



The Conservation Trust for St Laurence, Ludlow

Charity No 1114678

ELECTRONIC UPDATE – NO. 7 September 2011

CONSERVATION TRUST AND VISION PROJECT?

WHAT IS THE CONSERVATION TRUST FOR ST LAURENCE, LUDLOW?

The Parish Church of St Laurence, Ludlow, is a Grade 1-listed building of outstanding architectural quality, set in the heart of the medieval town, and one of only 18 churches to be given a five star rating in Simon Jenkins' book, "England's Thousand Best Churches".

This beautiful building has been handed down to us through the care and skill of previous generations, but a structure dating from 1199 requires continuous attention. It is an expensive task, and an average of £60,000 is needed every year to pay for essential repairs. In the past, money to repair and beautify the building was donated by wealthy individuals or powerful groups (such as The Palmers' Guild). Today, the Parochial Church Council (PCC) is responsible for the care and maintenance of St Laurence's.

The Conservation Trust for St Laurence was set up in 2006 to raise money to contribute towards the annual maintenance and conservation costs of this magnificent building. The Trust's role is to help ensure the future of Ludlow's finest building. It continues the tradition of the Friends of St Laurence and the Fabric Trust.

WHAT IS THE VISION PROJECT FOR ST LAURENCE?

In October 2008, the PCC organised an open meeting for the entire community of Ludlow. This was the first stage of a process of wide ranging consultation with everyone who has an interest in the future of St Laurence's. It came about because a recently-undertaken Asset Management Plan had identified over seventy items requiring repair or replacement over the next few years. Most significantly, the heating system, lighting system and the Victorian floors in the church were wearing out and would have to be replaced.

This situation presented the PCC with a unique opportunity to reconsider how the building is used and how it should be arranged for the future. The PCC grasped the opportunity to embark upon a major, long-term project, the Vision Project, with the aim of creating a building that can better meet the needs of the wider community.

This will involve a major re-ordering of the church interior to make it more accessible, usable and comfortable not only for worship, but also for general public use, such as concerts, exhibitions, and meetings.

CONSERVATION OF MEDIEVAL ROUNDELS - THE DAVID LLOYD MEMORIAL APPEAL

The David Lloyd Memorial Appeal has raised over £9,000. It was launched with the intention of restoring the medieval roundels in the North Aisle as a tribute to David and his immense contribution to St Laurence's over the years. Work has now started, and the first panel has been removed. The remaining two will be taken down in October, and all three will be returned by early December. The restoration work to the cinquefoil windows will be less intensive than originally envisaged, as much of the original medieval work has turned out to be in very good condition. Revised costs have shown there to be a surplus in the region of £5000.

The Conservation Trust proposes that these funds are used:

- a) to clean the gilded freeze along the top of the reredos in the Sanctuary which contains 30 original carved figures of gilded Caen stone. The gilding is in good condition, but is covered in a layer of dirt.



The Reredos in the Sanctuary – a long view and close up

- b) to complete repairs to the mosaic floor surrounding the High Altar. Large areas have lifted away and need to be conserved before significant damage occurs. The floor is also covered in a layer of dirt from 125 years of clerical foot fall! Designed by the eminent architect Sir Arthur Blomfield and made by Burke & Co., it is a rare example, executed in fine marbles, unlike many mosaics which are ceramic.

The floor dates back to the major Victorian restoration; together with the reredos, it forms a focal point of our magnificent building. We feel that David would have agreed to these additional works, not least because his PhD thesis was on Victorian Ludlow!



