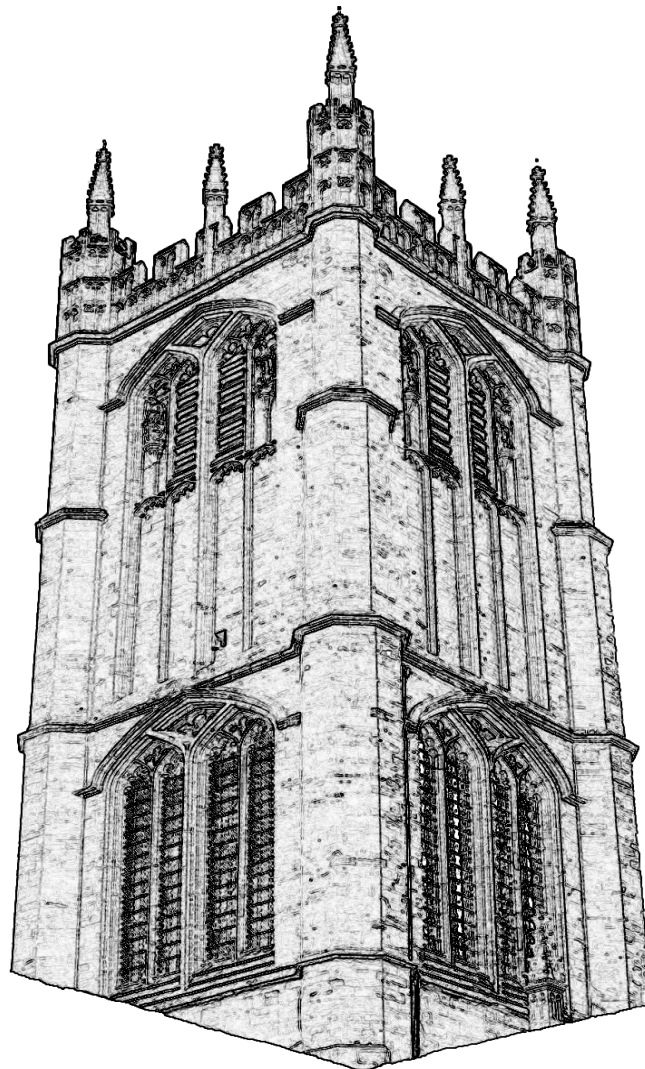


THE PARISHES OF LUDLOW & LUDFORD

LUDLOW TOWER

Parish Magazine

January 2010



Bringing you the latest news.....

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

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

Thank you to all our contributors.

COPY FOR THE FEBURARY TOWER TO THE OFFICE PLEASE

BY Monday 18th January 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

Through the Gospel account of the visiting Magi, Epiphany teaches us the wonderful truth that the Christ of God was not solely for one privileged people at a particular time at a particular place in history, but for all people, at all times and in all places, and for us today. Epiphany-tide roots us in the inclusive love of this great God of ours, who draws all people to himself. And conveniently, such a public revelation also takes place at the beginning of a new year.

As a Team Ministry, lay and ordained, we start this New Year with all kinds of new hopes, new expectations, and new prayers, along with perhaps new fears and long memories! Yet, we cannot stand still forever—change is part of the nature of reality, but often it's always something we dread. However, our Christian faith should mean we look at everything with a different vision; from a different perspective to the rest of the world. The hope of the final coming of God's kingdom should be drawing us onwards into a future bright with hope – the hope that is guaranteed to us by virtue of the resurrection. We are, despite all our misgivings and apprehensions (and in spite of over indulgences at Christmas), the resurrection people after all! New life, new hope, new beginnings.

Not only does this involve change, but also the challenge of stepping into the unknown without the familiar securities we have up till now been able to take for granted. And this is the challenge which faces me this coming year. As some of you may be aware, I am currently in my final year of post-ordination training, so it comes with a mixture of sadness, fondness and excitement that I announce my news. Although remaining involved with the Ludlow Team until the end of July, after Easter I will be taking up a new job role as Youth Development Officer with the Diocese of Gloucester. It feels daunting, but exciting, and will take me out of my comfort zone in many ways, especially geographically!

