

LUDLOW TEAM MINISTRY

# LUDLOW TOWERS

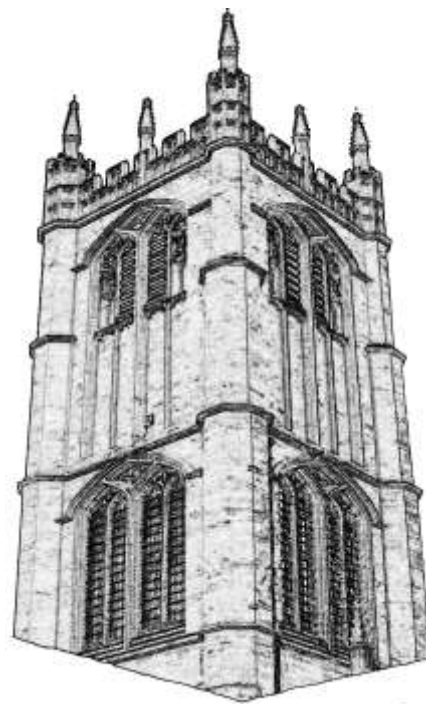
*Ludlow & Ludford  
Parishes Magazine*

*November 2011*

St. Johns



St. Giles



St. Laurence

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

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

## THE PARISHES' OFFICE

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Parishes' Secretary	Mrs Lesley Draper	872073
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### CLERGY (*Days off are shown in brackets*)

Team Rector Designate	The Venerable Colin Williams	(Thur)	872001
	<b>Rector's Office (direct)</b>		<b>875907</b>
Team Vicars	Revd Richard Green	(Fri)	831113
	Revd Maree Wilson	(Fri)	856731
Assistant Priest	Revd Prebendary Ann Barge	(Wed)	877307
Curate	Revd John Beesley	(Tues)	874383

### NORMAL SUNDAY SERVICES

<b>St Laurence</b>	8 am	Holy Communion BCP
	9.30 am	Parish Communion
		2nd Sunday Choral Communion
	11.30 am	2nd and 4th Sunday Choral Matins
	3.30 pm	1st and 3rd Sundays Choral Evensong
		(No 3rd service on the 5th Sunday of the month)

<b>St John</b>	9.30 am	Holy Communion with Hymns
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<b>St Giles</b>	11.15 am	Holy Communion
		1st Sunday Family Service
		Last Sunday Godly Play

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## ★ ★ ★ ★ **Editor's** Note \* \* \* \*

We are returning to monthly issues of this Magazine which will appear ten times a year – December/January and July/August will be combined issues. (See page 30 for dates for submitting material for inclusion in each issue).

# SUNDAY SERVICES NOVEMBER 2011

## **6 November:**

St Laurence	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	9.30am	Parish Eucharist
St John	9.30am	Holy Communion
St Giles	11.15am	Family Service

## **13 November:**

St Laurence	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	9.00am	Choral Eucharist ( <i>note earlier time</i> )
	10.45am	Remembrance Service ( <i>Please be seated by 10.30am</i> )
St John	9.30am	Holy Communion
St Giles	11.15am	Holy Communion

## **20 November:**

St Laurence	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	9.30am	Parish Eucharist
	3.30pm	Choral Evensong
St John	9.30am	Holy Communion
St Giles	11.15am	Holy Communion

## **27 November:**

St Laurence	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	9.30am	Parish Eucharist
	11.30am	Morning Prayer
	5.30pm	Advent Carol Service
St John	9.30am	Holy Communion
St Giles	11.15am	Holy Communion

SUNDAY READINGS FROM THE BIBLE  
FOR NOVEMBER 2011

**6 November:** Third Sunday before Advent (Proper 27) Red/Green

**OT:**           **Amos 5:18 - 24**  
                  **Psalm 70**

**NT:**           1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

**Gospel:**      **Matthew 25:1-13**

**13 November:** Remembrance Sunday Red/Green

**OT:**           Isa.10:33-11:9, Isa.32:1-2,12-18,  
                  Ezekiel 37:1-14, Micah 4:1-7, Eccus. 51:1-12  
                  Psalms 46, 47, 93, 130

**NT:**           Romans 8:31-end, Eph.2:13-18, 1 Tim.2:1-6, James 3:13-end

**Gospel:**      Matt.5:1-12, John 14:23-29, John 15:9-17, John 16:23a-end

**13 November:** Second Sunday before Advent (Proper 28) Red/Green

**OT:**           **Zephaniah 1:7, 12-end**  
                  **Psalm 90:1-8 (9-11) 12 [or 1-8]**

**NT:**           1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

**Gospel:**      **Matthew 25:14-30**

**20 November:** Christ the King Red/White

**OT:**           **Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24**  
                  **Psalm 95:1-7**

**NT:**           Ephesians 1:15-end

**Gospel:**      **Matthew 25:31-end**

**27 November:** First Sunday of Advent Purple

**OT:**           **Isaiah 64:1-9**  
                  **Psalm 80:1-8, 18-20 [or 80:1-8]**

**NT:**           1 Corinthians 1:3-9

**Gospel:**      **Mark 13:24-end**

PATTERN OF DAILY WORSHIP  
IN AND AROUND THE TOWN:

