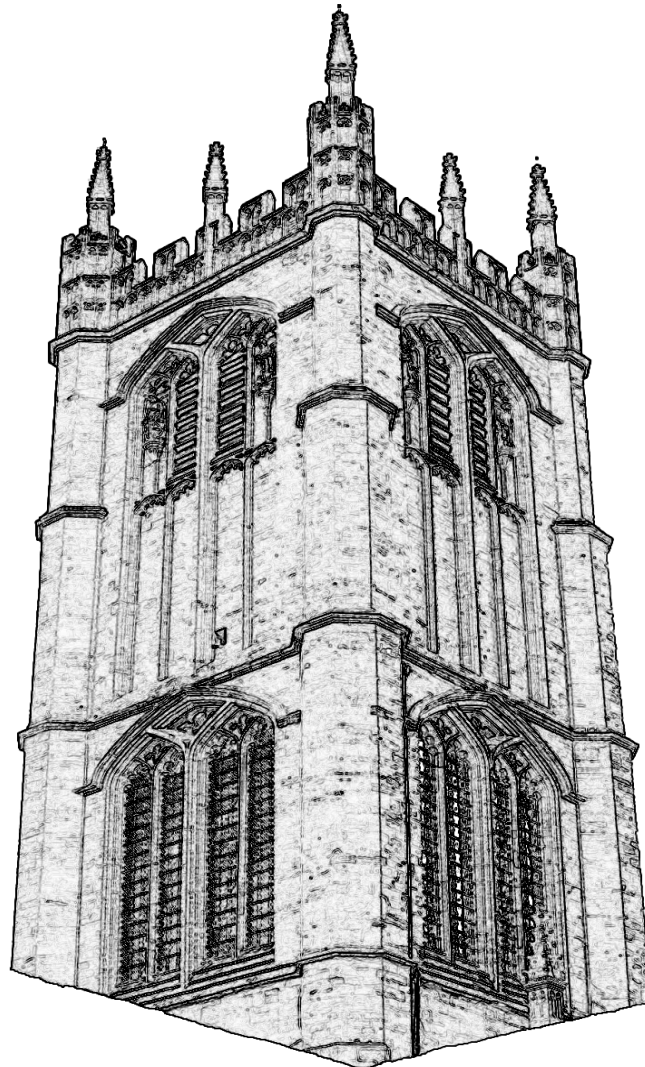


THE PARISHES OF LUDLOW & LUDFORD

LUDLOW TOWER

Parish Magazine

November 2009 Advent



Bringing you the latest news.....

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

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In the absence of the Team Rector, Revd. Richard Green and Revd. James Stewart are Joint Acting Team Rectors

NORMAL SUNDAY SERVICES

St Laurence	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	9.30am	Parish Communion
		2 nd Sunday Choral Communion
	11.30am	2 nd Sunday Plainchant Matins
	4 th Sunday Choral Matins	
	3.30pm	1 st and 3 rd Sundays Choral Evensong
		(No 3 rd service on the 5 th Sunday of the month)
St John	9.30am	Holy Communion with Hymns
St Giles	11.15am	Holy Communion
		1 st Sunday Family Service
		Last Sunday Godly Play

Thank you to all our contributors.

**COPY FOR THE NOVEMBER TOWER TO THE OFFICE PLEASE
BY 18th November 2009**

Please send articles by email.

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

What we do not know, we cannot pass on!

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CLERGY LETTER

A living remembrance

'There is no greater love than this, that someone should lay down his life for his friends...'

We will read Christ's familiar words again on Remembrance Sunday, and again confront the paradox that out of the awfulness of war, out of the shared experience of suffering and fear, may be born enduring friendship. Most poignantly and powerfully such friendships have been made between former enemies - between RAF and Luftwaffe pilots, between Britons and Argentineans of a later generation, and even between the IRA Brighton bomber Patrick Magee and some of his victims.

Christ told his disciples: *'love one another as I have loved you.'* And in giving this great commandment of love he explained: *'I have called you friends because I have disclosed to you everything that I have heard from my Father.'* And what had Christ heard from his Father? that all his children of every race and nation and colour and creed were equal in his Father's sight, each one a precious child of God, known and loved and called by name. And what was his Father's will for his children? That we should build his kingdom of justice and peace, his kingdom of friendship. So the Father sent the Son *'to reconcile us to Him in one body by the cross'*, and so the Son taught us to pray *'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come **on earth** as in heaven.'*

We are all God's friends and each and every one of us is called to be a builder of his Kingdom, the Kingdom of divine friendship. It is nobody else's task. We cannot hand it over to our neighbour to do it for us. None of us has the right to lay it down in this life. It is the task of every hour of every day. It begins in homes and families, and it must be taken into the workplace, into our schools, into our churches, into our communities, into the life of nations. It is the discipline of love, our present reality. It is the living out of this discipline which alone prevents Remembrance Sunday from being a hollow observance that dishonours the memory of all those who gave their lives in war.