As with the journey for the Magi, such an opportunity for change has taken both discernment and faith. Yet through the Incarnation of God and presence of the Holy Spirit, we can all have the assurance that such new journeys into the unknown are never made alone. And so I leave you this month with a poem which always enables me to hold on to that fact this time of year.

At the Gate of the Year *Minnie Louise Harkins*

I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year
'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.'

And he replied,
'Go into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way!
So I went forth and finding the Hand of God
Trode gladly into the night.
He led me towards the hills
And the breaking of day in the lone east.
So heart be still!
What need our human life to know
If God hath comprehension?
In all the dizzy strife of things
Both high and low,
God hideth his intention."

Happy New Year! Revd Steve Jarvis

STEWARDSHIP FOR 2010

By now every member on the Electoral Roll associated with St Laurence's will have received his/her Stewardship pack for 2010. Already a good number of you have made your new return and for your timely response we thank you. For those of you yet to respond may we once again ask you to consider Pledged Giving by way of a Standing Order, which is administratively much more convenient than Envelopes. Also, where appropriate, do consider Gift Aiding your contributions. In times that are financially difficult, increasing your contribution to St Laurence's can be a real challenge, but remember – every penny counts!

Anna Branston and Ewart Carson

J S BACH, Christmas Oratorio *by candlelight*

Lucy Bowen *soprano* Patrick Craig *countertenor*
Simon Wall *tenor* Colin Campbell *bass*
Hereford Cathedral Choir Marches Baroque
directed by Geraint Bowen

HEREFORD CATHEDRAL

Sat 30 January 2010, 7 pm. Doors open at 6.15 pm

Tickets £18 & £14 from Cathedral Shop, and on the door
Contact: 01432 374261 www.herefordcathedral.org

FROM THE BISHOP

The shops may think that Christmas is over for another year, but we know better! Our Christmas celebrations continue and then merge into Epiphany, the celebration of the coming of the wise men. That journey was all about living out the consequences of the birth of Jesus.

Like the wise men, we have been drawn to the babe in the manger. It may have been an invitation from a friend, rather than a star (!), or a note through the door, or a poster at the church or just knowing when the usual services take place, but we were there, celebrating and worshipping, experiencing the welcoming, all-embracing arms of Christ.

If it is right to worship the infant Christ one day in the year, it is right to worship him every day. He cannot be our God “occasionally”, not just at Christmas. He either is God, and our God, or he is not.

Worshipping Jesus as Son of God at a Carol Service, or on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, is to be drawn to Jesus, just as the wise men were. Having come, everything is different. The wise men returned to their own country, but they were changed. They had to work out how to “live Christmas”, how to live out the implications of what had happened to them. This is not some intellectual quiz or challenge. It is about a relationship changing us.

To be met by the living God in the infant Christ, is to know God among us, with us, differently. We cannot “unknow” him. We can only go deeper, called further on along our journey. We don’t need camels but we do need fellow companions, which is what the church is.

Jesus came so that we might become the people we can be at our best. His coming let us see how we humans should be. Having shown us, he has not gone away and left us helpless. He has given us his strength and power, his Spirit, to help us achieve that “best”.

As the New Year begins, we have work ahead of us: to become who we are, made in God’s image and likeness. It is the work that the wise men undertook. It is the out-working of Christmas. It is our work.

Let us continue the celebrations and the work: God among us, God dwelling in us, God changing us.

And so to the happy New Year that I pray for you.

+Anthony

A CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS TALE

“The Robin and the Reindeer”

It was Advent time in Ludlow. The rain came down in torrents
AS puddles splashed and people dashed for shelter in Saint Laurence,
To shake their brollies, stamp their feet and open wide the door
To see what sights and rare delights the chapels had in store.
Imagine their amazement on such a dank, dark day:
Outside the Lady Chapel was parked a golden sleigh!
And who was this unloading from a bulging scarlet sack,
Brushing snowflakes from his brow, massaging his aching back?
He stroked his beard, smiled, disappeared into his Christmas Grotto.
Now “HEALTH AND SAFETY – YOURS AND MINE” was Santa's sacred
motto.

