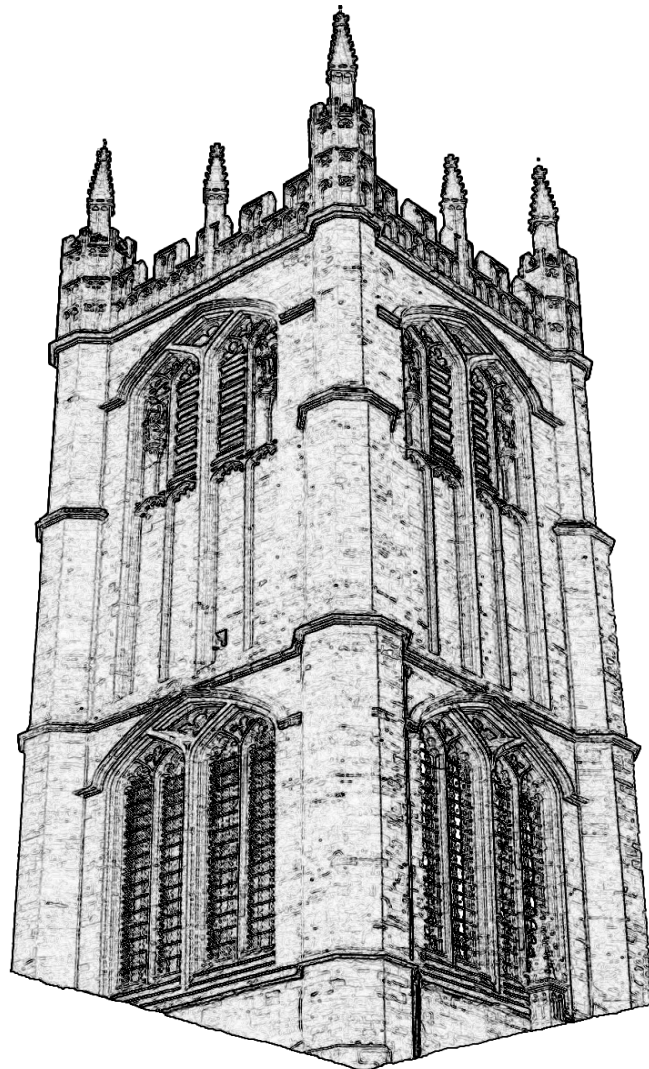


THE PARISHES OF LUDLOW & LUDFORD

# LUDLOW TOWER

*Parish Magazine*

*February 2010*



*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 MARCH TOWER TO THE OFFICE PLEASE BY**

**Wednesday 17 February 2010**

**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

*Take up thy cross, the Saviour said, if thou wouldst my disciple be;  
deny thyself, the world forsake, and humbly follow after me.*

These words from a well-known Lenten hymn remind us that in living our lives as Christians we are doing something challenging and sometimes even uncomfortable. As we begin Lent this month, it can seem that the whole of our focus is on the more uncomfortable and even miserable aspects of our faith. This is sometimes reinforced by the practice of giving up something for Lent, whether it be sweets, alcohol or something more significant. Giving something up for Lent can be helpful, so long as we see it as a positive move, as something which will help us spiritually and do not use it as yet another reason to be miserable in the name of religion. A practice which I have noticed becoming more prevalent over recent years, and one which I think has much to commend it, is that of *taking on* something for Lent, of doing something extra to help us focus on the season and why it is there.

Lent is a good time to examine our lives in all aspects. In the busy rush in which we live it can be difficult to do this and we would invite you to take the opportunities offered through Lenten services, study groups and other activities to slow down and re-focus for a while.

Something I have had to do over the past few months is to review carefully how I spend my time. As someone who had always gone out to work and then come home and had time to do other things (including church activities) I have had to get used to working largely from home and consequently having much less clear boundaries between the different aspects of my life. Such a review can, from time to time, be useful for us all and it could be worth spending some time during Lent reviewing how we spend both our time and our talents. If what we say and do in church on Sundays is really important to us, are we giving enough of our time and talents to it? Obviously the answer to this will be a highly individual matter depending on our own circumstances, but if we find that the answer is “no” Lent may be a good time to begin to think about how we could address this and perhaps to find out how we could use our talents to help our local church community. There will always, I am sure, be someone who will be pleased to see you!

*Revd John Beesley*

## FROM THE BISHOP

On New Year's Eve in the afternoon I slipped on ice in a car park and broke my wrist. In a moment my plans and expectations for the coming weeks changed. Hopefully all will be well but in a small way it brought home to me the unpredictability and fragility of things. As we progress into this new decade it is interesting to note that we have just come through a decade where the word 'security' has with greater frequency prefaced many of our activities and concerns. Examples include 'Internet security; financial security; travel and global security. In truth that decade held many examples of the insecurity of things not least by being book ended with a dot com bubble burst at the beginning and massive banking crisis at the end. Perhaps more amusingly that unpredictability was illustrated last year by a promised barbeque summer that became a washout. Few of us expected the big freeze we have experienced. Reminders of the fragility and unpredictability of life are all around. Often what seems so solid can so easily change. Soon we will enter the Church's season known as Lent. It is a time for reflection: a time to take stock and clarify priorities so that we can take each day hopefully and live them faith-fully. Jesus had quite a bit to say on this subject and as I wish you a good Lent I leave you with a few of his words from the Sermon on the Mount Matt 6:25-34.