James Stewart, Acting Team Rector

FROM THE BISHOP OF HEREFORD

No warmth, no cheerfulness, no healthful ease,

*No comfortable feel in any member –
No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees,
No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds, -
November!*

Thomas Hood's dismal and pessimistic view of this month may not be ours, but perhaps it is in part because there is less to look at *outside* ourselves, that we focus especially during November at looking *inwards* and *backwards*, and remembering.

The month begins with the memory and celebration of All Saints, followed immediately by All Souls, and going on six days later to give thanks for the Saints and Martyrs of England, before Remembrance Sunday and Remembrance Day.

But what do we do with all these memories? Certainly we are not then to stay in the past: we have to look back in order to look forward better.

For that to be possible, we must try, of course, to learn from our memories, from our past. As Edmund Burke observed, "Those who do not know history are destined to repeat it." *Knowing* it is not a guaranteed safeguard against *repeating* it, but it does at least help the chances. Which is why it is so vital that we do remember.

Celebrating the Saints is something which our Cathedral has been focussing on during the last few years. There have been new windows dedicated to Thomas Traherne, modern icons of St. Ethelbert, and the shrine of St. Thomas restored. All of these help us to learn more and be encouraged in our own discipleship by the examples of these local saints.

Remembrance Sunday and Day hold their vital importance for us as we give thanks, especially for those who have made the greatest of all sacrifices for us for peace and freedom. We honour them best by our responsible use of that freedom, working for the common good with love and truth. But we are also mindful of the continuing conflicts in the world, not least in Afghanistan, and the weekly death toll, as our soldiers struggle with other nations and local Afghans to help build a more just and free society there.

Some memories we have will be painful, others joyful. My sense of remembering always goes back to Jesus' own words, "Do this in remembrance of me." It is in our worship, especially at the Holy Communion, that all memories take their proper place and perspective and help us, in God's power, to live redeemed and

renewed lives. The greatest memory of all is of Jesus' death and resurrection, forgiving us and making new life possible now.

+Anthony

THE POWER OF PRAYER - THINK LEIPZIG

As a member of St Laurence Prayer Group which meets in St Catherine's Chapel on the second Thursday in the month, I believe prayer to underpin all that we do. However, I was deeply moved to read in the newspaper the effect prayer had on the people of Leipzig and ultimately Berlin in 1989. The city during the Communist regime was one of the most polluted cities in the world, the air was hard to breathe and the people felt literally suffocated. The residents of Leipzig decided to meet every Monday morning in the Nikolai Church to pray for peace, for basic freedom of speech and assembly. At first the numbers were most modest, but as attendance swelled they took the meetings to the ring road calling out "We are the people - no violence". These Monday demonstrations eventually reached tens of thousands and fears for the people's safety were real, but the authorities did nothing. Later, the communist rulers admitted they were prepared for terrorism or armed insurrection, but not for people holding prayer meetings and burning candles. The result was that the revolution rolled on to Berlin and eventually to the break up of the Berlin wall.

I am sure this will speak to you as it did to me, that the Lord God is always ready to act, but He likes to know that He is the one we look to for help.

Joan Bowker

ST LAURENCE'S TODDLER GROUP

There will be a toddler group meeting at St Laurence's on Tuesday mornings, starting after half term. If anyone has any toys in good condition suitable for pre-school children that they would be willing to donate we would be grateful. We are looking for construction toys, puzzles, cars, farm sets and the like, not soft toys.

If you have anything suitable that you would be willing to donate, please ring Katherine Bromley on 01584 874259 or via the pigeon-hole in church.

'How awesome is this place! This is none other than the House of God, and this is the gate of heaven.'

Sermon preached by Revd James Stewart - Dedication Festival

St Laurence Ludlow Sunday 18th October 2009

(Readings: Genesis 28.11-18; 1 Peter 2.1-10; John 10.22-29)

Today we are celebrating the Dedication Festival of our Church; the day when this building began its life as a holy place, when it was dedicated to the service of God. If the precise date is not known - and we don't; only the year, we think 1199 - then the Church Calendar allows us to hold our Festival on a Sunday in October appropriate to local circumstances. So we decided on today, because last night we held the meeting, which many of you attended, to mark the end of the first Phase of our Vision Project for the Parish, the initial consultation stage. The fruits of that are documented in the booklet, available last night and today, and to be delivered to some 4,500 households in the Parish, all we could find, which we canvassed in the consultation. We are also mounting a small exhibition outside St.Catherine's Chapel to display the findings for all to see, including of course the many visitors to the Church.

A Dedication Festival, as distinct from our Patronal Festival which celebrates the life and witness of our Patron, St.Laurence, is about celebrating especially the part that the church building plays in the life, worship, and mission of a Christian community; and that is the focus of our Vision Project. Although the catalyst is the urgent need to renew the crumbling floor and asthmatic heating system, the Project is about the life, worship and mission of our Parish, with its two churches here and at St.John's, to the community of Ludlow, and indeed to the parishes of the Team Ministry at whose heart we live. We have to attend to our buildings so that they are the servants and not the masters of our mission.