He'd witnessed priests go up in flames from candles up their vestments,
And so insisted on a full and vigorous Risk Assessment.
His tunic, boots and arctic suits were tested proof 'gainst fire
(But when they stopped his ginger wine he'd threatened to retire!)
His Grotto checked, it was time to inspect his Lapland reindeer pair
Kneeling at the manger crib “in the manger rude and bare”,
Munching hay and turnip tops, drying out their dripping fur,
Or nosing with a curious sniff at the frankincense and myrrh.
But what he failed to notice – all too easy to overlook –
Was a small red-breasted robin perched on the shepherd's crook,
Whistling-whispering urgently into the pastor's ear
And nodding very pointedly at Santa's lead reindeer.
You may well wonder how I know exactly what this bird
Told the attentive shepherd or why the reindeer stirred,
And stood and stamped their glistening hooves with evident concern –
You'll have to take my word for it; but listen now and learn.....

The robin – Rachel was her name – had flown from Corfton Lower,
A village swamped by rising Corve like fearsome floods of Noah.
The Broadstone Bridge its only link and lifeline swept away
As waters roared and torrents poured on Final Judgement Day.
Now Rachel had one special friend, young Beth from Stockton Farm,
Who'd fed her nuts and kept her feathered family from harm
By tying bells to prowling cats' and marauding magpies' tails...
But Beth was helplessly marooned in the Sea of South Corvedale!!

And Rachel knew Beth's dream-come-true was to meet dear Father Christmas --

-
What hope was there but black despair trapped on the Stockton isthmus?
Yet in that manger hope lay sleeping; the shepherd's faith and robin's love,
The reindeers' strength and courage keeping Despair at bay and cold at one
remove.

With Rachel Robin's story told, the crib scene sprang to life.
The shepherd, Sam, leapt on the back of Rudolph, whose dear wife,
The reindeer doe, cried out : "No time to lose!"
As out they galloped from the church, down past Saint Mary's Mews,
Along the darkening Bromfield Road, across the Boiling Well,
And then the racecourse, Stanton Lacy, past Culmington pell mell!
With Rachel as their satnav, perched upon Rudolph's head,
They reached the lake, a silvery snake that coiled the Stockton Hill farmstead.
Without fear or hesitation, this dauntless reindeer pair,
Plunged into the swirling flood and swam like swans to where
Beth was watching, eyes agog, her reindeer rescue team,
Led by her faithful robin and Shepherd Sam Supreme!
"Quick! Climb on board!" young Rachel chirped, " Meet Rudolph's doting
mate,
No time to lose! Santa will close his Grotto dead on eight!"
Back they swam and back they thundered, arriving just in time:
Saint Laurence tower tolled out the hour and on the opening chime
They burst into the old South Porch, dismounted at one bound...
Yes! ..Just in time! ..the final chime was just about to sound...!
"Time for one more" came Santa's call.."Yes, please! That's me!" cried Beth.
"My word, my dear, you do look cold and rather out of breath..
Was that a robin I just saw? No. No. I must be dreaming..
Or maybe too much ginger wine!" smiled Santa, his face beaming.
As Beth drew back the curtain to follow Santa in ,
I swear the baby in the manger woke and winked a cheeky grin.

Of course, this story is true, but names have been changed ..and reindeer really
are magnificent swimmers.

Ian Barge

PASTORAL COMMITTEE

WOMEN'S REFUGE

We were very pleased to welcome staff from the Women's Refuge in S. Shropshire to our meeting in November. They told us about the work which goes on to support women and children, who have needed, and been able, to leave difficult and violent situations at home.