Monday	8.00 am Morning Prayer 8.30 am Holy Eucharist <i>(doors open from 7.30 am)</i>	St Laurence
	5.30 pm Evening Prayer	Ashford Carbonell
Tuesday	8.00 am Morning Prayer 8.30 am Holy Eucharist <i>(doors open from 7.30 am)</i> 5.30 pm Evening Prayer	St Laurence
	8.00 am Morning Prayer 5.30 pm Evening Prayer	Ashford Carbonell
Wednesday	8.00 am Morning Prayer 8.30 am Holy Eucharist <i>(doors open from 7.30 am)</i>	St Giles
	11.00 am Holy Eucharist 5.30 pm Evening Prayer	St Laurence
	5.30 pm Evening Prayer	Ashford Carbonell
Thursday	7.30 am Holy Eucharist 8.00 am Holy Eucharist <i>(doors open from 7.30 am)</i> 5.30 pm Evening Prayer	St Laurence
	5.30 pm Evening Prayer	Ashford Carbonell
Friday	8.00 am Morning Prayer 8.30 am Holy Eucharist <i>(doors open from 7.30 am)</i>	St John
	5.30 pm Sung Compline	St Laurence

# CALENDAR - NOVEMBER 2011

<i>Date</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>
1	Tues	7.30pm	<b>All Saints Day</b> Boyan Ensemble – <i>St Laurence</i>
2	Wed	7.15 pm	<b>All Souls Day</b> All Souls Eucharist – <i>St Laurence</i>
3	Thurs	2.30pm	Afternoon teas Ashford Carbonel & Knowbury Village Halls Deanery Chapter Retreat 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4th
4	Fri		
5	Sat		Bitterley Bonfire & Fireworks
6	<b>Sun</b>	11am 3.30pm	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday before Advent</b> St Laurence discussion group Service for the Bereaved – <i>St John</i>
7	Mon	2pm 7.30pm	Ludlow & South Shropshire Hearing Club Meeting – <i>St Peters Church</i> Ashford Carbonel PCC – <i>Village Hall</i>
8	Tues	2pm 2.30pm	Four Rivers Nursing Home Remembrance Service – Churches Together. Mothers Union Meeting AGM - Rector: Ven Colin Williams – <i>Ludlow Conference Centre</i>
9	Wed	2 pm	Korean War Veterans Service – <i>St Laurence South Porch</i>
10	Thurs	10.30am	Prayer Group (arrange different venue for next time please) – <i>St Catherine's Chapel, St Laurence</i>
11	Fri	8pm	Grand Karaoke evening with Rachel Hyde (proceeds to All Saints Culmington) – <i>Culmington Village Hall</i>
12	Sat	11am	St Leonards Remembrance Service (John Aitken) Knowbury PCC Wine Tasting
13	<b>Sun</b>		<b>Remembrance Sunday / 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Advent</b>

14	Mon	10.30am 7pm	Prayer Fellowship – 3 Greenacres, Ludlow Ashford Bowdler PCC – Church House
15	Tues	2 pm	Churches Together Home Communion – Four Rivers
16	Wed	7.30 pm 7.00 pm	Lunch for Retired Clergy – Ludlow Conference Centre Caynham PCC – Primrose Bank Wine, Supper & All that Jazz, Simon King Trio – School Room, Ludlow College
17	Thurs	2.30pm	Afternoon teas at Ashford Carbonel & Knowbury Village Halls
18	Fri		
19	Sat	7.30pm 7.30pm	Ludlow Choral Society – St Laurence Caynham Quiz Night – Village Hall
<b>20</b>	<b>Sun</b>	3.30pm	<b>Christ the King / next before Advent</b> Healing Service – Ashford Carbonel
21	Mon		Bitterley & Middleton PCC
22	Tues	2.30pm	Knowbury Fundraising Planning Meeting
23	Wed		
24	Thurs		
25	Fri	12.30 pm 7.30pm 7.30pm	CTAL Lunch & Discussion – The Garden Room, Methodist church Baptism Prep Evening – St John's Bell Inn Brass Band - entrance £6.50 (on the door) includes Refreshments – St Peters Church, Stanton Lacy
26	Sat	11.30am	St Laurence Bazaar
<b>27</b>	<b>Sun</b>	5.30pm 6.30pm	<b>Advent</b> Advent Carol Service – St Laurence Evensong – Ashford Bowdler
28	Mon	10.30am 3pm	Prayer Fellowship – 3 Greenacres, Ludlow Knowbury PCC – 7 Sycamore Grove
29	Tues		
30	Wed	7 pm	Ashford Bowdler Patronal Festival

## CLERGY LETTER

The late flush of warm sunny days has made this a memorable autumn. But as the chill winds strip the trees of their blazing-coloured leaves and the dark misty mornings take over our days, we move into a more reflective season in our churches. November can be a month for quiet and prayerful reflection after the busyness of the summer. Walking in leaf-strewn woods and breathing the musky smells of fallen leaves can be evocative of prayer. This is the time for the celebration of the saints, and for 'remembrance'. But although this season takes on a sombre and mysterious mood we never lose that sense of hope and anticipation which leads us towards the following season of Advent.

A well known adage suggests 'Pray as you can, not as you can't, but do pray!' Good advice but how and where? There are many approaches including our daily acts of worship in our churches. Some people get up a little bit earlier and have a quiet reflective time before the rest of the family stirs. Others pray whilst walking the dog, listening to music in the car or travelling on the train. We can carve out times of stillness when we bring our needs into God's presence.