'Your Heavenly Father knows what you need... Seek first his Kingdom and his righteousness... Do not worry about tomorrow for tomorrow will worry about itself.'

+ *Alistair*

**Four Rivers Friends**  
**Coffee Morning in aid of Four Rivers**  
**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February**  
**10.30am – 12noon**  
**The Feathers Hotel**

## NEWS FROM ST JOHN FEBRUARY 2010

As our patronal festival is so near to Christmas Day, it was decided some years ago to celebrate it on the second Sunday after Epiphany and that the congregation from St Laurence's should join us at our 9.30 Eucharist. This year the festival fell on 10 January, in the middle of the cold and icy weather, and so some of our regular worshippers were missing. Nevertheless there was a good congregation from both St John's and St Laurence's. The Celebrant was Revd James Stewart and the Preacher was Bishop Michael Bourke. Don Millington led the Intercessions and he and Sue Thomas served with the Chalice. The organist was Edmund Rowsell, who plays for us throughout the year. The choir from St Laurence's sang *a capella* an introit and, during the Communion, a wonderful piece by William Byrd, which they sang beautifully, directed by Shaun Ward. Despite the weather this was a memorable service.

During the year St John's, along with St Giles', has been brought into the Project Team of the Vision Project, thus now being fully involved in the decision-making process.

*Bill Eastwell*

## JOURNEYS

### *Exploring faith in the 21st century*

*Journeys* is a five-week DVD course exploring the Christian faith through real people, amazing stories and changed lives. Designed to introduce interested 'spectators' to Christianity, utilising a unique blend of stories of faith, told by regular people whose lives have been impacted upon by God. *Journeys* features powerful interviews about spiritual encounters, and shows how faith works at 'street level'.

We will be running this course in the Ludlow Team Ministry during June this year. For it to work well we will need a good team of leaders, both lay and ordained, to help introduce the sessions and provoke and assist the discussion that takes place after watching the DVD. Would you like to help introduce people to the Christian faith who have never experienced it before? Might you be interested in becoming part of the team that will deliver this course? If so, please get in touch with me as soon as possible and we can start preparing!

*Fr Richard Green*

## A WORD FROM ST. GILES

The Appeal to find £750 by Christmas day for the charity called ‘Send a Cow’ has now to our joy and amazement reached £1800! All this arose from a simple request for a donation of £10 to that charity in return for the donkey from Shortwood Farm to be brought to the ‘Living Nativity’ in Ludlow on the Monday before Christmas.

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January brought a service of Thanksgiving. There was the completion of the work to the church, the experience of the above collection and a sense that our churches in Ludlow are being blessed and drawn closer together. Margaret Wright had celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday on the 1<sup>st</sup> January, and she spoke movingly about the way she had known God’s sustaining love and protection throughout her life. This moved others to speak simply and directly about their own experience.

The snow and ice has meant that we had to postpone our Celebration Tea on 10<sup>th</sup> January. This was to be the afternoon occasion when all were invited to come for refreshments in order to see the newly re-carpeted church, the restored brasses and the transformed vestry. The new date has not yet been fixed. In the meantime Saturday afternoon, 16<sup>th</sup> January was set aside for the final opportunity for members of the congregation to express their views about the specific mission and calling of St. Giles’ Church within the Team. Next month we hope to give a report on this.

*Philip Jepps*

## LENT HOUSE GROUPS 2010

These start in the week commencing Monday February 22 and last for five consecutive weeks. This year we will be using the York Course “Better Together?”

A course on relationships within the Christian family.

If you wish to join one of these groups please ask for a form either from your own church or from any of the following: Wesley's Café, The Parishes’ Office in College St, open doors at Elim Church (Tuesdays & Fridays only) or from the co-ordinators Dave Lines (876416) or Angeline Morgan (872887).

**Forms need to be returned by 8th February.**

This is an excellent way to meet members from other churches and have meaningful fellowship.

*Angeline Morgan*

## A SERMON GIVEN BY REVD JAMES STEWART 17 JANUARY

We gather today as the people of God in this holy place as the body of Christ, joined by God's love for us and his commandment to be the incarnation of that love in our care for each other, for our neighbour and for our enemy. We gather on one of those days when the challenge of suffering to our faith is writ large – why does a merciful God, creator of heaven and earth, allow innocent people to die in their thousands in the earthquake in Haiti? I can only answer as others, far more learned, far more eloquent in their exposition of the Christian faith than I will ever be, have answered on the radio and in the press, that I have no answer. And I can understand why many are ready to say that such suffering is proof positive that our religion, our faith in a loving God, is a delusion; nothing more than a foolish dream.

