of the Tree of Light Committee. "But we welcome volunteers, and anyone willing join us for just an hour between 09.00 am and 4.00 pm should contact me on 01584 877771 or email rosemary.wood3@virgin.net"

"Our final event around the Tree will be at 5.30 pm on Tuesday 15 December, when members of Ludlow New Voices – the Youth Choir of the Marches – will be singing carols. Everyone is welcome, and we hope that members of Ludlow's various choirs and choral societies will join us".

Dedication forms are available from the Visitor Information Centre in Castle Square or Ludlow Library. They can also be downloaded from the Rotary club website, [www.ludlowrotaryclub.org.uk](http://www.ludlowrotaryclub.org.uk)

## FABRIC CONSERVATION AND REPAIRS

As the year draws to a close we thought it might be useful if we summarised the work we have completed on the fabric of St Laurence's during the year, as well as giving some indication of works we hope to undertake in 2010. Our theme this year has been 'a stitch in time saves nine', focusing on issues that will save money in the long term by solving problems now.

**Heating** – The system has been fully serviced, receiving a new motor to the main pump, as well as new thermostats, gas meter, gaskets and safety valves to ensure safe operation during this winter. This basic maintenance has cost in the region of £2500. The system continues to struggle during cold spells and fuel costs this winter will be in the region of £26 000, approximately 50 -60 % of which is lost in inefficiency. **Chancel Floor** – Has been deep cleaned and polished. **Bells & Carillon** – After many years of planning the restoration and augmentation of the bells is complete. A total of four new bells and two second-hand bells complete a peal of 10 bells, with a total of 13 available for chiming on the new carillon system. **Tower down pipes** – Have been repaired and redecorated. **Hassocks** – These have been lovingly repaired by John Holmes. **Garden of Rest** – Replacement signage, benches cleaned and oiled, paving cleaned, and shrubs removed. **External doors** – These have all been cleaned and oiled. **Lightning Conductor** – Repairs have been made to the tape on the North face of tower, and the fletcher's arrow on the south transept has been bonded to the lead roof. **Flower stands** – These have all been painted. **Railings** – The railings to the West, South and East of the church have been painted. **High altar step** – The loose step has been reset. **Shop** – The shop has had new shelving installed, which is freestanding of the walls. **Monument Survey** – This is due to be completed during December. **Stained Glass Survey** – This vital report was completed in May. **Health & Safety** – New emergency exit lights and fire extinguisher points

**St Leonard's boundary wall** – This has been extensively repointed and vegetation removed. **Baby changing unit** – A unit has been installed in the toilet. **General maintenance** – Many drains, hoppers and down pipes have been unblocked during the course of the year.

A special thank you goes to Treasure & Sons of Ludlow for their commitment and hard work.

## CONSERVATION AND REPAIR WORK DURING 2010

We hope to complete a number of urgent projects during the course of next year subject to fundraising.

**Stone Masonry Repairs** – West door plinth, mullions of the chancel clerestory windows, south aisle window cills, south transept windows, chancel south windows, parapet above pulpit, defrassing and mortar repair to all four faces of the tower. **Access system** – Installation of a fall arrest system on the roofs and tower lantern. **Paintings conservation** – Conservation of the Royal Arms and Commandments board. **Stained glass** – Cleaning of the chancel north and south windows, minor repairs throughout the building, repair and isothermic glazing of north aisle roundels. **Organ case** – Gilding of the case pipes. **Parvis room ceiling** – Repair of the defective plaster. **High Altar Reredos** – Mortar repair and painting in of the cracks. **Lead roofs**– Temporary repair of the cracks on the Lady Chapel roof and also of the sump in the parapet gutter. **Lightning Conductor** – Complete works to bond lead roofs to the conductor system.

## CONSERVATION AND REPAIR WORK BEYOND 2010

There are then further major projects in 2011 and beyond:

- Replacement of the Lady Chapel lead roof
- Conservation of Monuments (of which we have 84!)
- Conservation of the Stained Glass in St John's Chapel
- Conservation of the Historic Textiles
- Major programme of repair to stone masonry – Window hood mouldings, mullions as well as the nave, chancel, and transept pinnacles.