The Refuge provides not only emergency accommodation but also all the things that they may require to support them practically and emotionally, while they are there and as they plan for their future. They may arrive with very little, maybe a few items stuffed into a carrier bag. The Refuge has little official funding, and therefore relies heavily on gifts of money and suitable goods.

We felt that we would like to help in this valuable work. One way we can do that is to collect dry foods which the residents can use to make quickly and easily into simple meals. We would be grateful if you would join us in this, so that we can make a really useful contribution from our churches.

To this end there will be a box for dry foods in St. Laurence's church and St John's church for one week in January between Sunday 17th and Sunday 24th

Suggested items:

Tea bags	Tin of soup
Powdered milk	Jar of pasta sauce
Bottle of squash	Tin of tomatoes
Tin of meat	Box of cereals
Dried pasta	Rice
Tin of fruit	Tin of baked beans
Tin of fish	Sugar
Jar of coffee	

Thank you in anticipation!

Mary Williams and members of the Pastoral Committee

ST JOHN'S CHURCH
GRAVEL HILL
JANUARY 10TH
PATRONAL FESTIVAL
9.30. A.M.
PREACHER:
BISHOP MICHAEL BOURKE
ASSISTANT BISHOP
YOU ARE ALL INVITED TO JOIN US.

LENT HOUSE GROUPS 2010

These start 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 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

FUND RAISING FOR ST. LAURENCE CHURCH

Do you find yourself slightly fed up with the long dark days of winter? If so, or even if you love the winter, why not come along to Castleford Road and pursue your artistic flair. After Christmas I shall be running a series of embroidery sessions on alternate Thursday afternoons. So if you would like to enjoy canvaswork, crewelwork, blackwork, surface stitchery, or indeed silk painting ring me on 01584 879 380. You may even have some long forgotten piece in a drawer somewhere (we all have) that is crying out to be completed. If you have not embroidered before do not be put off. If you can thread a needle you will be welcome. There will be tea and cake !!! Fees will be low and affordable and all proceeds will go to St. Laurence's Church.

Barbara Atkin

Do you have an idea for fundraising? If so speak to one of the wardens.

NEWS FROM ST.GILES'

The Wednesday Services led by Rev John Beesley, Matthew and singers from St. Laurence' have been greatly appreciated. They were beautiful, they were peaceful and particularly meaningful in the light of busy preparations for Christmas.

Our Family Service in December was amazing. A speaker from outside, Mrs. Legge of Shortwood Farm, had never spoken in a church before, but her talk on behalf of the charity 'Send a Cow' resulted in £560 being raised immediately after the service.

It underlines the vital importance of lay involvement, lay initiative and lay leadership in the life of the church, and here was an example of someone unpractised, but full of Christian conviction, doing what the clergy person almost certainly could not have done! We are confident now that the full amount of £750 will be there by Christmas Day.

True to time all the work on the fabric of the church was completed by Monday, 30th November. The church newly carpeted in grey-green, the vestry lime plastered and red carpeted, the brasses back in place, the ceilings repaired and painted, and the pew runners adding their bright colour – everything feels fresh and beautiful. Thanks are owed to the hard work of many people and praise belongs to God for it. Now we shall be having a celebration on Sunday, 10th January in the afternoon from 3-5pm. Everyone is invited to this afternoon tea.

Recently we have had cause to be very grateful to many people in all the churches for prayer offered on behalf of those who are ill or in need.

Lastly, January 1st is a very special day for us, as Margaret Wright will be 90 on that day. She has all our love and prayers.

Philip 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

“WHO IS THE LADY ON THE SOUTH WALL”

St. John’s Chapel is full of wonderful things, particularly the exquisite stained glass and its association with the history of the Palmers. Dazzled by all this splendour, few people are drawn to the South wall and the painting of St. Barbara. She does appear somewhat neglected – so would it not be a worthwhile enterprise to give her a thorough clean and thus show her in her true colours? This of-course would require money, so in the time honoured interest of fund raising I thought that visitors and congregation might like to know a little more about this lady, who, in Medieval times was one of the most revered and popular Saints in Christendom. Many Festivals and Feasts were held in her honour.