The Mosaic Floor surrounding the High Altar

WORK TO BE FUNDED BY THE CONSERVATION TRUST 2011

As at September 2011

Job No.	Description	Notes	Status	Budget Cost	Actual Cost
2.7	Vestry Roof	Replacement of lead after theft	Complete	£4,500.00	£4,515.00
2.74	Organ Blower**	Replacement bearings	In-progress: awaiting new starter	£2,000.00	£1,860.00
2.72	Lightening Conductor	New air terminal clamp to weathervane	Complete	£489.00	£586.80 inc VAT
3.26	Roped access system*		In-progress: awaiting completion	£8,205.24 + £1,641.05 VAT	
3.3	Stonework North Chancel	Begins once access system installed	In-progress: instructed awaiting start on site	£8,300.00	
3.32	Stained Glass Phase 2		In-progress: instructed awaiting start on site	£10,573.00	
3.33	Stonework South Chancel	Begins once access system installed	In-progress: instructed awaiting start on site	£1,000.00	
3.34	Lady Chapel roof			£1,000.00	
3.35	Repoint South Transept parapet	Begins once access system installed	In-progress: instructed awaiting start on site	£200.00	
3.36	Repair Lightening Conductor	Complete		£689.00	£826.80 inc VAT
3.38	Defrass Tower Stone	Confirm dates	In-progress: instructed awaiting start on site	£3,768.00 + VAT	
3.5	Inspect Roof*	Begins once access system installed	In-progress: instructed awaiting start on site	£660.00 + VAT	
3.6	Repair Flashing	Begins once access system installed	In-progress: instructed awaiting start on site	£750.00 + VAT	
3.7	Ellis Shaw Leak	Begins once access system installed	In-progress: instructed awaiting start on site	£3,000.00 + VAT	
3.8	Repair Pulpit Downpipe	Begins once access system installed	In-progress: instructed awaiting start on site	£2,500.00 + VAT	
3.9	Plinth West Door	Awaiting stone sample	In-progress: instructed awaiting start on site	£2,429.85 + VAT	
4.12	North Aisle Roundels	First panel removed, 2nd and 3rd to be removed by October, all returned by early December	In-progress:	£5,270.00 + VAT	Less than budget
4.2	Parvis Room Ceiling	Starting October	In-progress: instructed awaiting start on site	£5,000.00 + VAT	
4.3	Phase 1 Monument repair	Initial phase started	In-progress:	£6,472.89 + VAT	
4.4	Repair Reredos	Postponed until cleaning complete	Delayed:	£2,337.00 +VAT	
4.5	Royal Arms and Ten Commandments' Boards	Potential date for removal - 29th Sept, away for 6 months	In-progress: instructed awaiting start on site	£8,400.00 + VAT	
	*VAT not reclaimable	**VAT not payable	September 2011		

A PROGRESS REPORT FROM SHAUN WARD, CLERK OF WORKS

- 3.26 The installation of an access system for the roofs has begun. Once this is complete, a series of repairs can take place which will address the persistent problem of leaks in the roof.
- 4.12 The first medieval roundel has been removed for conservation – see photographs in Figs 1 and 2 overleaf.

Fig. 1 shows the interior face of the glass which is covered in an organic growth, much the same as lichen. A trial at removal has begun and we await results before progressing further. You can also see that the main lead web of the panel is medieval, quite a surprise and quite a survival: this will be retained.

Fig 2 shows the medieval wrought iron frame in which the panel sits. The surrounding 19th century glass in the cinquefoil will remain in situ and be lightly cleaned.



Fig. 1: Interior face of roundel from North Aisle



Fig 2: A medieval wrought iron frame supports the roundel

3.9 Work on carving new stonemasonry for the bottom of the west door will shortly begin

4.2 Restoration of the Parvis room ceiling is imminent

4.5 The Royal Coat of Arms and the Ten Commandments' boards will be removed by specialist conservators and transported to Oswestry for intensive conservation.

4.3 Temporary repairs have been made to the Burrard monument in St Catherine's chapel

4.4 A trial cleaning of the reredos and mosaic floor in the chancel has taken place.

4.3 continued.

Phase 1 of work conserving the many monuments in St Laurence's starts in late November. The intention is to clean and stabilise fragile monuments, thus slowing down their rate of decay. These works focus on eight monuments and will cost approximately £6.5k. The work will be funded by the Conservation Trust from the proceeds of the Conservation Weekend and Stone Carving Festival held in May this year.

A more substantial phase of repairs is envisaged within the major part of the Vision Project. With over 100 monuments in the building, there is a huge range of work to be completed!

RECENT NEWS AND FORTHCOMING EVENTS

THE 2ND LUDLOW TO CANTERBURY BIKE RIDE PILGRIMAGE

- SPONSORED CYCLE RIDE FOR CONSERVATION TRUST

Our thanks and congratulations to Clerk of Works, Shaun Ward, who cycled 250 miles to Canterbury to raise the profile of the Vision Project and raise much-needed funds for the Conservation Trust.