If you 'read', as architectural historians would say, an ancient parish church like this, it will tell you a history of change, of constant change, of adaptation, down the centuries mirroring social, cultural, theological, political change. It has come in fits and starts, and although we can discern national patterns, it has many local variations. Sometimes change has been sudden and violent. For example Cromwell's troopers were responsible for some of the most spectacular acts of vandalism ever committed against our ancient parish churches, smashing medieval stained glass, statues, screens, and ornaments of all sorts, fired by Puritan zeal to take the Church of the Elizabethan Settlement down the road of Protestant extremism. St.Laurence's, probably by chance and local circumstance, escaped much of that.

The genius and glory of the Church of England at its best has been to avoid such extremes; to be tolerant, inclusive, compassionate; to be large enough, generous enough in spirit to give a home to people of all sorts and conditions, moved by different experiences, embodying the full God-given richness of the

human spirit. Pray God that we may be true to that inheritance and continue to claim with meaning and conviction that our Church is catholic but reformed. So we don't have to have prejudices about incense or vestments or statues of Our Lady, but equally we don't nourish that priestly preciousness which can so disable lay people spiritually. And we do value good teaching and rigorous engagement with the scriptures, which is the antidote to the narrowness of Biblical literalism.

This is at the heart of what we celebrate today in our Festival of Dedication. Of course all these things can go astray, all sorts of idolatries are possible for us, of statues, of stained glass, of whole buildings, of dressing up, of the printed word on the page of the Bible. We may allow any or all of these to obscure what they are meant to illuminate – the glory of God, the glory of the Incarnation, the Word made flesh and dwelling among us full of grace and truth. But all such idolatries are in the eye of the beholder, and God took the risk of giving us eyes to see, and ears to hear, and lips to tell, and noses to smell, this wonderful liberating risk, this feast of the senses; and then He gave us intellect and imagination to use them, and this mirrors the risk that He took in coming among us in Christ. So today we celebrate colour, light, craft, art, embroidery, calligraphy, silver, bells, vestments, music, architecture, all these expressions of our God given talents and abilities and passions in the service of God and his people. *'Teach me, my God and King, in all things thee to see; and what I do in anything to do it as for thee.'*

But there is no church here worth the name if this building is not the home of a worshipping community, which is above all a eucharistic community. So this building must be a spiritual home if it is to live. But a spiritual home for whom? Well, the other glory of the Church of England which we celebrate today is surely that it is the church for all and for any. We have a unique place in the national life of this part of the Kingdom, England. Without debating the pros and cons of being the established church, we can rejoice in our historic role of being the church available to every inhabitant without fear or favour, whatever state of belief or unbelief they may be in. Every man, woman, and child lives in a parish and has a right to ask that we baptise them, marry them, bury them. This is a responsibility in which we should rejoice, a great privilege, and it gives us a particular place in the community.

That is why the building matters. I know that some have anxieties that the Vision Project focuses too much on buildings and not enough on mission. But for us the building is essential to our mission. If we were a house church meeting in somebody's front room then of course things would be different. But we aren't. We are the Church of England given the sacred trust of being here for all, a visible living presence in the community. So we are to be a spiritual home for all in our Parish, in our community. We are to set no boundaries, our door is always

to be open, our welcome always gracious, our hospitality always generous. That is the St. Laurence's we celebrate today. The church where generations of the people of Ludlow down the centuries have brought their hopes and fears, their joys and sadnesses, their mourning and their celebration, their thanksgivings and their confessions, and they have soaked these walls with their prayers. They may come too to eat and drink, to make music and to hear it, to buy and sell, to gossip and laugh and argue. They come too as Mayor and Councillors, as schoolchildren and students, as ex-servicemen and cadets.

So this church building belongs to us all, to all the people of this Parish, and indeed to the wider constituency of our Team Ministry and to the many thousands of visitors who come here. It belongs to us all, but is not the possession of any one of us or of any one interest group, be they regular worshippers or not, be they clergy or laity. That is the exciting challenge of the Vision Project – the project which I believe passionately is essential to the life and ministry of the Church here for generations ahead. So I urge you all to engage fully and positively with it. Today we should celebrate and give thanks for all the commitment and hours of hard work and thought and prayer which have been given to the Project by the Team in the past year – by Ewart Carson, Anna Branston, Don Beattie, Shaun Ward, Jeffrey Wilcox, Brian Curnew, and our consultant, Andrew Mottram. They deserve our thanks and our wholehearted support in the days ahead.

Of course we can go astray. Families, not least church families, all too often fall out about things, and pews are in a real sense no joke. We must guard against that by being open and honest with each other, raising our doubts and fears openly, and by listening to each other, and always in love and charity. We will do well to remember St. Peter's words in the epistle today: *'Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander.'* We must keep always our longing for the pure, spiritual milk which Christ gives us. If we keep our eyes on Christ we will not go astray. If we do, he will be the stone that makes us stumble, and the guide and companion who will set us on our feet again and back on the right road.