Yet I still believe, we still believe, at a level deeper than our own rational self, that God comes to us in love, and draws from us the response of love and prayer. In prayer we commend the suffering in Haiti to God confident with the psalmist that “Your mercy, O Lord, reaches to the heavens, and your faithfulness unto the clouds”. So the tragedy in Haiti doesn't make me wake up to the foolishness of my faith, rather it deepens my sense of my need for God. Faith does not provide all the answers but rather a means of responding to living with life's hardest questions. It is not certainty but the courage to live with uncertainty. So the courage not to sit in hopeless resignation, transfixed by the suffering on the television screen, but to respond in faith with prayer, however few or none may be the words I can frame; and with giving money, knowing, thank God, that there are those who can use it well to bring help to the suffering.

Then to go on with the life of faith in this place, because we have confidence in that faith and God's purposes here. So to speak to you today, as was planned, about stewardship, our gifts of time and talents and money to sustain the life and mission of our parish church. In particular I want to thank you again, as I did in the letters sent to you before Christmas, for all that you gave in the past year, and to thank you too for responding so positively to the request to review the level and means of your giving, to ensure that “every penny counts”.

We have achieved much in 2009: our expanding ministry to visitors; our growing engagement with the community; our involvement with schools and young people; the continued development of music and the choir with our commitment to give of our best in liturgy, in word and sacrament; and the completion of the first phase of our very exciting and challenging Vision Project. Highlights of the year included: the Mystery Plays performed by local schoolchildren; the Summer Fete and Christmas Bazaar; the rehangng of the enhanced ring of bells; the diocesan welcome service for the new Bishop of

Ludlow; and the BBC Radio Shropshire Carol Service here for the first time. To do this we have used human resources, countless hours of time and energy freely given by many, in many and varied roles “varieties of gifts and varieties of services, but the same spirit and the same Lord”: stewards and choristers, cooks and bottle-washers and candlestick polishers, and the list goes on; each an invaluable contribution to the whole... “who sweeps a room, as for thy laws, makes that and the action fine”.

We have spent money to maintain the fabric; an unobtrusive and unglamorous but essential investment: the good Lord doesn't replace down pipes, and repoint stonework, and mend lightning conductors without a little help from us... “teach me my God and king, in all things thee to see”.

We have spent money inside the building too, for, in a sense, more obvious returns: the interpretation boards, the new guide book, the improvements to the shop; and in that sense the returns are measurable and encouraging and exciting: increased sales, thousands more visitors, thousands more votive candles used at the prayer stands, growing congregations at Christmas and Easter and for special services. Of course there is much still to do, and one principal objective for this year is to restore our outward giving to 10% of planned giving, reduced in the financial crisis of 2008.

We spend money to make this building, this holy place, live and breathe, to speak of the history of faith here and the living presence of God now, a witness to his love in the heart of the community. The real return, the harvest for which we invest in faith, will come from the seeds sown in lives, the effect of which we may never know, and all this is at one with the faith which reacts instinctively in prayer and giving for the suffering in Haiti. So we can give today in a retiring collection for the Disasters Emergency Committee Appeal, and I invite you all to join in doing that, however you may have given already or however little money you may have with you. Let us join in this corporate act of giving in faith and love.

Our faith rests in the relationship of love through which God sustains us. As the prophet Isaiah said “as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice in you”. God holds each one of us in this marriage of the human and the divine, which we see in Christ at the wedding in Cana of Galilee. The wine is running out! Social disaster threatens! Mary is the anxious mother, and we can hear Jesus sigh! “Oh stop fussing Mother, what concern is that to you and me? My hour has not yet come”. But it had come and Mary knew that, and she knew that her son knew that his hour had come; the sign of his engagement fully and emphatically with the suffering. Here it was the embarrassed wedding host, tomorrow it would be the sick and the dying, the lonely, the unloved, the despised, the prisoners, the suffering of whatever colour or creed, language or

nation. My faith, our faith, is the testimony of the infinite compassion of God reaching down to us in our darkest moments; the mercy of God; this inexpressible gift of himself in Christ, giving himself to us in the broken bread and the wine poured out, his body and his blood. “Love to the loveless shown that they might lovely be”, transforming the poverty of our nature by the riches of his grace: “O who am I, that for my sake, my Lord should take frail flesh and die?”

Who am I? God’s unique and precious child, as every one of you, as every one who dies and suffers in Haiti. So in this eucharist we commend every one of those to the mercy and protection of God and so too every one of every nation and every creed and none who goes to their aid. So even in the face of death and suffering we rejoice in the gift of God himself to us in love in Christ and we make our song - Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! Amen

## MUSICAL NOTES

In my last parish I wrote a monthly column in the parish magazine about the music department. I thought it would be a good idea to resurrect this.

2009 was a very busy year and we enjoyed a number of successes in the music of St Laurence’s including the splendid and memorable Mystery Plays, a successful Organ Recital Series, Roger Judd joining us as our new Sub Organist, new members in the choir (11 new members, adults and children over 2 years!), the highly successful BBC Broadcast, and the Five Mystical Songs at the Festival Service. We are truly fortunate to enjoy so many blessings.