His Herculean efforts raised just over £1500! Donations are still coming in, and anyone wishing to support Shaun and the Trust is invited to leave a donation in the box in St Laurence's marked 'Cycle Ride'.



Shaun Ward (left) with fellow cyclist, Father Richard Green, who raised money for his own parish at Ashford Carbonell Roger Curry and Muriel Harvey of Bodenhams discuss accessories for the forthcoming Fashion Show with Trustee Karole Nicholson

**AUTUMN SUN AND WINTER FUN:
THE 'NOT-TO-BE-MISSED' BODENHAMS' FASHION SHOW OF THE YEAR!**

Bodenhams, Ludlow's oldest continuously occupied shop, has for the past 25 years hosted a series of fashion shows which have raised thousands of pounds for their designated charities. This year, the Conservation Trust for St Laurence will be the recipient of the generosity of owner, Muriel Harvey, and her son, Roger Curry.

“Our Fashion Show will take place on Monday 17 October, in De Grey’s Tea Rooms in Broad Street”, said Trustee, Karole Nicholson, who is organising the event with Roger Curry and his wife Monika. “The collection, ‘Autumn Sun and Winter Fun’, features a wide range of clothes for both men and women. Tickets cost £6, the evening begins at 7.00 pm with a glass of wine, and the models take to the catwalk at 7.30.”

Tickets for the ‘Autumn Sun and Winter Fun’ Fashion Show are available from the Church Shop, Bodenhams or De Grey’s Tea Rooms. Or email Rosemary Wood, rosemary.wood3@virgin.net.

***Remember the Stone Carving Festival earlier this year?
MAKE A DATE IN YOUR 2012 DIARY NOW for
The 2nd Ludlow Conservation Weekend,
incorporating a Wood Carving Festival
Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 May 2012***

The Trustees are already working on the programme for the 2nd Ludlow Conservation Weekend, which takes place in the church and on the green in May next year. The programme will incorporate:

- Seminars
- Historic walks
- Guided tours of the church
- A Wood Carving Festival
- Craft Demonstrations, including a Victorian clay roof tile making machine!

An exciting addition to the 2012 Conservation Weekend will be an evening in aid of the Conservation Trust organised in conjunction with the Housman Society. Entitled **A.E. HOUSMAN – SHROPSHIRE’S POET** – the programme will include Graham Trew (baritone), Polly Bolton (singer), Frances Page (reader) and Jim Page (narrator) who will explore the resonances of Housman’s poetry with Shropshire.

CONSERVATION TRUST CHRISTMAS CARDS Order now and save money!



St Laurence's Christmas Carols 2010 in the Chapel of St Mary Magdalene, Ludlow Castle'



'Ludlow Castle in Winter Sun'

The Conservation Trust has produced two greetings cards for 2011 from photographs taken by Gareth Thomas. One card shows the 2010 Christmas Carol service in Ludlow Castle. This card measure 5" x 7", and contain the words 'Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year'. The second card is a view of Ludlow Castle in winter sun: this is 7" x 5", and says 'Best Wishes'. Both cards are sold in packs of 5 and cost £3.50.

However, if you place an order now, these are available at a special, discounted, price of £2.50. But you must send us your order and cheque/cash by 15 October.

We'll contact you in late-October and ask you to collect your cards from the church shop. The number of special order cards is limited; and cards will be sold on a 'first-come, first-served' basis.

Please complete the form below, and return it as soon as possible with your cheque/cash. Cheques should be made payable to CTSLL (*The Conservation Trust for St Laurence, Ludlow*)

ADVANCE ORDER FORM AT THE SPECIAL RATE OF £2.50 PER PACK

Please reserve packs of 'Ludlow Castle in Winter Sun'

Please reserve packs 'Christmas Carols in Ludlow Castle'

I enclose cheque/cash for

Name

Address.....

.....Post CodeTel.....

Email

Please return to: Maureen Stinton, 28 Friars Garden, Ludlow, SY8 1RX.
01584 873445 maureenstinton@uwclub.net

Please tick here if you do not wish your details to be included in the Conservation Trust Mailing List