So at the heart of this all we must be a worshipping community united in Christ; above all a eucharistic community coming faithfully week in, week out, Sunday by Sunday, to the altar, to the Lord's table, to know the presence of Christ, to receive him in the bread broken and the wine poured out, becoming for us his body and his blood, to live in him that he may live in us. So nourished we are sent out to do God's work in his world, to carry the light of Christ, to love as he loves us, locally, nationally, internationally; to know that our neighbour in Christ

is whoever needs our faith in action, for faith without action is, as St. James says, dead.

We celebrate the glorious paradox of our faith that this great parish church stands immovable, reaching to heaven, so that we can live and move and change and have our being in Christ. The door stands open. We have tasted that the Lord is good. We are his sheep and we hear his voice. He knows us and we follow him. We go forth for God. Alleluia! Amen.

BEWARE - INVASION OF CHURCH MICE!

Those of you with keen eyes will spot the new lines in the shop this month, beautiful little reproduction wooden church mice, one praying and one singing. We will shortly also have a range of branded fudge, travel sweets and sugar 'church mice'.

If you're looking for the perfect Christmas presents we have new St Laurence's tea towels at £3.99, perfect for those who already have everything,; as well as the personalised pens, fine enamel jewellery, lots of musical gifts, beautiful ladies silk scarves and even the new tour guide with its beautiful photographs, all perfect stocking fillers!

Electoral roll members remember you can use your 10% on church products.

Thank you to all of you who support the shop; the shop is run and maintained by volunteers, all profits going towards the work of the church.

CHURCHWARDENS' CORNER

- **Harvest Supper:** Many thanks to all who in any way helped with, or participated in, last month's Harvest Supper. Not only was this a very enjoyable social occasion, but it also raised £280 towards church funds. Well done everybody.
- **The Welcoming Service for Bishop Alastair:** Again a big thank you to all who helped to make this service such a success. This really was St

Laurence's at its best in hosting a major event of this nature. All our efforts were greatly appreciated by both Alastair, Bishop of Ludlow and Anthony, Bishop of Hereford.

- **Volunteers:** So much of Ludlow life is totally dependent upon the goodwill and generosity of volunteers and, as we all know, St Laurence's is no different in this regard. We should love to hear from anyone who would be interested in helping with the following:
 - *Minute taking*- We are in need of someone to take and produce minutes for some of our PCC committees. Meetings are typically once a month for a maximum of two hours.
 - **Distributors** – During November we intend to do another mailing to the 4,500 households of Ludlow. This is to provide everyone with details of the Vision Project consultation exercise (in the form of a Frequently Asked Questions booklet), and details of the Christmas services taking place in the Parish. Naturally we hope that everyone who is able to will help with delivery in their own road. However, if there is anyone who could offer an extra hour or two to help with the wider delivery, we should like to hear from you. A list will be posted on a board in church for you to sign.
 - **Grant applications** – In order to boost income next year, we are planning a number of applications to grant giving organisations. If anyone has experience of writing and submitting grant applications and would like to help in this way, please do let us know.
 - **Christmas Bazaar** - This takes place on November 28th between 12noon and 4pm. The Summer Fete was an enormous success and we hope that you will be able to support this event in the same way. Please help us by selling your draw tickets, bringing bric a brac, toy, toiletries, bottles, cakes, books over the next few weeks. If you would like to be involved please come and speak to us or sign the list on the chest at the back of church.

Most importantly come on the day, invite your family and friends and enjoy the occasion.

Anna Branston and Ewart Carson

From Brian and Tessa Curnew

First, this is a great thank you to everyone who reads this, for the tremendous support we have received since 10 September, as Imogen's death became known. For prayers, for cards, letters and messages we and her sisters Rose and Miranda are all profoundly grateful. This is the case, in a special way, to those who played any part on the day of her funeral, Monday 21 September. Thank you all.

Brian's last Sunday as Team Rector will be 29 November (Advent Sunday). We look forward to the Parish Communion for the whole Team Ministry that day, at 10.am in St. Laurence's – and then to a tea that afternoon in Ludlow School Hall.

When a priest moves parishes, there are often a lot of people from the 'old' parishes who come to the inaugural service in the new. But it is nearly 500 miles round trip to Headcorn in Kent. Anyone will be welcome, on Thursday 10 December in the evening!

This distance means that gathering with you here is all the more important to us, and we are really hoping that people from all aspects of our Ludlow lives will be able to come. That is a reason for the afternoon time – to assist people of other churches (and none) to join us.

So, please make it a date, in Ludlow School Hall between 2 and 5pm. Come when you can. The point is to see you! There will be a focus 3-4pm, with some music and words performed by children from St. Laurence's School, and other friends.

“Chaqu'un a son Gout” or “What's your taste?”