But we can also pray where we are, celebrating both the calm and the busyness of our lives. 'The Practice of the Presence of God' is a classic book, which has been inspiration to prayer. It was written about a cook called Nicholas Herman, better known as 'Brother Lawrence', who lived in Lorraine in France in the early seventeenth century. It was the time of the Thirty Years War in Europe, and Nicholas joined the army in his teens. However, he had an unforgettable life-changing encounter with God which brought a conversion and a different attitude. After eighteen years in the army he was invalided out and eventually found himself in the kitchen of a Carmelite monastery near Paris.

Brother Lawrence was lame, clumsy and had an aversion to cooking so the bustle and the stress of a busy kitchen cannot have been easy for him. But he said that 'time of busyness does not differ with me from the time of prayer: and in the noise and clatter of my kitchen, while several persons are at the same time calling for different things, I possess God in as great a tranquillity as if I were on my knees'. This sentiment draws upon St Paul who stresses that we are saved by grace (Ephesians 2:8), we minister by

grace (Ephesians 3:8) and we are what we are by the grace which is poured on us in great abundance (1 Corinthians 15:10) and (1 Timothy 1:14).

So this month, whether we pray in the countryside, in the silence of a church or in the midst of our daily lives, may we develop a sense of the presence of God, through our willingness to offer God our work and our activities each day so that these momentary prayers grow and extend as they inform the whole of our lives.

*Revd Maree Wilson*



## FROM THE BISHOP

One of the benefits of having to drive regularly as part of my Episcopal ministry is that I get the opportunity to listen to the radio. Sometimes the journey and the hour coincide affording me the pleasure of listening to the Today programme and catching up on current affairs. Those of you who listen to that programme will know that topics stretch far and wide from concerns over growing obesity levels, to bankers' bonuses to environmental concerns, to the latest parliamentary concerns or political intrigue. John Humphries and James Naughtie seem to me to be particularly good at asking the penetrating and hard questions of those who come their way. Theirs is the knack of exposing what might be mere rhetoric or political posturing. At the heart of the questioning or debate is a challenge to integrity and right action. In an information saturated age we desire wisdom.

The Oxford English Dictionary defines wisdom as a combination of experience and knowledge with the power of applying them. Euripides a 5<sup>th</sup> century BC Greek playwright wrote: *Cleverness is not wisdom*. In a not too dissimilar vein Nelson Mandela is reputed to have said: *A good head and a good heart are always a formidable combination*. We live in an age, more than most, where information abounds and access to it is speedy if not instant. Knowing what is required is no longer the fundamental concern. The issue instead is whether those who know what is right have the will or strength to do it. Sadly wisdom is often in short supply.

In the Church's calendar we are entering what is known as the Kingdom season culminating on Christ the King Sunday just before Advent. The

gospels are full of wisdom much of which comes through the teaching of Jesus. He, in so many ways, embodies wisdom. It is one thing to say; follow that, it is quite another to do it. We might fairly ask is such wisdom attainable and if so how? The gospels and indeed the Bible suggest that we cannot on our own. Instead we need and are offered God's life and strength. William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury in the 1940s, gets to the point using Shakespeare as an illustration: *It is no good giving me a play like Hamlet or King Lear and telling me to write a play like that. Shakespeare could do it - I can't. And it is no good showing me a life like the life of Jesus and telling me to live a life like that. Jesus could do it - I can't. But if the genius of Shakespeare could come and live in me, then I could write plays like this. And if the Spirit could come into me, then I could live a life like His.*

+Alistair



## FROM THE RECTOR

### *Worship in November*

Alongside our regular worship, there are some exciting opportunities for worship in November.

- *Wednesday, November 2 – All Souls Day Eucharist – 7.15 pm – St. Laurence's*

As is customary on this day we will offer the Eucharist for all who have died. There will be the opportunity in the weeks leading up to All Souls' Day to offer names of individuals who will then be prayed for by name at this Eucharist. The setting of the Requiem by Gabriel Faure will be sung.

- *Sunday, November 6 – Service for recently bereaved – 3.30 pm – St. John's*

We have written to all those families for whom we have presided at funeral services for loved ones during the last year to invite them to this simple service at which those whom they have lost will be remembered by name and candles will be lit in their honour. All are welcome.

- *Sunday, November 13 – Remembrance Sunday Service – St. Laurence’s – 10.45 am (All seated by 10.30)*  
The people of Ludlow will remember and give thanks for all who have laid down their lives in service of their country.

- *Sunday, November 27 – Advent Sunday – Advent Carol Service – St. Laurence’s – 5.30 pm*

A much loved prelude to the season of Advent with music and darkness and light to express our longing for the coming of Christ into the darkness of our world.

*Confirmation Service* - Please remember in your prayers all who are preparing for Confirmation by Bishop Alistair in St. Laurence’s on Sunday, December 11 at 3.30 pm.

*Advent* begins on Sunday, November 27. Please do look carefully at the various ways in which Advent can be kept. A daily prayer sheet will be available

*Thank you* to all those who supported Harvest in all three churches – and especially all at St. Laurence’s and St. John’s who provided food for the homeless and to those in all three churches who took harvest gifts to the housebound.

*Team-wide Retreat* - All who would like to do so are invited to take part in a Team-wide Retreat at Llangasty from April 24 to April 26, 2012.

*[For details of this retreat please see page 18 - Ed.]*

*In Memoriam* - Our prayers are with Phil Ross whose much loved wife Trish died at the end of August.