We are planning to have a recruitment campaign for junior choristers over the next few months. Please keep us in your prayers. The junior choristers are a vital way for us as a church community to work with the greater community that surrounds us. The children come to two rehearsals a week and a Sunday service, yes church three times a week, a big commitment. Could you spare an hour or so on Mondays and Thursdays to give the parents tea and coffee? This is a vital way in which we can welcome these new folk into our community at St Laurence’s. I’ve had a few volunteers, but we are short. Please do come forward, just once a month would be a great help.

We hope you enjoy some new repertoire this month including *When to the Temple went Eccard* and second performances of *Ave Verum Byrd* and *Howells Collegium Regale Evening Service*. There are over 1700 copies of music in our library, 90% purchased within the last two years, and it expands continuously as we learn new repertoire. Might you be able to spare an hour a week helping us keep these copies tidy and filed?

*Shaun Ward*

## **Christian Aid Quiz Night**

February 8 2010

Methodist Church Ludlow

7.30pm

Team questions and refreshments

Donations to Christian Aid, Haiti Appeal

The town Christian Aid Committee hopes each church can get together a team (2 to 6 people) for this fun evening of general knowledge and local questions

Money raised will go to the Christian Aid Haiti Appeal

I hope we can raise at least one team - please let me know if you would like to be part of a team. *Claire Wilcox tel 01584 877199*

An insight into the Buddhist Faith

**February 16 2010**

Methodist Church Ludlow

**7.30pm**

*Contact Preb David Roberts tel 01584 878568*

## EVENTS IN HEREFORD CATHEDRAL

**Sunday 14 February & Sunday 14 March 5.30pm**

### ***The Evening Hour***

A service of prayer for healing and wholeness with words and music from Iona and Taize and time for quiet reflection. Some may come to pray for healing in their own lives, some may come to pray for healing for someone else, some may come to pray for healing in our broken world, all are welcome. Held on the second Sunday of every month.

**Wednesday 17 February**

Ash Wednesday Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes.

Music will include Allegri's *Miserere*

**Saturday 20 March**

Hereford Choral Society

Hummel's Mass in B Flat and Walton's Belshazzar's Feast.

Soloist Peter Savidge; Hereford Symphonic.

Tickets £10 - £20 from 0845 4633 124

**Diocese of Hereford**

**Council for World Partnership and Development**



## **THE HOLY LAND: WHOSE LAND IS IT?**

**How do we understand the history?**

**What light do different faiths bring?**

**How does our understanding affect our faith?**

**Speakers include:**

- **Rabbi Professor Dan Cohn-Sherbok**  
*Professor of Judaism, University of Wales*
- **Dr Dawoud El-Alami**  
*Lawyer and lecturer in Islamic Studies, University of Wales*

**Chairman:**

- **Revd Preb David Roberts**

*The day of talks and discussion will close with a performance of a short 15 minute play, 'Seven Jewish Children', written by Caryl Churchill in response to the situation in Gaza in January 2009 and first performed to national critical acclaim at the Royal Court Theatre in London.*

**Lunch and refreshments to suit all faiths will be available (£6)**

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2010**

**10.30 a.m. – 4.30 p.m. Ludlow Food Centre  
(Off the A49 at Bromfield, 3 miles north of Ludlow)**

**Car parking available. Please note that a car service will be available from the station in Ludlow if booked in advance.**

# THE HOLY LAND: WHOSE LAND IS IT?

## Programme

- 10.30 a.m.**      **Registration and tea/coffee**
- 10.15 a.m.**      **Introduction to the day**  
*Revd Preb David Roberts*
- 11.00 a.m.**      **The Holy Land: whose land is it?**  
*Professor Dan Cohn-Sherbok and Dr Dawoud El-Alami*  
*Joint presentations*
- 12.00 noon**      **Questions and comments**  
*Chair: Revd Graham Hellier*
- 12.30 p.m.**      **Lunch**
- 13.45 p.m.**      **Group discussions to identify critical issues**
- 14.30 p.m.**      **Responses to critical issues**  
*Professor Dan Cohn-Sherbok, Dr Dawoud El-Alami*  
*and Rev Preb David Roberts*

### Key themes:

- **What light does each faith bring to the issues of compassion, peace and reconciliation?**
- **How does what we learn have an effect on our faith?**

- 15.30 p.m.**      **Tea/coffee/biscuits**

**During the tea break we hope to establish local groups for further study in anticipation of a further meeting in the autumn of 2010**

- 16.00 p.m.**      **‘Seven Jewish Children’**  
**Performed by the *Theatre Current Company***  
**A retiring collection will be made in support of *Medical Aid for Palestinians* (Charity Number 1045315)**

- 16.20 p.m.**      **Silent meditation and close.**

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### Registration Form

I will attend the Holy Land Day on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2010 (£6 payable by cheque or cash at the door):

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Email:

Please note that there will be a choice of vegetarian and fish dishes at the buffet, and one non-halal meat dish. If you have any dietary needs not catered for in the buffet, please indicate.....