*Ewart Carson*

### **St John's Carol Party**

Sunday 13 December 2009

3 pm

Carols, readings, & refreshments

Come and join us

## SUNDAY READINGS FROM THE BIBLE

29 November First Sunday of Advent Purple	Jeremiah 33: 14-16 Psalm 25 1-9 1 Thessalonians 3: 9-end Luke 21: 25-36
6 December Second Sunday of Advent Purple	Baruch 5 or Malachi 3: 1-4 Canticle: Benedictus Philippians 1: 3-11 Luke 3: 1-6
13 December Third Sunday of Advent Purple	Zephaniah 3: 14-end Psalm 146 4-10 Philippians 4: 4-7 Luke 3: 7-18
20 December Fourth Sunday of Advent Purple	Micah 5: 2-5a Canticle: Magnificat or Psalm 80. 1-8 Hebrews 10: 5-10 Luke 1: 39-45 [46-55]
Friday 25 December CHRISTMAS DAY Gold/White  OR   OR	<i>SET I</i> Isaiah 9: 2-7 Psalm 96 Titus 2: 11-14 Luke 2: 1-14 [15-20] <i>SET II</i> Isaiah 62: 6-end Psalm 97 Titus 3: 4-7 Luke 2: [1-7] 8-20 <i>SET III</i> Isaiah 52: 7-10 Psalm 98 Hebrews 1: 1-4 [5-12] John 1: 1-14
27 December John, Apostle & Evangelist White	Exodus 33.7-11a Psalm 117 1 John 1 John 21.19b-end

## DECEMBER

1	Tue	10am 12noon 2pm	CME Day including lunch World Aids Day Vigil & exhibition – <i>St Laurence</i> Holy Communion – <i>Four Rivers</i>
3	Thur	10.00am 10am	Bedstone College (rehearsal) St Laurence LM Clergy Meeting LCC(BMC) lunch will be included
4	Fri	11.00am	Bedstone College Carol Service St Laurence

5	Sat	10-12 3.30pm 7pm  7.30pm	Christmas Coffee Morning – <i>Caynham</i> Wedding/Baptism Howard & Rowley – <i>St Giles</i> Christmas Concert with singalong Carols performed by Tom Cockett & YU SU ticket £5.00 (children free) Contact Roly Alden 01584 831545– <i>All Saints Richards Castle</i> Concert Ludlow Orchestra, tickets from The Wool Shop £8.00 (concessions £7.00, £3.50 students) – <i>St John's</i>
<b>6</b>	<b>Sun</b>	4pm	<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Ludlow Scouts (100 <sup>th</sup> ) Christmas Service – <i>St John</i>
7	Mon	10.30am 7.30pm	Franciscan Quiet Day – <i>St Giles (10.30am-3pm)</i> Church Wardens' Meeting – <i>Ashford Carbonel Vicarage</i>
8	Tue	2.30pm	Mothers Union Meeting Carol Service – <i>Ludlow Conference Centre</i>
10	Thur	10.30am 7.30pm	Prayer Group St Catherine's Chapel – <i>St Laurence</i> Whist Drive Caynham Village Hall – <i>proceeds to the church</i>
<b>13</b>	<b>Sun</b>	11am 3pm 2pm 3pm 3pm 4pm	<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b> Baptism Himani Flynn – <i>St John</i> Carol Party – <i>St John</i> Baptism Evelyn Jean Price – <i>St Laurence</i> Baptism Millington-Marsh – <i>St Laurence</i> Christingle Service – <i>Knowbury</i> Christingle Service – <i>Ashford Carbonel</i>
14	Mon	10.30am  7.30pm	Prayer Fellowship Meeting – 3, Greenacres, Ludlow bring & share Christmas Lunch Carol Singing – <i>Richards Castle</i> Parish Wives Carol Service – <i>St Giles</i>
15	Tue	2pm	Four Rivers Nursing Home Advent/Carol Service
16	Wed	10.00am 7.30pm	Ludlow Junior School Christmas Service – <i>St Laurence</i> Churches Together Saltmine Panto Treasure Island – <i>Ludlow School (Tim Coles)</i>
17	Thur	4pm 2.00pm	Carol Singing – <i>Knowbury</i> Ludlow School Christmas Service <i>St Laurence</i>
18	Fri	10.00am 10.00am	St Laurence School Christmas Service – <i>St Laurence</i> Ludlow Infants School Christmas Service– <i>St John's</i> <span style="float: right;"><i>School term ends</i></span>
19	Sat	10.30am  2pm	Christian Aid Street Collection & Carols – <i>Buttercross</i> Last Day of trading for Cards for Good Causes – <i>St Laurence</i> Trinity College Cambridge Choral Scholars Concert – <i>St Laurence</i>
<b>20</b>	<b>Sun</b>	3pm 4pm 5.30pm 6.30pm 6.30pm	<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> Carol Service – <i>Middleton</i> Carol Service – <i>Knowbury</i> <b>Nine Lessons and Carols</b> <i>St Laurence(Town Service)</i> Carol Service – <i>Ashford Carbonel</i> Carol Service – <i>Richard Castle</i>
21	Mon	<b>6pm</b>	Churches Together Living Nativity & Carol –From Somerfield ends at Ludlow Castle (The Big Sing)
22	Tue	7pm	Carol Singing – <i>Ashford Carbonel Village Hall</i>
23	Wed	7.30pm	Carols in the Castle
24	Thurs		<b>Christmas Eve</b> <i>Please see separate leaflet advertising all Christmas Eve Services</i>
<b>25</b>	<b>Fri</b>		<b>Christmas Day</b> <i>Please see separate leaflet advertising all Christmas Day Services</i>
<b>27</b>	<b>Sun</b>	2pm 3pm	<b>John, Apostle &amp; Evangelist</b> Baptism Evan Boden – <i>Bitterley</i> Carol Service – <i>Ashford Bowdler</i>
31	Thur	4.30pm	Wedding Davies/Ballard – <i>Richards Castle</i>