No, this is not a comparison of either grapes or vintages – of them I know precious little, anyway, taste has a much wider context. I'm writing about worship and liturgies – don't sign out yet, please!

A little sip of history first. In the midst of the of Henry V111's marital and political shenanigans - (Oh, that Arthur had survived his Ludlow 'flu!) - a grape of great worth was found on the vine of the church in England. His name was Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury. One of his aims, apart from being a married priest, was to make accessible to the average English (and one should add, Welsh) worshipper the historic liturgy of the church. Thus the 1549 Book of Common Prayer, from which has flowed its revised successors. Until late in the last century the BCP has formed the staple of public worship in the Church

of England. Language was not the only change. What was made accessible were the non-eucharistic 'Offices', hitherto confined to monastic establishments. The seven services of the day, beginning in the early hours and going on till bed-time, were conflated into two – Morning and Evening Prayer. They were to be the people's prayer too. So enshrined in each BCP for 400 years or so were the 'Offices' of Matins and Evensong.

There is a lot to be said for the contemporary communion services of the new era, a proper understanding and re-enactment of the 'drama' of the gospel events, in effect, a joyous and active response to what God has done, does, and will do, in his work of salvation. And I love the various expressions of eucharistic worship because they involve me in that action.

Yet, I like many others, feel the need for what I can only describe as less active participation. I need space for a more reflective and contemplative worship. So, both Matins and Evensong, Cranmer's gift to the church, give me with this very space.

Here at St Laurence's both services occupy a crucially important place in the varied spectrum of the types of worship offered to God for his people. From the Reformation on music has been an integral accompaniment to them, and here we continue in that glorious tradition of Matins and Evensong according to the Book of Common Prayer. The music, from incomparable Anglican Chant for the psalms, plainsong, beautiful settings for the canticles, and the anthems we learn of the gift the the church of our islands gives to the wider church. It is a tradition that many non and irregular churchgoers are beginning to appreciate more, and have a right to expect in this, one of the Greater Churches in England. The number at both of them is increasing. To sit in the ancient and venerable stalls and let the excellent singing of our choir lift one's heart and soul is a privilege as well as a duty of prayer. It may seem to some that by letting the choir 'do' the service for one is an abrogation of one's rights (ugh!- ugly word, ugly thought). No, it is the thrill of letting go and being taken – upwards, through both the sung and spoken words of scripture and prayer. I, at least, come away from both of them quieted in myself, rested in the Lord, if you will; a marvellous preparation for what what lies ahead in the short span of life we are given. So, thank you St Laurence's Choir and Thomas Cranmer for your gifts. And reader, why not taste and see.....?

Jeffry Wilcox



The Rotary Club of Ludlow



Shropshire

Public Relations Officer: Rotarian Rosemary Wood

01584 877771, rosemary.wood3@virgin.net

LUDLOW TREE OF LIGHT SUPPORTS LOCAL CHARITIES

This Christmas, the Rotary Club of Ludlow will again be setting up a 'Tree of Light' in the town centre. A beautiful 25ft Norwegian Spruce tree, supplied by the Forestry Commission, will be decorated with white lights and situated close to the Castle.

"Last year was an outstanding success, and this year we hope to raise even more money", said Ludlow President, Michael Evans. "The tree will be covered in hundreds of white lights, and residents and visitors are invited to sponsor a 'non-specific light' in memory of a loved one or a happy event. The minimum donation is £5, and proceeds go to local charities."

Each light will be acknowledged in a number of ways, in that the name of the person, occasion or cause commemorated will be published once in the Ludlow Advertiser and listed on the Rotary Club of Ludlow website (www.ludlowrotaryclub.org.uk). And all dedications will be recorded in the Book of Remembrance on display in Ludlow Library.

The money will be divided equally between Ludlow and District Riding for the Disabled, Macmillan Cancer Support, Midlands Air Ambulance and The Town Mayor's Charity 'Working Together'.

"But in order to ensure that as much as possible goes to these charities, we are looking to cover our administrative costs through commercial sponsorship and fund raising", said Michael. "Sponsors to date include Acaster LLP, Dyke Ruscoe & Hayes Ltd, Fishmore Hall and Hendra House Residential Care Home.

Any individual wishing to receive a sponsor form for a light and personal dedication should phone Rotarian Rosemary Wood on 01584 877771 or email rosemary.wood3@virgin.net. Forms are also available from the VIC in Castle Square.