We give thanks too for the long life and faithful priestly service of Canon Cyril Rodgers who died at the end of September.

*Congratulations* to Elizabeth Nixon who celebrated her 70<sup>th</sup> birthday in September.

*Colin Williams*



CHURCHWARDENS’ CORNER

***Jonathon Nicholls***

We are delighted to welcome (back!) Jonathon, who in addition to having recently been appointed as our Postgraduate Organ Scholar and Assistant Director of Music until next summer, has also been appointed as Assistant Verger, following the resignation of Katherine Bromley. The pattern of verging will now be that Jonathon will normally work Thursday and Friday of one week, followed by Saturday and Sunday of the following week, with Joe Brennan being on duty on the remaining days. So once again we shall benefit from seven day cover in our increasingly busy St Laurence's Church.

### ***PCC Secretary***

We are delighted to report that we have finally managed to fill the position of PCC Secretary. We warmly welcome Val Hardwick who has taken up this position with effect from the September meeting of the PCC. Val is very active in her own parish of Culmington and will be known to many of our readers through her involvement with Cards for Good Causes in St Laurence's.

### ***Fund-raising events in 2012 – Can you help?***

We are starting to think about events that we might hold during the course of next year to raise funds over and above what members of the congregation will be providing through their Planned Giving. Thoughts to date include an *Auction of Promises* (we last held such an event very successfully some three years ago) and a *Barn Dance* which would appeal to all ages. Would you like to help organise either of these events? If so, please do let one of us know in connection with the Auction of Promises, or Barry Forrester for the Barn Dance. We should like to hear of any other ideas that you might have to help us raise funds.

### ***Wish list***

***Opportunities to volunteer:*** Previous appeals in this Corner have resulted in a number of you volunteering to help with administrative and secretarial tasks; and for these offers, which are being taken up, we thank you. However, we always need more volunteers. As announced in the last issue of the Tower, we really need someone to help us with *Publicity*. Good communication is so important and within the Parish there are so many good news stories to tell. So if you feel that you have the enthusiasm to take on the role of Publicity Officer to help us in telling some of our good news stories, then please do have a word with one of us.

We would also welcome one or two more *Holy Dusters* to help with cleaning in St Laurence's. If you feel able to offer one or two hours each week, we should like to hear from you. Alternatively, come and join the other members of the cleaning team in St Laurence's between 10 am and 2 pm on Tuesday 29 November for a Coffee and Cleaning Morning, bringing a duster etc. with you!

*Claire Wilcox, Brian Thomas and Ewart Carson*



## OUR GIVING – A LETTER TO ALL.

Dear Parishioner,

In June our new Treasurer, Mike Beazley, spoke to the congregation about the church's financial position. In his introduction, he emphasised the need for us all, both as a church and as individual parishioners, to base our giving on the Biblical principle of generosity and on the Anglican Church's advice on stewardship (5% of our net income to the local church and 5% to other charitable causes).

Following on from that, the PCCs Finance and Standing Committee, when it met in September, asked that the question of planned giving be flagged up on the 9.30 Parish Eucharist on Sundays October 16 and 23. This was reported to the PCC when it also met in September

The Rector preached on this theme on Sunday, October 23. This letter is intended to complement his sermon.

As a church we are trying to practice what we preach by donating 10% of what you have told us you plan to give to St. Laurence's to international, national and local good causes. This is overseen by our Outward Concern Group, chaired by Claire Wilcox. We estimate that, this year, the 253 people on the electoral roll will through their generosity give a total of over £46,000 (our 'planned giving'). We are very grateful for this generosity. The Government will add over £9,000 in Gift Aid. This means that, in accordance with the agreed policy, we are able to give away nearly £6,000 to deserving causes.

This is a first call on our resources; but it is of course not the only fixed expense which we face. We contribute both our Parish Share to the Diocese and our membership fees to the Ludlow Team Ministry. Our payment of Parish Share represents our share of the salary, pension costs and living expenses of the clergy who serve St. Laurence's. There seems to be a common misconception in the Church of England that salaries and pensions are somehow paid out of some central 'pot of gold'. Although it is true that what we pay in Parish Share does not yet meet the full cost of paying and housing the clergy who serve our parish, the Church no longer has such a pot, nor would having one remove our corporate responsibility for providing the resources needed out of our own pockets. Our payment to the Ludlow Team Ministry covers the parish's share of the cost of administering the team. Together these amount to £79,000 this year.

The recommendation which came to the PCC at its meeting in September is that, in accordance with both biblical principle and Church of England policy, we should expect to cover both the church's external giving and Parish Share out of the donations of the members of the congregation. This mirrors standard practice in nonconformist churches, which generally pay the whole of their ministers' salaries and ministry costs directly.

The present level of giving by members of the congregation, both planned and unplanned, is likely to reach £89,000 this year. This is a very large sum, for which we are very grateful, but it is only just enough to cover what we give externally and what we provide for the parish's ministry costs (£85,000 in total), leaving just £4,000 to go towards the day-to-day running costs of the church and the parish. These costs amount to another £159,000. The vast majority of this sum is provided for by visitors to the church, as also is much of the unplanned giving. That means that the majority of the cost of the work that we do in witness, mission and outreach is funded by those who do not belong to our church family rather than by the people of St. Laurence's.