# CHURCHWARDENS' CORNER

## 1. Thank you for your support

A big thank you to every one who has given so generously of their time and talents over this past year. As we all know, St Laurence's is one of England's Greater Parish Churches and with that status goes many challenges. We are totally dependent on voluntary effort and teamwork in order to keep "the show on the road". No matter whether your contribution has been large or small over this past year, each one has been greatly, and gratefully, appreciated by both of us. So for your stewarding, stuffing envelopes, sewing, sweeping, serving, singing and so much else, a very sincere thank you.

## 2. Fundraising & the Christmas Bazaar

A tremendous thank you to all who helped to make the Christmas Bazaar on 28 November such a success and raise some £3,500. St Laurence's Church once again took on its traditional medieval role of being a focus for the town of Ludlow. Well over 1,000 people came, bought and joyfully participated. There was a real buzz about the building. For children the combination of a bouncy castle, where the nave altar is normally to be found, Santa's grotto and face painting proved to be irresistible attractions. There were stalls of all sorts and hunger and thirst were kept at bay with delicious pork baps and mulled wine.

This was the last major fund-raising event of the year. Together with the Summer Fête, sponsored cycle ride, tutored wine tasting and sponsored hymn-sing, more than £8,500 has been raised for St Laurence's during 2009. Thank you again to all concerned. Let's see if we can achieve over £10,000 in 2010!

## 3. The Vision Project:

On 5 November, the Project Team made a presentation to the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC - the planning committee of the Diocese) on the Vision Project, in particular highlighting the achievements of the consultation phase and seeking assistance in the strategic planning for the phases to come. The DAC viewed the initiative as a bold project and the Project Team was encouraged to "think big". The DAC members present were greatly impressed by the quality and scope of the information shown both at the presentation and during the Q & A session that followed. They were pleased to hear about the wide ranging consultation and the realistic long-term timetable for the project. A number of very helpful suggestions were offered, particularly with regard to consultations with the heritage bodies and the DAC looked forward to further meetings with the Project Team in the coming months. Onward now into phase 2!

Phase 2 has already begun and during the early part of next year we will be engaging with the Victorian Society, Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings and other consultative bodies. Much work will be going on in the background especially the preparation of three important reports: **Mission Action Plan** – summarising the work of the healthy churches series and community consultations and

providing a framework for the mission of the parish in the next few years,  
**Conservation Management Plan** – A detailed report on the historical significance of the building and its contents which will help inform any works that take place in and around St Laurence's, **Asset Management Plan** – A detailed condition survey of St Laurence's, St John's and No.2 College Street outlining all major work for the next 30 years. Please keep all those involved in this project who work on your behalf in your thoughts and prayers.

4. **Wish list:** Many of you have been extremely generous over the past 12 months with one-off projects. Some people prefer to donate an occasional gift, perhaps in memory of a loved one on something that the church needs. In the past year gifts have included new hymn books for Matins and Evensong, new bibles for the church, £500 towards sheet music of the choir, a donation towards the gilding of the organ pipes, a donation towards costs of junior chorister uniforms. One very generous benefactor came forward to donate a new silver ciborium. This was designed by the donor who is an expert silver designer in London. Manufactured in Birmingham and dedicated by the Bishop of Hereford on the feast of Christ the King. The design reflects that of the Arts and Crafts movement. The vessel is of solid sterling silver with a gilt interior; there is also a beautiful blue enamel around the knob.

We have two projects that have arisen at the end of the year and this provides an opportunity for people to make gifts for a specific purpose. Last year we decided that we would provide the servers with new uniforms. This project is now complete and the servers have new cassocks, albs and apparelled amices for the eucharist as well as cottas for other offices. Each set has cost approximately £235. Donations towards these would be gratefully received. The other project has been the replacement of the tower floodlights. These have suffered greatly with the inclement weather that impacts on the church. This led to all of them failing last month and so we have had to replace eight light fittings at a cost of approximately £130 each. Donations towards this project would also be gratefully received.