Who is she? She is St. Barbara. Her name comes from the Greek “barbaros” meaning someone who does not speak Greek. This especially referred to the Celts whose language was quite alien to Greek ears. According to legend Barbara was a 3rd Century Syrian maiden who was imprisoned in a tower by her father when he discovered that she had become a Christian. Her father, having denounced her to the governor of Nicomedia following her refusal to renounce her faith, executed her himself. But as he administered the fatal blow a great clap of thunder was heard and a bolt of lightning struck him down. However the heavens opened and St. Barbara was taken to Paradise by angels, while her father was carried off by Devils to the Bottomless Pit. Accordingly St Barbara became the protectress against thunder and Patron Saint of Architects, Stonemasons, firework makers, artillerymen and gunpowder. Indeed the powder room in old French battleships was known as “La Sainte Barbe” Barbara became a popular saint in England during the Middle Ages, although her name was written and pronounced Barbary. At the time of the Reformation her popularity declined, because she is not a Biblical figure nor did her name demonstrate “abstract virtue”. The puritans liked to revere names like Temperance, Chastity, Discipline and Verity. So the somewhat exotically named St Barbara fell from grace.

So, dear reader, when you hear a clap of thunder or admire the work of some long forgotten stonemason, remember St Barbara. Go into St. John’s Chapel and when you have finished gazing on the beauty of the glass, spare a moment to look at the lady on the south wall, and consider how splendid she would look if only she could be restored to her former glory.

Barbara Atkin

Note: It is very much hoped that the painting in St John’s Chapel will be restored in the near future. Indeed the painting needs urgent work as the stretchers behind the canvas are actually breaking the surface of the painting. The cost of the work is approximately £1500; donations towards this project are gratefully received. Shaun Ward

A DRAMATIC OPPORTUNITY FOR PARISHES

Would you like to host a performance?

Contact Mick Greenway directly....

SEVEN JEWISH CHILDREN - a play for Gaza

Dismayed by the brutal and indiscriminate ferocity of Israel's attack on Gaza last December, Caryl Churchill, one of Britain's leading playwrights, wrote the short play *Seven Jewish Children*. Each of the play's seven scenes is set against a different episode of recent Jewish history. Violence or the threat of it is the constant, if unseen, backdrop. As we listen to the characters, concerns about how to present this to their children or protect them from it, we are also watching the adults trying to come to terms with it themselves.



"A heartfelt lamentation in remarkably condensed poetic form ... the play shows theatre's power to heighten consciousness and articulate moral outrage" (The Guardian)

"An impassioned response to the events in Gaza that is elliptical, empathetic and illuminating." (The Times)

Mick Greenway, a local theatre director, has assembled a pro/am company to present *Seven Jewish Children* at venues in and around the Marches. There is no fee, no set and no specific requirements, merely a space in which to perform and an audience of at least 50 people. The play itself runs for only about 15 minutes but the company is offering a broader programme including readings, music and discussion which will last, in total, about an hour and a quarter. The conditions of the play's licence do not allow for an entrance charge but, following the performance, a collection in aid of the charity, Medical Aid for Palestinians, will be taken.

The play is available from February. If you would like more information or want to discuss possibilities, please contact Mick on 01588 650780 or email him at mick.greenway@googlemail.com.

CHURCHWARDENS' CORNER

Objectives for 2009 – How Well Did We Do?

At its first meeting of 2009, the Ludlow PCC set itself seven specific objectives for the year. Now as we move into the New Year, it is timely to examine the extent to which they have been achieved.

Successful completion of Phase I of the St Laurence's Vision Project

This first objective has been fully achieved. There has been effective consultation and engagement with an expert panel of some 100 people representing a wide cross-section of Ludlow interests, with the residents of the whole town (many of whom responded) and with the members of the Electoral Roll. Feedback on the results of this process has been widely disseminated. There have also been positive initial contacts with some of the relevant heritage and planning bodies. We now move forward in 2010 with Phase II.