FRIDAY 27 NOVEMBER

Bell Inn Brass Band

7.30pm

Stanton Lacy

Tickets on the door £6.00 including refreshments

Contact Janet Allwood 01584 823643

Traidcraft Fair Trade Christmas Fair

Saturday 21st November

10am – 4pm

Ludlow Conference Centre, Lower Galdeford

FREE ADMISSION

Choose fair trade gifts this Christmas
and support Traidcraft in fighting poverty through fair trade

Ludlow Team Ministry Mother's Union

Fund Raising Afternoon

Tuesday 10th November

2.30pm

at

Ludlow Conference Centre

Tea's Stalls Raffle

in aid of

Overseas Fund

Kenya is needing Emergency Food supplies for the 10 million that are under the
threat of starvation because of a failed harvest

Please Join Us

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

November sees a number of interesting events taking place in St Laurence's Church including:

Friday 6 November	English String Orchestra 7.30pm
Thursday 12 November	Wine tasting (Bentley's Wines) and supper 6.30pm
Saturday 21 November	Ludlow Choral Society concert 7.30pm
Thursday 26 November	Boyan Ensemble 7.30pm
Saturday 28 November	Christmas Bazaar

Further details will be available shortly, or in the meantime contact the Churchwardens for more information.

FUNDRAISING IN NOVEMBER

November sees two events designed to raise funds for St Laurence's Church. Please join us if you can.

Tutored Wine Tasting

Thursday 12 November at 6.30pm

The first is a tutored wine tasting, comparing Old World and New World wines. This will be led by Will Bentley. The tasting will be followed by a light supper. This should be a very enjoyable and informative evening, so please help to raise funds for St Laurence's by joining us. Tickets, at £15, are available from the St Laurence Shop or from Bentleys in Castle Street.

Sponsored Hymn Sing

Sunday morning, 15 November

The second is a sponsored hymn sing. A similar event last year was both very enjoyable and very successful, so please do join in again this time. Sponsorship forms will be available in St Laurence's Church, so you can still suggest a hymn and provide sponsorship even if you cannot be there on the morning.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Sunday 28 November 12noon – 4pm

Please help us by selling your draw tickets, bringing bric a brac, toy, toiletries, bottles, cakes, books over the next few weeks. If you would like to be involved please come and speak to either Anna or Ewart. Most importantly come on the day, invite your family and friends and enjoy the occasion.

ST LAURENCE'S PARISH CHURCH, LUDLOW

Saturday 21 November

7.30pm Ludlow Choral Society Concert

Haydn *Missa Sancti Nicolai*; Britten *St Nicholas*

**Tickets available from The Silk Top Hat Gallery,
Quality Sq / Tourist Information Centre, Market Sq.**

Crossing the Threshold' - 19th November 2009

A community development approach to the use of Church Buildings

At The Point4, Royal National College - Hereford, HR1 1DT

Come and see successful projects and case studies:

Find out how to build partnerships with local and regional bodies
Update on 'Building Faith in our Future' 5 years on
Be present for the launch of the DVD and Toolkit

**For further information please contact [Joanne Gibbon](mailto:j.gibbon@hereford.anglican.org) on 01584
871089**

**e-mail: j.gibbon@hereford.anglican.org or view the website at
www.hereford.anglican.org**

A-Z of Churchyard Conservation

K is for Knapweed

Common knapweed is a perennial of pastures, meadows and road verges, enjoying conditions of low to moderate fertility. Around 100 tiny purple flowers are gathered together into a purple flower head. The flowers provide nectar for many insects and the seeds are a valuable food for both insects and small mammals.

Girls used to use the flowers in a love-divination game. They would pick the flowers off a flower head and put the remaining buds inside their blouse. After an hour if the remaining buds had blossomed it was said the man she would marry would soon come her way!

For information on wild plants and initiatives for their conservation contact Plantlife 01722 342730 www.plantlife.org.uk

For information on managing churchyard grassland contact Caring for God's Acre, the conservation charity for churchyards and burial grounds, 01568 611154, www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk

Royal British Legion

Royal British Legion Woman's Section Poppy Coffee Morning
Saturday 7th November 2009
10am – 12noon
Victory House, Mill Street, Ludlow

Advent Carol Service

by candlelight

The Choir of St Laurence's
St Laurence Ludlow
29 November
5.30 pm

THE CONSERVATION TRUST FOR ST LAURENCE

Christmas Card for 2009

**'Children from Ludlow C of E School with their snowman'
'View of the Church & Town'**

A specially commissioned watercolour by Dr Polly Hamilton has been given to the Trust for use as their Christmas card for 2009, photographs by Helen Coleman Jen Davies, and Ian Schofield we do hope you will approve and purchase the cards. **£2.50 per pack of 5 cards**

Also available 'Places in Shropshire' Quiz test your local knowledge **£1.00 each**

At a glance 2010 calendar **£1.20 each**

All available at:

The Church Bookstall, Tourist information Centre & Castle Bookshop
Jen Davies, Conservation Trust

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

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

In response to the many wishes for sharing insights of faith, **we are to hold regular sessions after the 9.30 Parish Eucharist on the first Sunday of the month beginning on Sunday December 6th when we can do just that - learn from each other the wonderful Christian faith which is ours.** The sessions will not be long, but they will be deep! It is amazing what treasures we hold in the 'earthenware' jars that we are which we are called to share.

So, friends, will you walk a little way with me? I will lead the first session on the 6th Dec.