Please contact Revd Preb David Roberts to book a place:

Post: 14 Beaconfield Park, The Sheet, Ludlow, SY8 4LY

Email: david.roberts03@tiscali.co.uk

Telephone: 01584 878568

## CARING FOR GOD'S ACRE

### Annual General Meeting and 'Abbots, Barons & Trees' Talk

The Annual General Meeting is being held on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2010 at 7:30 p.m. at the Ludlow Conference Centre, Lower Galdeford, Ludlow.

Following the AGM there will be a talk by Dr Ian Dormor on the management of the Yorkshire Dales by the Cistercians of Fountains Abbey and their lordly neighbours with refreshments after. A free minibus is available from Hereford and Leominster.

***RSVP by Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February to the office: 01568 611154 and for minibus seat***

### A-Z of Churchyard Conservation

#### N is for Newt

The Great Crested Newt is our largest and most threatened species of newt. Compared with the Palmate Newt and the Smooth Newt, the Great Crested Newt is much larger (up to 15cm long) and more heavily built. In the spring males develop a crest along their back and top of the tail. They need plenty of invertebrate food and spend most of the year on dry land. They visit ponds in the breeding season (from about February to July) and can be found the rest of the year up to 500m away from water. If managed sensitively, churchyards can become havens for these newts with their healthy invertebrate populations and sheltering sites such as dry stone walls.

Great crested newts are widespread across Europe but are in decline. Britain has probably Europe's largest population, and they are protected by UK and European law.

For more information contact The Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, 01733 558960, [www.arc-trust.org](http://www.arc-trust.org)

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

# TRAIDCRAFT'S MAKE TEA FAIR CAMPAIGN

Fairtrade Fortnight 22 Feb - 7<sup>th</sup> Mar

20 million people world wide are dependent on the tea industry. **But did you know that out of the 165 million cups of tea consumed in the UK every day, less than 10% are Fairtrade?**

Traidcraft has been selling tea and working with small scale tea producers for 30 years. They have worked with other companies to encourage them to improve their practices but the pace of change needs to be speeded up – no major tea brand has made the switch to Fairtrade.



**TRAIDCRAFT**  
Fighting poverty through trade

with small scale  
with other  
their practices  
up – no major tea  
**Traidcraft's tea**

**campaign hopes to change this!**

Tea prices internationally are volatile and generally going down. Small-scale tea farmers and growers have the least power and tea estate workers have little control over their lives. Even when some tea plantations try to improve conditions, volatile tea prices and the general downward trend make this hard.

Together the top five tea brands (Tetleys, PG Tips, Typhoo, Twinings and Yorkshire Tea) account for 72% of the UK market. If just one switched to Fairtrade, it would make a real difference to the lives of thousands of farmers and workers. Change is possible as for instance seen by Sainsburys and Marks and Spencers changing all their own brand tea to Fairtrade, and also Fairtrade pioneers like Café Direct have been selling tea for 15 years. Tea companies can commit to



Fairtrade now. Switching to Fairtrade does not have to increase prices that consumers pay. The cost of the raw produce represents a very small proportion of the cost. Companies could absorb that cost (as has happened with Cadbury and Dairy Milk.)

**As part of Traidcraft's tea campaign, Ludlow Fairtrade Town is asking churches and individuals (at home) to host tea parties, serving Fairtrade tea and to help in promoting the campaign.**

These events could include just a very small group of guests or could be larger events, as in the case of churches. There are a large number of Fairtrade tea varieties available.

**Big Brew Resource Packs and further information are available free from Liz Taylor 01584 831149, [liz@lizinludlow.co.uk](mailto:liz@lizinludlow.co.uk)**

## ST LAURENCE'S SHOP

Thank you to all of you who supported the shop in the Christmas period, you will have heard by now that the Shop profits were double that of last year. Don't forget to keep an eye on the new stock in the shop. We have lots of exciting new lines coming over the next few months from wheat bags to paperweights, as well as a beautiful new range of cards with ecclesiastical embroidery and art deco designs. We will also be stocking a range of aromatic tappets and aromatic candles as well as St Laurence's branded pencils, notelets, pads, rubbers, and sharpeners. Presents for all the family!

*Di Corston*

# CHURCHWARDENS' CORNER

## **Flowers**

For more years than most members of the congregations will remember, Doreen Watkins has been beautifying St Laurence's with her creative flower-arranging skills. Now she has decided that it is time to retire. So it is only fitting that we should take this opportunity to thank Doreen for the way she has used her skills over all these years to contribute to the ministry of the church in this way.

If anyone feels able to contribute towards the cost of flowers for St Laurence's, please send your contributions to the Parishes' Office at No.2 College Street.

## **David Lloyd**

At its January meeting, the Ludlow PCC agreed, by way of a memorial to David Lloyd, that:

- the three 14th century roundels on the north side of St Laurence's Church should be restored in David's memory (the medieval glass was one of David's great passions);
- in June 2010 (which would have been the month of David's 75th birthday) there will be a quarter peal of the St Laurence's bells and the tower will be light each evening for a week; and
- a Memorial Lecture should be held in his memory (to take place during the Ludlow Festival).