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

This is still work in progress. The “Healthy Churches” exercise has been completed with congregational members enjoying the opportunity to discuss issues of faith and the mission of the church. More opportunities are being planned to enable the Mission Action Plan to be completed during 2010.

Outreach Giving increased to 7.5% of Planned Giving

This has been achieved as a stepping stone towards restoring the figure of 10%.

Enhancement of the St Laurence Shop

During 2009 some £8,000 has been invested in the shop with enhanced layout and lighting, together with a richer range of stock more effectively displayed. Profits over the last months of 2009 have doubled and the sum invested will certainly have been recouped well within a year. This has been a clear example of a sound investment in the future of St Laurence's. A survey of visitors to the church (and the shop) has provided us with much useful information for further development of the shop.

New Guidebook for St Laurence's Church

August saw the appearance of the new guidebook which does indeed match the best on offer in cathedrals, other Greater Parish Churches and organisations such as the National Trust. Sadly David Lloyd was not able to see the completion of this project, but we feel sure that he would have approved of the final result.

Establishing an effective management infrastructure for St Laurence's

This is also work in progress. The specification for the new infrastructure has been produced and it is expected that a new Administrator for St Laurence's, supported by appropriate IT systems, will be in place by Easter 2010.

Improving communication with the church membership of both St Laurence and St John

2009 has seen a significant expansion of the Tower magazine with more news of on-going projects and success stories, of which there are many. The practice whereby one of the Ludlow Churchwardens attends all meetings of the St John's Committee has now been restored. St John's are represented on the Steering Group of the Vision Project and have been invited to have a representative on the Project Team itself.

Good communication is a feature of any successful organisation and the Ludlow parish is no exception. This is all the more important in times of change. Therefore, over the coming months we shall be endeavouring to ensure that all members of both the churches in the parish are kept fully informed about the many on-going developments, with ample opportunity to have their say.

So, much of what was planned for 2009 has been achieved. A big thank you from both of us to everyone that has made this possible. At the first meeting of the Ludlow PCC on 19 January a new set of objectives will be established, to be reported in the February magazine.

STEWARDING IN 2009

This year has been a record one for visitors to St Laurence's Church. Even with disruptions for the restoration of the bells and other conservation works, 2009 will have seen nearly 50,000 visitors enter the building. This increase mirrors an increase in tourism in Ludlow more generally, something that was anticipated as a result of the recession.

Overall, visitor income was very considerably up on 2008, which was the previous best year. Donations were broadly in line with last year at £30,000, but there were increases in Tower visitor income and, more significantly, income derived from the St Laurence Shop. Some 3,500 visitors to the Tower generated over £8,000. The shop income was over £25,000, generating a profit of some £12,000 which is approximately double the figure for 2008! So our visitors have added some £50,000 much needed income to St Laurence's, a sum without which we would not be able to survive.

In early 2009 we moved the votive stand given in memory of John Baulch into the chancel, and purchased another larger stand for use by the Lady Chapel. Both areas have clear signage encouraging people to pray and there are also prayer cards for them to take with them to remind them of their prayer intentions. In 2008 we used 8000 candles, and in 2009 the use of candles has doubled, some 16 000 candles have been lit. The prayer areas are a vital part of our ministry to our visitors and community which we serve.

The 2009 figures demonstrate how effective has been the investment in the shop during 2009. Some £8,000 has been invested in improving the infrastructure and lighting, together with improved displays and enhanced stock, including personalised goods and a range of “impulse buys” which seem to be having the desired effect! We also stock Fairtrade goods and, indeed, St Laurence’s is now a Fairtrade church. Judging by the trading figures over these recent months, it is clear that the investment that has been made will have been more than recouped in well under a year (just as in the previous year the investment in enhanced signage and information boards proved its worth).