What we are asking is that each member of the congregation review his or her giving in the light of the principle of generosity and the Church's 5% of net income guideline. If we aim to meet our charitable and ministry costs entirely from planned giving, then we need to set ourselves the target of increasing our planned giving from the current level of £46,000 to a new target of £87,000. By 'planned giving' we mean giving by standing order or by numbered envelope, preferably by monthly standing order. We also ask

you to authorise Gift Aid if you are a tax payer. If you would like to start a standing order or increase an existing one, please complete one of the forms at the back of the church. Please also complete a Gift Aid form, if you can.

If we are to meet this target, the average annual planned giving per person would increase from £184 to £348 (£29 per month). To talk of 'average' figures implies that some will give less than this and some more. There are some who read this letter who genuinely will not be able to offer a marked increase in their giving for the work of St. Laurence's. That places a charge on those who are able to do so to be even more generous in their giving so as to stand alongside those who genuinely cannot. To put this in context, if anyone is giving at a rate of 5% of net income, a contribution of £29 per month would equate to a post-tax annual income of £6,960. This as it happens is close to the level of the basic state retirement pension. Many of you will be better placed than this – we ask everyone to be generous in proportion.

The Rector spoke on this theme on 23<sup>rd</sup> October, but we hope that the facts presented in this letter will help provide the context for what he said. Here finally are some words from Scripture on which to reflect from Malachi: *'Test me in this matter to see if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until there is no room for it all'*; and from St. Paul in his second letter to the Church in Corinth: *'Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver'*.

God bless you, from the members of the PCC.



Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.



# FROM THE REGISTERS

## Baptisms

14 August 2011	Matilda Brick	St Giles
	Evie Aston	St Laurence
	Rafferty & Rueben Coleman	St Laurence
	Louis & Riley Hughes	St Laurence
21 August 2011	Elsa Irving	St Giles
	Kai Wellsbury	St Laurence
	Jack Bartholomew	St Laurence
	Tristan Stone	St Laurence
4 September 2011	Owen Marsh	St Giles
11 September 2011	Henry Hughes	St Laurence
25 September 2011	Freya Perks	St Giles
	Billy Jones	St John's
2 October 2011	Anna Griffiths	St John's

## Weddings

6 August 2011	Jamie Pearce & Tatiana Colville-Foley	St Giles
20 August 2011	Paul Douglas & Natasha Bartholomew	St Laurence
27 August 2011	David Finnegan & Lynn Lawrence	St Giles
8 October 2011	Craig Ward & Marie Shroeder	St Giles

## Funerals

24 August 2011	Thelma Williams	H/Crem
26 August 2011	Patricia Elms-Ross	St Giles
26 September 2011	Don Wright	St John's
28 September 2011	Roy Morgan	H/Crem
29 September 2011	Canon Cyril Rodgers	St Laurence
	Les Parsons	H/Crem



## NEWS FROM ST LAURENCE'S

### TEAM-WIDE RETREAT

All who would like to do so are invited to take part in a Team-wide Retreat at Llangasty from 4.00 pm on April 24 to 2.00 pm April 26, 2012. It will be led by the Revd. Nick Helm. The cost is £120 per head. It will be an opportunity for quiet, for prayer and for reflection and will be ably led by Nick whose ministry to those seeking to deepen their walk with God is much valued.

Please could all who would like to take part in this speak to the Rector or to Helen Blyth - booking forms will be available during November.

*Colin Williams*

WORLD AIDS DAY - Thursday December 1

Vigil in St Laurence's Church

12.30 pm - 2.00 pm

But please feel free to call in and light a candle anytime during the day.

At 4.00 pm in St Mary Magdalene Church, Ashford Carbonel there will be a service of prayer and reflection.

ST LAURENCE'S CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November - 11.30 am to 4.00pm

Sideshowes, Crafts, Cakes, lots of Children's activities  
An opportunity to start the Christmas season with a bit of fun.  
Helpers wanted to turn our wonderful church into a Christmas spectacular!

Contact Tim Hughes on 07970 739754 if you would like to give a hand or you have some ideas, or please come along with your family on the day



## THE PRAYER GROUP

Visit to the Arley Quiet Garden and Arboretum

A group of eleven went to the Arley Quiet Garden in August and enjoyed a most interesting and reflective day. The day began with coffee whilst chatting to others from various Parishes, then there was a talk by the previous Chaplain of Eton College who is now connected with Salisbury Cathedral. The talk was drawn from Holman Hunt's picture of Christ "The light of the world". Continuing the theme of light there were two Hymns, a poem and an extract from Nelson Mandela's inaugural speech. We then went off in silence to wander in the garden and the Arboretum.

We met later for lunch, after which we had another talk. This time the leader talked about the other title of Holman Hunt's picture of Christ "Behold I stand at the door and knock", also some extracts from readings concerned with Heaven, Hell and Judgement. There followed some interesting discussion before we went into silence and wandered in the beautiful surroundings once again.

Later we met for tea and cakes and expressed our appreciation for all that had been done to give us such an inspirational day. There was much to think about when we arrived home.

*Joan Bowker*



## THE CHURCH SHOP

Do you remember all those lovely little gifts we used to give and receive with such pleasure? All of those special things that only appear at Christmas? Well many are now available at the church shop; we have created a real feast for our senses.

Come and choose from a selection of Advent candles and calendars; add to your glass tree decorations; find a toy that was once a favourite. There is a range of Fair Trade decorations and gifts, including Advent calendars with chocolate. You'll find candles and room-scenters to use yourself, or as gifts.