## **Stewardship – Time and Talents**

In addition to your financial contributions, many of you give freely of your time and talents to help with the smooth running of the parish. Recently three people have kindly offered to take on additional tasks: Colin Hamer has taken on the task of maintaining the website; Gill Leary now has responsibility for Fairtrade goods in the St Laurence Shop; and Elizabeth Nixon now acts as secretary to the Finance and Management Committee. A big thank you to all three.

## **Further Opportunities to Contribute**

Continuing the theme of time and talents, there are still plenty more opportunities for members of the congregations to demonstrate their skills. We are currently looking for:

- *An Editor for the Tower Magazine* – skills required include an ability to “encourage” contributors to deliver their contributions on time, and some basic computer skills;

- *A Secretary for the Liturgy and Music Committee* – someone to attend the monthly meetings of this committee and to take minutes;
- *A Writer of Grant Applications* – someone with the ability to write grant applications as we increasing need to look for external sources of funding to support the running of St Laurence’s
- *A Cleaner for St John’s Chapel* – someone who on a regular basis would be prepared to help maintain the beauty of this chapel.

If you would be interested in any of these opportunities, we should be delighted to hear from you.

### **Collection tokens**

As requested in the latest Stewardship campaign a number of additional people now pay their Planned Giving by way of Standing Order and for this we thank them. For some this may create a slight feeling of embarrassment as the collection plate is passed to them now that they no longer have an envelope to offer. To address this issue, Michael Day has kindly produced a number of wooden tokens. One of these can be collected from the Stewards’ Desk prior to the service, so that this can be put on the collection plate as it is passed along.

### **New Positions**

The coming months will see the retirement of two loyal servants of the church. Both Peter Turner, currently Team Administrator, and Matthew Lenthall, Verger at St Laurence’s, will be resigning from these positions for personal reasons. This means that we shall shortly be advertising for an Admin and Finance Manager for the Ludlow Parish, and for two part-time vergers for St Laurence’s Church. Again we should be pleased to provide further information for anyone who might be interested.

*Anna Branston and Ewart Carson*

## **OBJECTIVES FOR 2010**

At the PCC meeting on 19 January it was agreed that the Parish should again set itself a number of specific objectives for the year. As objectives, they all need to be measurable such that at the end of the year we can examine whether, and to what extent, they have been achieved. Amongst possible objectives, the following were considered to be highly desirable if the Parish is to continue to develop and grow. This list is by no means exclusive and others may become evident as the year progresses. Below, a brief explanation is given for each one.

### ***Appointing a new Team Rector***

The process of appointing someone to lead the Ludlow Team is now well under way, and we shall be keeping everyone informed of progress as we move forward with this. It is hoped that the new person, whoever she or he might be, will be in place by the end of the summer.

### ***Successfully completing a substantial part of Phase II of the St Laurence's Vision Project***

With 2009 seeing Phase I of the Vision Project successfully completed on time, we now move into Phase II. This will involve preparation of a number of important documents which, in addition to the Mission Action Plan referred to below, include Asset Management Plans for each of the properties owned by the parish and a Conservation Management Plan for St Laurence's. A short-list of potential architects will be drawn up. It is also hoped to be able to engage professional fund-raisers with an excellent track record of success in similar projects.

### ***Completing a Mission Action Plan for the Parish – both St Laurence and St John***

Members of the PCC and the St John's Committee will be meeting for another Away Day at the end of February to continue developing a Mission Action Plan (MAP) for the Parish. This involves defining what we should be aiming to do, for example: propagating the Christian faith (through teaching and discipleship); providing worship and rites of passage; winning new disciples; and managing the assets of the Parish.

By examining what we are currently doing, both inside and outside our church buildings, we shall be able to examine the extent to which we are meeting our aims. We shall then be able to see where the gaps are (some involving activities in our buildings, others involving activities that are not building-based); and decide how are we going to set about filling these gaps.

### ***Restoring Outreach Giving to 10% of Planned Giving***

Traditionally outreach giving, a vital component of our mission, has been set at 10% of the congregation's Planned Giving. With difficult financial circumstances in recent years this regrettably had to be reduced to 5%, though it was increased to 7.5% in 2009. It is hoped that this year it will be possible to restore the figure to 10%.

### ***Achieving a profit of £15,000 for the St Laurence Shop***

2009 saw a major refurbishment of the shop and enhancement of its stock, with the aim of increasing its profitability. An objective for 2010 is to achieve a profit of at least £15,000.

### ***Completing the establishment of an effective management infrastructure for St Laurence's (personnel and systems)***

The business of running St Laurence's becomes ever more complex at a time when the demands on our clergy are continually increasing. They need to be able to devote as much of their time as possible to ministry. Hence it is vital that there should be an effective administrative infrastructure in place to deal efficiently with the day-to-day running of the church. Creating such an infrastructure, with effective computer systems in place, is a major task. It is intended that a new Admin and Finance Manager should be appointed within the next few months.