Comments in the Visitors’ Book are always very revealing. First, they show that visitors have come to Ludlow from well over 50 countries. Looking through the book comments are to be found from almost all the countries of the EU. The only one missing appeared to be Cyprus, but we are sure that we will have had visitors from there as well. It is clear that the visitor experience, one facet of the wider ministry of St Laurence’s is overwhelmingly one of great delight (though the “pods” still divide people into the lovers and the haters!). Central to the experience is the role played by the stewards and many of our visitors comment on the warmth of the welcome that they have received.

Shop refurbishment has been the major development of the year, but not the only one. A Passport is now available to visitors to the Tower, offering free repeat visits for the remainder of the year on condition that they Gift Aid their payment. This offers the potential to add a further £2,000 of income, though this will only be achieved though a pro-active approach by the stewards!

The summer saw the completion of the new glossy guidebook, one of the many projects undertaken by David Lloyd. Sadly, his untimely death meant that others had to complete the work of its production, but I am sure that the end product is one of which David would have been truly proud.

Given the increasingly important role that the shop plays in generating funds for St Laurence, it is vital that all the stewards working in the shop should play their part to best effect. So for 2010, there are four resolutions that the stewards should be making:

- ***Get to know the stock in the shop*** – so that alternative suggestions can be made to customers when the item that they are seeking is not available.

- ***Promote the use of the Passport for Tower Visitors***
- ***Use the till effectively*** – for example the Fairtrade Association will only get paid for the sale of its goods if the “Fairtrade button” on the till is activated. There is also the need to be familiar with the 10% discount button now that all members of the Electoral Roll (and stewards) are eligible to use their discount cards on a wide variety of goods in the shop.
- ***Learn to use the credit card machine confidently*** – payments by card are no longer the rare exception. Typically £650 of trade each month involves the use of cards.

Regarding the use of the till and the credit card machine, Di Corston is happy to offer one-to-one training to anyone who feels that they could benefit from it.

So, overall, 2009 has been an excellent one in attracting visitors to St Laurence’s. Pam Latchford and we are truly grateful to all the stewards for the part that they have played in this success. So thank you and please keep up the good work in 2010 – and, of course, Pam would be pleased to hear from anyone who might like to join our band of stewards!

Ewart Carson & Anna Branston

EPIPHANY

Wednesday 6 January

7 pm Solemn Choral Eucharist

Little Organ Mass *Haydn*

EPIPHANY CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 17 January 5.30 pm

CANDLEMAS SUPPER

Sunday 31 January 6 pm

SUNDAY READINGS FROM THE BIBLE

3 January THE EPIPHANY Gold/W	Isaiah 60: 1 - 6 Psalm 72 (1-9) 10-15 Ephesians 3: 1- 12 Matthew 2: 1 - 12
10 January The Baptism of Christ (1 st Sunday of Epiphany) Gold/W	Isaiah 43: 1 - 7 Psalm 29 Acts 8: 14 - 17 Luke 3: 15 - 17, 21 - 22
17 January 2nd Sunday of Epiphany White	Isaiah 62: 1-5 Psalm 36. 5-10 1 Corinthians 12: 1-11 John 2: 1-11
24 January 3rd Sunday of Epiphany White	Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Psalm 19 (or 19.1-6) 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a Luke 4: 14-21
31 January Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas) (4 th Sunday of Epiphany) Gold/W	Malachi 3. 1-5 Psalm 24 (1-6)7-end Hebrews 2, 14-end Luke 2: 22-40

FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

5.12.09	Alexander Rowley	St Giles
13.12.09	Himani Flynn	St John
13.12.09	Evelyn Price	St Laurence
13.12.09	Sam, Eleanor & Toby Millington-Marsh	St Laurence

WEDDINGS

5.12.09	Carl Rowley & Natasha Howard	St Giles
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FUNERALS

25.11.09	Robert Sageman	H/Crem
27.11.09	David Saunders	St John
28.11.09	William Bodenham	St John
14.12.09	Teale	St John
15.12.09	Milly Price	St John
16.12.09	Doris Angel	St John
17.12.09	Harold Owen	W/Crem
22.12.09	Lynda Seabourne	H/Crem