5. **Marking Advent:** Those of you with keen ears will have noticed a new daily tune on the carillon. Each day at 10 am and 2 pm 'Lo he comes with clouds descending' rings forth across the town reminding us of the season we are in. The carol was written by Charles Wesley who was a resident of the town during the 18<sup>th</sup> century and has been arranged for the purpose by Shaun Ward. The ringing before the 9.30am and 3.30pm services have been suspended during this penitential season and replaced with a five minute single tolling bell. With fingers crossed the tower flood lighting will have also been repaired and the tower will be lit each evening during advent, deep purple, the liturgical colour of the season. These audio and visual aids will help us remember and perhaps cause people to stop and think.

*Ewart Carson & Anna Branston*

# 1CONTACT US.....

## THE PARISH OF ST LAURENCE, WITH ST JOHN

Churchwardens	Dr E. Carson, Fairfield, Linney	879155
	Ms A. Branston, Wootton House, Livesey Road	876958
PCC Secretary	Mrs M. Stinton, 28 Friars Garden	873445
Electoral Roll	Mrs C. Wilcox, 4 Lower Broad Street	877199

## ST LAURENCE'S, LUDLOW

8am Sidesmen's Rota	Mr & Mrs R. Burns, 8 Poyner Road	872419
Children's Church	Katherine Bromley	874259
Communion Rota	Mrs F. Carson, Fairfield, Linney	879155
Conservation Trust	Mrs H Coleman	875113
Director of Music	Mr S. Ward, Parishes Office	872073
Flowers - church	Mrs A. O'Kennedy, 17 Friars Garden	877309
Flowers - wedding	Mrs D. Watkins, 1 Linney Fields, Linney	875909
Gift Aid Secretary	c/o Parishes Office	872073
Sacristan	Mrs A. O'Kennedy, 17 Friars Garden	877309
Servers Secretary	Mr. Paul Suthern	711491
Stewarding	Mrs P. Latchford, 3 Poyner Road	874990
St Laurence Shop	Mrs D. Corston, 13 Whitbatch Close	873778
Tower Captain	Mr Tony Greatrex	01568 780764
Tower Floodlighting	Forms at St Laurence Shop	
Treasurer	Mr Don Beattie, Parishes Office	872073
Verger	Mr M. Lenthall, Parishes Office	872073

## ST JOHN'S, LUDLOW

Deputy Wardens	Mr W. Eastwell, Briar Cottage, 5 Julian Road	874044
	Mr D. Craft, White Gates, St Julians Ave.	874323
Treasurer	Mr P. Phelps, Hill Crest, Gravel Hill	873179
Secretary	Mr J. French, 4 Coach House Fields, Livesey Road	876142
Organist (also St Giles')	Mr E. Rowsell, Braeside, Overton Road	873537

## ST GILES', LUDFORD

Churchwardens	Mrs D. Jepps, 2 Eagle Cottages, Orleton	01568 780517
	Mrs L. White, Blackpole Cottage, Luston	01568 620632
Treasurer	Mr J. Nash, The Old Gate House, Ludlow	879029
Secretary	Vacant	
Minutes secretary	Mrs K. Unwin, 8 Corver Street, Ludlow	872987
Electoral Roll	Mr B. Heatley, St Julians, Park Road, Ludford	877424
Flowers	Mrs G. Nash, The Old Gate House, Ludlow	879029
Wedding Flowers	Mrs H. Meyrick, 24 Mary Elizabeth Road, Ludlow	873813

## LUDLOW TEAM MINISTRY

Bible Reading Fellowship	Mrs. J. Bowker, 3 Clayton Close, Knowbury	891549
Mothers' Union Branch Leader	Mrs S. Jenkyns, Sarum House, 9 Bromley Road	874105

# CHRISTMAS SERVICES

## ST LAURENCE, LUDLOW

Wednesday 16 Ludlow Junior School 10 am  
Thursday 17 Ludlow School 2 pm  
Friday 18 St Laurence's Primary School 10 am  
Saturday 19 Trinity College Cambridge Choir Concert 2 pm  
Sunday 20 Nine Lessons & Carols 5.30 pm

## CHRISTMAS EVE

Thursday 24 Crib & Christingle 4 pm  
*(Joint service for St Laurence, St John and St Giles)*  
Thursday 24 Midnight Mass 11.30 pm

## CHRISTMAS DAY

Friday 25 Holy Communion BCP 8 am  
Parish Communion 9.30 am  
Service of Lessons & Carols 11 am  
Holy Communion BCP 12.15 pm

## ST JOHN, GRAVEL HILL, LUDLOW

Sunday 13 Carol Concert & Party 3 pm  
Friday 18 Ludlow Infants School 10 am

## CHRISTMAS DAY

Friday 25 Holy Communion 9.30 am

## ST GILES, LUDFORD

Monday 14 Parish Wives Carol Service 7 pm

## CHRISTMAS DAY

Friday 25 Holy Communion 11.15 am