### ***Continuing to improve communication with the church membership of both St Laurence and St John***

Over the past year, we have endeavoured to enhance communication, something that is of vital importance in any successful organisation. In addition to further enhancement of the Tower magazine and an upgrading of our increasingly important website, it is planned to hold regular meetings of our congregations so as to offer opportunities to contribute to and participate in the exciting processes of change in which we are engaged.

*Anna Branston and Ewart Carson*

## **SUNDAY STEWARDING**

Please can you help? We are having great difficulty filling the Sunday Stewarding slots. If members of the Congregation feel they could spare 1 ½ hours, perhaps once a fortnight/month, between 11.00 and 4.00 we would be very grateful. Although Ludlow is rather quiet at the moment, Saturday and Sunday are nearly always our busiest times and the very days we have difficulty filling the stewarding slots. It would be a great help if you could fill in the Sunday sheet (by the pigeon holes) to save constant phone calls and/or appeals from the Lectern on a Sunday morning.

*Pam Latchford*

## PRAISE THE LORD – PSALM 150

I have recently changed to using Bible Reading Fellowship's (BRF) 'Guidelines' – daily readings and commentary for personal study, from which this extract is taken. (For more information about BRF contact Joan Bowker – 01584 891549.) This extract was for me particularly relevant, especially as at my request I have had to take a break from singing in the church choir, and I wanted to share the words and thoughts with others.

“The psalm is a call to rest, stop what is being done, and worship. The people are to gather 'sanctuary' to give praise to God for all that he has done. It is not only the people who are called, but the whole of creation. Every thing that breathes is to come and praise the Lord, in word, in music, in dance and simply in the awareness of being in the presence of God.

The final triumphant shout 'Praise the Lord!' seems to acknowledge a personal trust and faith in God. To build up that relationship of faith and trust we are required to spend time in prayer. This in turn will create a foundation strong enough to carry us through difficult and busy days when time in prayer seems impossible. God is present in and through the rhythms of our days.

Christopher Bryant, in *The Heart of Pilgrimage*, writes, 'The presence of God should be like the sunshine on a bright day. One is aware of the sunshine and would notice if a cloud momentarily obscured the sun, but one is giving one's mind to other things. So God should be in the background of all we do'. In relation to prayer in busy lives, our prayer is, in part, brought into being simply by believing that God is with us in all that we do.

Music is one way in which God may leave the background to come to the foreground of our awareness. Music, whether sacred or secular, has the power to touch the emotions. It can surprise us. Unexpectedly evocative a piece of music can reach into the recesses of our inner thoughts, to draw from within the gentle touch of the Spirit, a moment of prayer. Has there been a time when you've been busy, but with music playing in the background, when you've stopped to listen, lifted out of your activity by a word or phrase?

Music can draw us closer to God and to prayer as we listen, conscious or not, to the words and sounds, which can lead us to experience some thing of the 'otherness' of God. When we are busy, it may be music – clanging cymbals or a harp – that enables us to rest from our busyness and come to 'praise the Lord'.

Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary;  
Praise him in his mighty heavens!  
Praise him for his mighty deeds;

Praise him according to his excellent greatness!

Praise him with trumpet sound;

praise him with lute and harp!

Praise him with tambourine and dance;

praise him with strings and pipe!

Praise him with sounding cymbals;

Praise him with loud clashing cymbals!

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord!”

Over the past few months since my operation I have, at last, been able to join St Laurence’s Prayer Group which meets in St Catherine’s Chapel on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 10.30am.

These special times have refreshed and renewed my prayer life together with the experiences I have had over the past 18 months when I have been conscious of the power of prayer of others supporting me through a difficult time. Thank you to those who have prayed for me.

I now look forward to the next stage of my recovery when I intend to join in one of the Churches Together Study Groups again this Lent. (For more information contact The Parishes’ Office).

I hope that my experiences may encourage someone else to join these activities.

*Elizabeth Nixon*

## GIFTS TO ST LAURENCE’S

As we look around our churches, there are many things that we see and use which have been gifts, presented by parishioners at a special time, or as memorials. They are greatly valued. They are more often than not items which enhance the church, or our worship, in ways which we will achieve with difficulty by way of our ordinary spending.

In the last year at St. Laurence’s, we have been assisted in a variety of ways: a new specially made silver ciborium, sets of sheet music, a donation towards the restoration of the Royal Arms, a donation towards the gilding of the organ pipes and the purchase of music hymn books for the choir.

The church community is very grateful for these gifts which support its life and mission here in Ludlow. There are always a number of projects which people can choose to support, both great and small; the Churchwardens and Acting Rector keep a list which they are happy to provide to people who enquire.