There is no need to worry about finding something for the friend or relative who seems to have everything, we'll have something different in the shop.

And if you didn't get one last year, we have an excellent range of nativity sets - a reminder of the reason for our celebrations.



## NEWS FROM ST GILES

In the middle of August we had the very sad news that Phil Ross' wife Tricia had died having experienced great pain from lymphoma. We loved Tricia for all that she was and know that we shall miss her greatly. She was always so friendly, kind and ready to help everyone who needed it. She took part in all the activities in the church and we were always greeted with a lovely smile. Tricia's loving care of Phil was an example to us all. The church was packed to capacity for her funeral with several standing and possibly that is one of the greatest tributes we can pay her. It was a lovely service full of joy to know that Tricia is now safely with our Father and free from pain at last.

On Sept 4<sup>th</sup> it was the Patronal Festival for St Giles. During the holidays the children from St Giles had been meeting with Daphne Jepps and Anne Haydock to make a five foot high Celtic Cross from boxes and paper. It was on display in the aisle but veiled in a large black cloth until the right point in the service to be revealed. There was a gasp from us all as we looked at it because it looked so amazingly real. The children had done a fabulous job in making it, and Mark explained very clearly just how it had been done, whilst Philip told us the meaning of the circle round the head of the cross and the design on the stone below. The circle represented eternal love and because the design consisted of an endless line, it, too, represented eternal love. It was a most enjoyable and special service and many thanks go to all who took so much trouble to make the cross, which we shall remember for a long time.

Also at the Patronal Festival we had some special celebrating as Nora and John had just reached their diamond wedding – 60 years together! There were balloons to greet them on arrival and they were presented with a beautiful bouquet and a gift to mark the occasion. Many congratulations go to them both.

*M. Wright*

The grotto: A wine and canapés party to celebrate the restoration of the grotto in the river bank was held on Sept 18<sup>th</sup> at the Old Bell House, by

kind invitation of Tony and Jayne Canton. This was a huge success. Despite one or two heavy showers guests enjoyed good food and drink. A 'guess the number of shells' competition was won by Kate Roberts whose guess of 1695 was the nearest to the correct number of 1712.

Many thanks must go to Brian Heatley for the walk he led round Ludford and for the interesting talk on Ludford, which was much enjoyed by all. Proceeds from this event will be shared between St Giles' church and the Teme Weirs Trust. Very many thanks to all who helped both before and on the day, and those who donated the tasty canapés.

*Pam Farquhar, Churchwarden*

We had another really splendid Harvest Festival at St Giles' on Oct.2<sup>nd</sup>. The church looked truly magnificent with greenery decorating the arch near the chancel interspersed with bright flowers and every window ledge showing the most glorious displays of beautiful autumn coloured flowers and fruit. Every display was a picture in itself. Very many thanks go to the team of flower arrangers led by Liz for giving us so much pleasure.

The service was taken by Roger Hall and Philip Jepps talked to us about the amazing abundance of God's provision for all of us and how very deeply thankful we should all be for all the gifts He gives us. We should also be very aware of all those in many other countries where there have been poor or no harvests and many are starving, so it is important that we support those who are sent to help them by our gifts and our prayers.

A true abundance of food had been prepared by members of the church for the lunch following the service, which was held in the church and we all came away feeling that we had partaken of a delicious meal. Again very many thanks go to all who contributed in any way and those who served, cleared and washed up afterwards. It was wonderful team work with many people helping! A very happy day!

Shaun and Mark Sandwell have raised £87.50 for Historic Churches Bike Ride, well done to both of the boys.

Note for your diaries:

**18<sup>th</sup> December at 11.15 am** we are holding a Carol Service with mince pies and mulled wine, all are welcome to come and join us.

*M.Wright*



# A-Z OF CHURCHYARD CONSERVATION



S is for Slow-worm

The slow worm is not a worm or a snake but a legless lizard. They have a polished, cylindrical appearance and, unlike snakes, have eyelids that can blink.

They live in both urban and countryside habitats, liking allotments, waste ground, churchyards and gardens.

Their diet consists of slugs and soft-bodied invertebrates. Being cold blooded they hibernate in the winter so are mostly seen in spring and summer.

Slow worms give birth to 5-10 live young 10 cm in length. They grow to about 35 cm. They can live around 15 years in the wild and up to 50 years in captivity!

In churchyards the cracks in dry stone walls and old vole holes provide shelter.

The Latin name *Anguis fragilis* means 'fragile snake' and refers to the way the slow worm can drop its tail to escape predators.



T is for Toads  
Common Toad



There are two kinds of toads native to Britain. These are the Common Toad (*Bufo bufo*) and the rarer Natterjack Toad (*Bufo calamita*). The two species can be easily distinguished by the presence of a prominent yellow line down the back of the Natterjack Toad.

Toads differ from frogs - they have dry, warty looking skin, crawl rather than jump and lay their eggs in a string rather than a bunch. Often found in the dry stone walls around churchyards, toads will hunt after dusk for slugs, snails and earthworms. They sleep during the day and hibernate in the winter under rocks and stones or in a hole in the ground.