Jeffry Wilcox

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Hereford Leominster Ludlow Group (A67)

Prisoners of Conscience Greetings Appeal 2009

Wang Yonghang is lawyer in China who has defended members of a sect called the Falun Gong.

As a result, he has been arrested, beaten and his home searched. He is no longer allowed to practice law. None of his family now knows where he is or how long he will be kept in prison. When his lawyers tried to see him but were refused access and he was kept in detention for more than 24 hours without his family being allowed to see him. Both of these actions violate China's own laws.

Wang Yonghang's right to live without fear are, like yours, is enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a right for everyone, everywhere.

If example of this man moves you at all, this is your chance to do something.

This year, as every year, Amnesty International will produce a leaflet with the stories and addresses of people, of all faiths and none, to whom you can send a card to show that they are not forgotten. The leaflets are free, all you need is a card, (postcards are cheaper) stamp, pen and an airmail sticker.

To receive a leaflet, contact me at the address above and you will receive the leaflet as soon as possible. (You will not be asked for money or to join Amnesty.)

(The campaign runs until the end of next January and anyone who has joined this scheme previously will receive a leaflet automatically.)

Stephen Dalton
Hereford Leominster Ludlow Amnesty Group

FROM THE REGISTERS
BAPTISMS

11.10.09	Macy Bounds	St John
25.10.09	Tommy Turner	St Laurence
25.10.09	Abigail & Henry Klat-Smith	St Laurence

WEDDINGS/BLESSING

11.10.09	Liz & Bob Birnie	St Giles
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FUNERALS

22.09.09	Eric Bridge	H/Crem
28.09.09	Dennis Allsop	St Laurence
1.10.09	Frank Levers	H/Crem
2.10.09	John Stevens	H/Crem
9.10.09	John Harris	St Giles
9.10.09	Joan Fletcher	St Giles
17.10.09	Samuel Gilchrist	St John
21.10.09	Les Wilding	St John
23.10.09	George Blount	St John

GREATER CHURCHES CONFERENCE

In the middle of October Anna Branston, James Stewart and I attended the Greater Churches Conference in Bath. The conference sponsored by EIG, our insurers, met at the Ammerdown conference and retreat centre near Radstock, set in the beautiful grounds of a country house. Representatives from over 20 churches attended: Rectors, Vicars, Wardens, Administrators and Directors of Music. During the conference we visited St Mary Redcliffe in Bristol (my old school) and Bath Abbey. We also listened to key note speakers on the future of historic buildings such as ours, including Andrew Mottram, who we know well in Ludlow, and John Yates from English Heritage. Both gave fascinating insights into the changing church; St Laurence's toilet and kitchen pod were used as examples! The conference was rounded off by an after dinner speech *Soulful Magic* by Mark Townsend, our former curate here in Ludlow.

The conference is an excellent opportunity for us to meet others who face many of the issues and challenges we do in Ludlow. As some of you will know I sit as one of the two lay representatives on the GCG committee. I have included the recent newsletter so that you can see some of the work we do on your behalf.

Shaun Ward

For next six pages see other attachment Greater Churches Newsletter

SUNDAY READINGS FROM THE BIBLE

1 November All Saints' Day White	Isaiah 25.6-9 Psalms 24 Revelation 21.1-6a John 11.32-44
8 November 3rd Sunday before Advent Red/Green (Remembrance Sunday)	Jonah 3.1-5, 10 Psalms 62 Hebrews 9.24-28 Mark 1.14-20
15 November 2nd Sunday before Advent Red/Green	Daniel 12.1-3 Psalms 16 Hebrews 10.11-14 [15-18] 19-25 Mark 13.1-8
22 November Christ the King White	Daniel 7.9-10, 13-14 Psalms 93 Revelation 1.4b-8 John 18.33-37
29 November 1st Sunday of Advent Purple	Jeremiah 33: 14-16 Psalms 25 1-9 1 Thessalonians 3: 9-end Luke 21: 25-36

ST LAURENCE'S CHOIR SING AT CATHEDRAL

The junior and adult choristers of St Laurence's sang three services at Hereford Cathedral on Oct 25th. The standard was extremely high and I have received many favourable comments from both the cathedral congregation and the Dean & Chapter. This marks a milestone as an achievement for the choir. It is all too easy to take for granted the enormous commitment it takes to belong to such a choir, two practices a week and two services as a minimum before all the specials! The choir sang *Haydn* Little Organ Mass with Ludlow's Gemma Bushfield as soprano soloist, followed directly by full choral matins and choral evensong in the afternoon. The Dean & Chapter were especially pleased to have us singing as it was the feast of the translation of the shrine of St Thomas Canteloupe. At evensong there was a procession to the shrine where we then performed *Victoria's* O Quam Gloriosum surrounded by clouds of incense!