JANUARY

<i>Date</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Time</i>	
3	Sun		2nd Sunday after Christmas/(Epiphany)
4	Mon		Parishes' Office re-opens
6	Wed	7pm	Epiphany Solemn Choral Eucharist <i>St Laurence</i>
10	Sun	9.30am	Baptism of Christ (1st Sunday of Epiphany) Morning service at St John's, no service at St Laurence's <i>Celebration Service - SGL</i>
11	Mon	10.30am 7.30pm	Prayer Fellowship Group – 3, <i>Greenacres, Ludlow</i> Pastoral Committee Meeting – 2 <i>College St</i>
12	Tues	12.30pm	Mothers Union New Year Lunch & Entertainment – <i>Ludlow Conference Centre</i>
14	Thurs	10.30am	Prayer Group – <i>St Catherines Chapel, St Laurence</i>
15	Fri	2.30pm	Wedding McNamara/Wood - <i>St Giles</i>
16	Sat		<i>All Day Event – SGL Away Day Launch</i>
17	Sun	1.30pm 3pm 5.30pm	2nd Sunday of Epiphany Baptism Evan Llewellyn - <i>Bromfield</i> Baptism Fynn Grant – <i>St John's</i> Epiphany Carol Service <i>St Laurence's</i>
18	Mon		Deadline for Magazine
19	Tues	2pm	Holy Communion – <i>Four Rivers</i>
21	Thurs	2pm	CTAL Week of Prayer for Unity – <i>Lady Chapel St Laurence</i>
23	Sat	10-4pm	Marriage Prep Day – <i>Ludlow Conference Centre</i>
24	Sun	3pm	3rd Sunday of Epiphany Baptism Sophie Smallwood - <i>Onibury</i>
25	Mon	10.30am	Prayer Fellowship Group – 3, <i>Greenacres, Ludlow</i>
31	Sun	6pm	4th Sunday of Epiphany Candlemas Supper <i>St Laurence's</i>

CONTACT 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 LETTER 2009

From the Acting Team Rector:

The Churchwardens, Anna Branston and Ewart Carson, report in this issue (see pages 14 -17) on our objectives in 2009 and on the stewarding which sustains our vital and growing ministry to visitors at St.Laurence's. I thank Ewart and Anna for their great commitment to the life of the church in the past year, and for their support for me personally as I have taken formal responsibility for the Parish of Ludlow, St.Laurence and St.John, with the departure of Brian Curnew, the Team Rector. Because we are a Team Ministry we have not entered an 'interregnum' and the development of our ministry can proceed uninterrupted, both within Ludlow itself and in the wider Team where my colleague Richard Green has the lead responsibility. So we will be setting objectives for 2010 and reporting these to you in the February magazine.

We will want to build on our achievements in 2009 - our expanding ministry to visitors, our growing engagement with the community, our involvement with schools and young people, the completion of the first Phase of our very exciting and challenging Vision Project, and the continued development of music and the choir alongside our commitment to give of our very best in liturgy, in word and sacrament, to the praise and glory of God, and for the hope and comfort of all his people. Highlights of the year have included the Mystery Plays performed by local schoolchildren, the very successful Summer Fete and Christmas Bazaar, the rehangng of the enhanced ring of bells, the memorable Diocesan welcome service for the new Bishop of Ludlow which we were honoured to host, and equally the splendid carol service for Radio Shropshire which came to St.Laurence's for the first time.

In all this we are indebted not only to our churchwardens and deputy churchwardens and other officers both at St.Laurence's and St.John's, but also to our staff, Lesley Draper, Parishes Secretary, Peter Turner, Administrator, Shaun Ward, Director of Music and Vision Project Co-ordinator, and Matthew Lenthall, Verger, and to the great army of volunteers who sustain our ministry in many and varied ways.

I thank you all for your friendship, support, and encouragement in the past year, and for the many Christmas cards and good wishes you have sent to Mary and myself. I wish you a very happy and peaceful Christmas and a good and hopeful New Year.



James Stewart