For more information contact *The Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust*, 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)



FORTHCOMING



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**SATURDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**  
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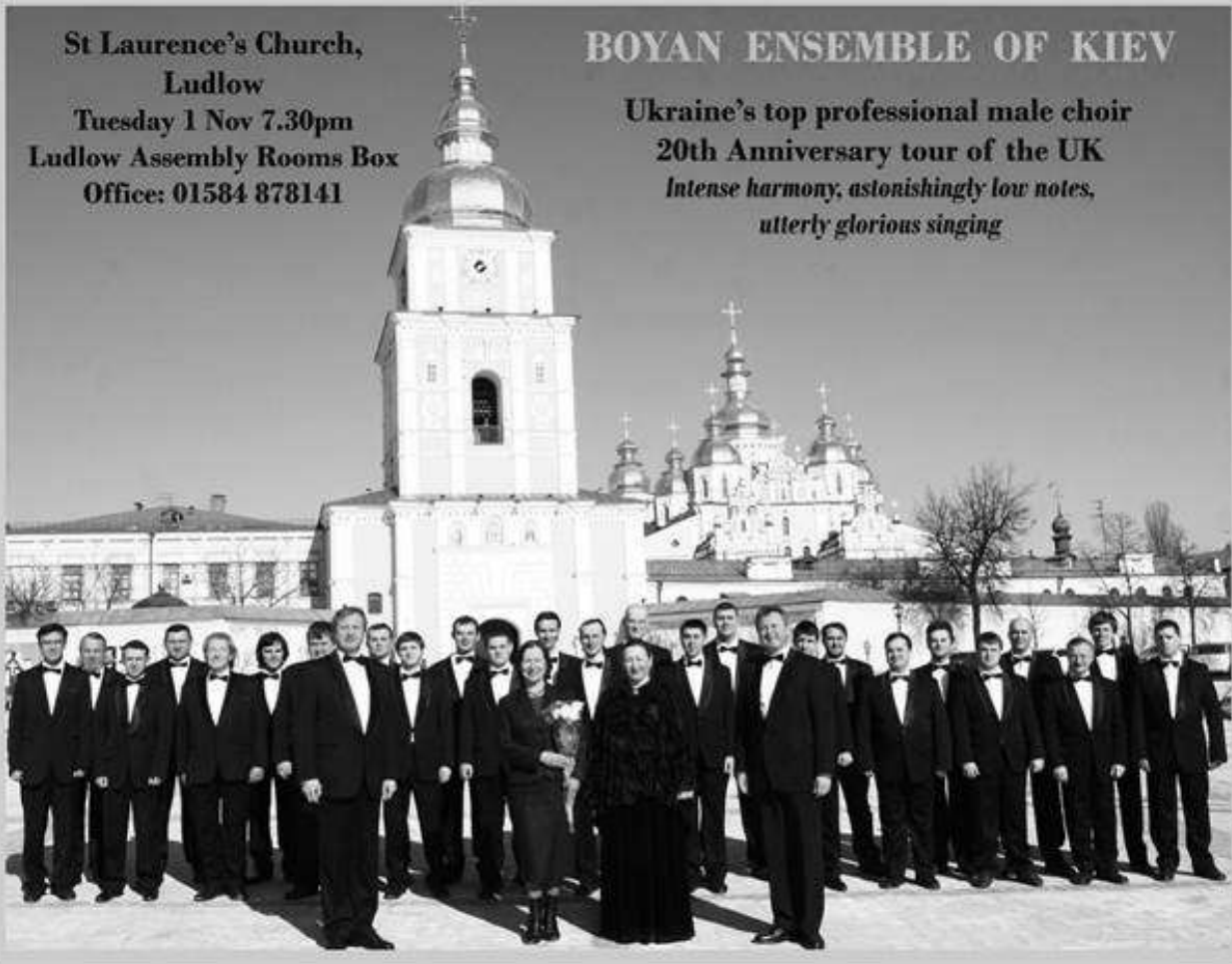
**Organised by Ludlow Fairtrade Town, part of Ludlow 21**

**Merrychristmasmerrychristmas**

St Laurence's Church,  
Ludlow  
Tuesday 1 Nov 7.30pm  
Ludlow Assembly Rooms Box  
Office: 01584 878141

## BOYAN ENSEMBLE OF KIEV

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### **Friday December 2nd at 8.00.p.m. – St. Laurence Church**

A CONCERT OF SEASONAL MUSIC AND READINGS  
by THE BRITTEN SINGERS of Hereford, Directed by Pamela White.

The choir sings a varied and wide ranging programme: from Madrigals to music made famous by The Beatles.

The singers gather from a wide area; including, from Ludlow, our Team Rector, The Venerable Colin Williams, and from Caynham, Rosalind and James Caird.

It promises to be a very enjoyable evening!

All proceeds from the concert will be shared between The Terence Higgins Trust and St Laurence's Church.

ON THE 11th of the 11th of the 11th

**SING - A - LONG**  
**&**  
**KARAOKE PARTY**

With local entertainer **RACHEL HYDE**

**At Culmington Village Hall**  
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## STAY-AT-HOME CHRISTMAS?

Are you staying at home for Christmas? Would you open your home and share Christmas with a student from China, India, or some other part of the world, who would otherwise be stuck at an almost deserted UK university? HOST invites you to give Christmas, perhaps for the first time in their life, to someone who is a guest in this country, who would love to experience your way of life and make your stay-at-home Christmas special. HOST will match you with one or two guests to suit your household. More volunteer hosts are urgently needed for 1-3 days at Christmas, and weekends all year round. Please see [www.hostuk.org](http://www.hostuk.org) or call HOST on 020 7739 6292

*HOST UK, Unit 8 Water House, 8 Orsman Road, London N1 5QJ*



## THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING MY SPONSORED BICYCLE RIDE

I am so very grateful to everyone who sponsored my cycle ride in beautiful Brittany in aid of Ethiopian deaf children. Friends from Ludlow and London have given an amazing total of £1568.30, Thank you all so much!