*James Stewart*

## FROM THE REGISTERS

### BAPTISMS

17.1.10                      Fynn William Grant                      St John

### WEDDINGS

15.1.10                      Philippa Wood & Damien McNamara                      St Giles

### FUNERALS

30.12.09	Tom Morris	St Giles
5.1.10	Doreen Bunn	St Laurence
5.1.10	John English	H/Crem
6.1.10	Betty Mellings	St John
7.1.110	Bill Sheldon	St John
8.1.10	Brian Lewis	St John
9.1.10	Barbara Mountain	St John
14.1.10	Joyce Edwards	St John
15.1.10	Ruth Wadeley	Ludlow Cemetery Chapel
19.1.10	John Lewis	St John
21.1.10	Gillian Angell	St John
25.1.10	Harold Lello	St John

## SUNDAY READINGS FROM THE BIBLE

7 February 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent Green	Genesis 2.4b-9,15-end Psalm 65 Revelation 4 Luke 8.22-25
14 February Sunday next before Lent Green	Exodus 34.29-end Psalm 99 2 Corinthians 3.12-4.2 Luke 9.28-36[37-43a]
21 February 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday Lent Purple (La)	Deuteronomy 26.1-11 Psalm 91.1,2, 9-end [91.1-11] Romans 10.8b-13 Luke 4.1-13
28 February 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent Purple (La)	Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18 Psalm 27 Philippians 3.17 -4.1 Luke 13.31-end

## FEBRUARY

1	Mon	7pm	<b>Presentation of Christ</b> <i>PCC Church House, Ashford Bowdler</i>
2	Tues	2pm	CTAL Service <i>Four Rivers</i>
5	Fri	10.30am	Four Rivers Friends Coffee Morning – <i>The Feathers Hotel</i>
7	<b>Sun</b>		<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent</b>
8	Mon	10.30am 7.30pm	Prayer Fellowship Group – <i>3, Greenacres Ludlow</i> Christian Aid quiz night in aid of the Haiti Appeal – <i>Methodist Church</i>
9	Tues	2.30pm	Mothers Union Meeting Talk & Slides on Westminster Abbey by Marian Couchman – <i>Ludlow Conference Centre</i>
11	Thurs	10.30am	Prayer Group Meeting – St Catherines Chapel – <i>St Laurence</i>
13	Sat	10-4pm	Marriage Prep Day – <i>Ludlow Youth Centre</i>
14	<b>Sun</b>	<b>3pm</b>	<b>Sunday next before Lent</b> Baptism Genevieve Whitmarsh – <i>Richards Castle</i>
16	Tues	2pm 7.30pm	Holy Communion – <i>Four Rivers</i> 'An insight in the Buddhist Faith' – <i>Zion Room, Methodist Church</i> (this event is organised by South Shropshire interfaith) contact Preb David Roberts 01584 878568
17	Wed		<b>Ash Wednesday</b>
19	Fri	<b>7.30pm</b>	Weekend of Music for Bromfield The Roberts Ensemble – <i>Bromfield Church</i> (tickets £7.00 on the door)
20	Sat	<b>8.30pm</b>	Come & Sing 'Messiah' – <i>Bromfield Church</i> Wedding Tilt & Bennett – <i>St Laurence</i>
21	<b>Sun</b>		<b>Lent 1</b>
22	Mon	10.30am	Prayer Fellowship Group – <i>3 Greenacres, Ludlow</i>
26	Fri	7.30pm	Baptism Preparation Evening- <i>venue to be confirmed</i>
27	Sat	3pm	Wedding Booth/Mountford – <i>Culmington</i>
28	<b>Sun</b>		<b>Lent 2</b>

## CONTACT US.....

### THE PARISH OF ST LAURENCE, WITH ST JOHN

Churchwardens	Dr Ewart Carson, Fairfield, Linney	879155
	Ms Anna Branston, Wootton House, Livesey Road	876958
PCC Secretary	Mrs Maureen Stinton, 28 Friars Garden	873445
Electoral Roll	Mrs Claire 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	Mrs Katherine Bromley	874259
Communion Rota	Mrs Fay Carson, Fairfield, Linney	879155
Conservation Trust	Mrs Helen Coleman	875113
Director of Music	Mr Shaun Ward, Parishes' Office	872073
Flowers - church	Mrs Antonia O'Kennedy, 17 Friars Garden	877309
Flowers - wedding	Mrs Doreen Watkins, 1 Linney Fields, Linney	875909
Gift Aid Secretary	c/o Parishes' Office	872073
Sacristan	Mrs Antonia O'Kennedy, 17 Friars Garden	877309
Servers Secretary	Mr. Paul Suthern	711491
Stewarding	Mrs Pam Latchford, 3 Poyner Road	874990
St Laurence Shop	Mrs Di 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 Matthew Lenthall, Parishes Office	872073

### ST JOHN'S, LUDLOW

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

### ST GILES', LUDFORD

Churchwardens	Mrs Daphne Jepps, 2 Eagle Cottages, Orleton	01568 780517
	Mrs L. White, Blackpole Cottage, Luston	01568 620632
Treasurer	Mr John Nash, The Old Gate House, Ludlow	879029
Secretary	Vacant	
Minutes secretary	Mrs Karen 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. Joan Bowker, 3 Clayton Close, Knowbury	891549
Mothers' Union Branch Leader	Mrs Sheila Jenkyns, Sarum House, 9 Bromley Road	874105