FAREWELL TO THE TEAM RECTOR

The Parish Church of St Laurence with St John, Ludlow

Joint Service for St John's & St Laurence's

Celebrating Brian's ministry to the Parish of Ludlow

9.30am Parish Communion

The Right Reverend Anthony Priddis *Celebrant & Preacher*

**LUDLOW TEAM MINISTRY
SUNDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2009**

To mark the departure to Kent of Brian and Tessa Curnew

You and yours are invited to

A Tea Party

In Ludlow School Hall

2-5pm

to come as and when you are able

but with a special focus 3-4pm

**Brian will preside and preach that day at the Parish Communion
for the whole Team Ministry in St. Laurence's Church at 10am**

**It would help us with catering if you could let us know
if you plan to come – please contact the Parish Office on
(01584) 872073 or email: office@stlaurences.org.uk**

NOVEMBER

1	Sun		All Saints Patronal Festival <i>All Saints, Culmington</i> Patronal – <i>Richards Castle</i> Baptism John-David Richard Rice – <i>Caynham</i>
2	Mon	10.30am 7pm	Prayer Fellowship Meeting 3, Greenacres, Ludlow All Souls Requiem – <i>St Laurence</i>
3	Tue		PCC Meeting – <i>Knowbury</i>
6	Fri	1.50pm 2.30pm 7.30pm	Churches Together Executive committee – Woodlands Korean Veteran’s Assoc – <i>St Laurence</i> English Strung Orchestra, <i>St Laurence</i>
7	Sat	10.15am 11.00am	Churches Together – <i>Quiet Day Hennor House</i> <i>St Leonards Remembrance Service</i>
8	Sun		Third Sunday before Advent Remembrance Sunday Baptism Benjamin Rawlings – <i>St Giles</i>
10	Tue	2.30pm 7.30pm	Mothers Union Meeting – Fund Raising afternoon In Aid of MU Work Oversea’s PCC Meeting – <i>Ashford Carbonel Village Hall</i>
11	Wed	2pm	Four Rivers Nursing Home Remembrance Service (CTAL)
12	Thur	10.30am 7.30pm	Prayer Group St Catherine’s Chapel <i>St Laurence</i> Fashion Show in aid of Bromfield Church, Tickets £5.00 from Edinburgh Woollen Mill – <i>Edinburgh Woollen Mill</i>
14	Sat		<i>Conservation Trust Evening Concert at St Laurence, Craven Arms and Ludlow, Male Voice Chiors, setting up in the afternoon</i>
15	Sun		Second Sunday before Advent Inter faith week 15-21 November Healing Service – <i>Ashford Carbonel</i>
16	Mon	10.30am	Please note St Giles will be out of action this week due to works in progress Prayer Fellowship Meeting – 3, Greenacres, Ludlow PCC Meeting – <i>Caynham</i>
21	Sat	9.30am 10-4pm 1pm 7.30pm	Peal of Bells for Revd Brian Curnew Traidcraft Fair Trade Christmas Fair free admission– <i>Ludlow Conference Centre</i> Blessing Edwards/Lane – <i>Bromfield</i> Ludlow Choral Society – Concert – <i>St Laurence</i>
22	Sun	3.30pm 6.30pm	Christ the King – Celebrant & Preacher Bp Anthony Priddis Confirmation Service Bp Alistair Magowen – <i>St Laurence</i> Evensong – <i>Ashford Bowdler</i>
23	Mon		PCC Meeting – <i>Bitterley & Middleton</i>
25	Wed	7.15pm	Churches Together AGM – <i>Zion Room</i>
26	Thur	7.30pm	Boyan Ensemble Concert – <i>St Laurence</i>
27	Fri	7.30pm 7.30pm	<i>Baptism Prep Evening</i> Bell Inn Brass Band – Stanton Lacy tickets £6.00 including refreshment contact <i>Janet Allwood 01584 823643</i>
29	Sun	9.30am	Advent Sunday Advent Carol Service 5.30pm St Laurence’s Ashford Group 5 th Sunday Eucharist – <i>All Saints Richard Castle</i>
30	Mon	10.30am 7pm	Prayer Fellowship Meeting 3, Greenacres, Ludlow Patronal – <i>Ashford Bowdler</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	Ms Anna Branston, Wootton House, Livesey Road	876958
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	Mrs C. Turner, 6 Mayfields, Ludlow	875379
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
Parishes' Prayer Fellowship	Mrs M. Wright, 3 Greenacres	873125

Sponsored Hymn Sing

St Laurence, Ludlow

15 November

Following the 9.30 am Parish Communion

Sponsorship forms will be available in St Laurence's Church, so you can still suggest a hymn and provide sponsorship even if you cannot be there on the morning.

A similar event two years ago was both very enjoyable and very successful, so please do join in again this time.

BBC SHROPSHIRE CAROL SERVICE

with the Brass, Organ, Choir & Handbells of St Laurence

St Laurence, Ludlow

6 December 5.30 pm

(doors open 4.45 pm, please be seated by 5pm)

Entrance by free ticket available from the St Laurence Shop