I will take the money to Nekemte school during my half-term holiday as the Addis bank is very slow to transfer money.

My ride was wonderful with no mishaps and good weather until the last day. The camp sites varied but people were all friendly. I kept to minor, pretty roads, south to Vannes then the north-west coast to Locquirec. Next I rode through wild, beautiful mid-Brittany and back to St Malo, exhausted but exhilarated!

Thank you again.

*Nick James*





## **South Shropshire shoppers buy once and give twice at Ludlow's Cards for Good Causes charity Christmas shop**

Shoppers can buy Christmas cards from more than 25 national and local charities in Ludlow. Cards for Good Causes – which sells charity cards across the UK every year – opens its Ludlow shop on **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October at St. Laurence's church shop.**

Gill Leary said, “We're delighted to be back in Ludlow. Everyone is so generous and really help us raise more for our charities. Charity cards are a great way to buy once and give twice – once to the person who receives your card and once to your favourite charity.”

Ludlow charity Christmas card shop is one of a countrywide network of shops. Cards for Good Causes Limited (CFGCL) pays the participating charities (or their trading subsidiaries) at least 75p in every pound from their card sales, less the VAT payable on the amount retained by CFGCL. The retained amount covers CFGCL's costs of running the temporary charity Christmas card shops. In addition to these costs, the participants have to pay for the production and distribution of their cards.

The shop, staffed by local volunteers, is open from 10.00am to 5.00 pm Monday to Saturday from Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October to Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December  
**Look out for the red triangular Santa sign!**



## NEWS FROM HEREFORD DIOCESE

### **Rare Treasures of Hereford Cathedral**

Just Published: £4 from the cathedral shop

This new guide features the Mappa Mundi, a 13<sup>th</sup> century map of the world that is one of the most remarkable and important medieval works of art in existence, which records how scholars interpreted the world in spiritual as well as geographical terms.

Hereford also possesses a near-perfect 1217 copy of Magna Carta, one of the eight oldest copies surviving of perhaps the most famous document in English history.

In addition, the cathedral has a unique chained library which contains 229 medieval manuscripts including the Hereford Gospels, made in England in the 8<sup>th</sup> century.

If you haven't visited Hereford recently, the cathedral close has just undergone a three-year makeover (don't miss Elgar and his bicycle) and on the south side of the cathedral is the cafe and garden, as well as the entrance to the permanent exhibition of Treasures.

*Peter Purslow*

### **MARK MY WORDS**

A day to look at St Mark's Gospel

Calligraphy; Bible Studies; Photography; Music; Worship;  
Godly Play; Kite Making

**Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup> 2011**

**10am until 3.15pm  
in Hereford Cathedral**

For booking or further details contact the Cathedral Library  
01432 374225/6 or [library@herefordcathedral.org](mailto:library@herefordcathedral.org)

## **Historic Churches of Herefordshire & Shropshire**

A Diocesan Calendar starring 13 of our churches is now available.  
Cost: £7.50 cellophane wrapped with sturdy envelope for gift posting.

Available in Diocesan Offices Hereford & Ludlow,  
Hereford & Ludlow Visitor Centres and Ludlow Church Shop.  
By post add £1 postage and packing

The Calendar, The Diocesan Office Hereford HR4 9BL

*Great Christmas present*



## **LYDE CHRISTMAS FAYRE**

**At St Peter's Church, Lyde**

**10am-12 noon - Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2011**

Mince Pies, Presents ... & hoping Santa will be dropping in



## **ADVENT FAYRE**

Market Square, Ross-on-Wye

All day – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2011



## **‘How (not) to live with nuclear power’**

Annual Engaging Issues lecture by Claire Foster-Gilbert  
*leading UK expert on ethics and the environment*

**Tuesday 8th November 7.30pm  
at Church Stretton Secondary School**

Admission £4 (*students free*)  
available from John Thomas (Florist) and Burway Books,  
Church Stretton.

- *the huge potential of nuclear power and its pervasiveness*
- *how humans have wielded that power and why*
- *how humanity might journey towards a greater wisdom in interacting with other elements in the universe*
- *how then might humanity use or not use nuclear power*

This lecture is jointly organised between Engaging Issues and Stretton Climate Care.

[www.strettonclimatecare.org.uk](http://www.strettonclimatecare.org.uk)

[info@strettonclimatecare.org.uk](mailto:info@strettonclimatecare.org.uk)

tel: 0752 849 3181

## **Diocesan News Service for Magazine Editors.**

Copy in writing for December issue by **1st November 11** to:

**Anni Holden, Communications Officer,**

**The Palace. Hereford HR4 9BL**



**Thank you to all our contributors.**

**COPY FOR THE DECEMBER/JANUARY TOWER TO THE  
OFFICE PLEASE BY 8<sup>th</sup> November 2011**

**\*\*Please note Deadline dates for next year:\*\***

Material arriving after the preferred date cannot be guaranteed to be included. **Material arriving after the final date will definitely NOT be included until the following month:**

Issue	Preferred Date	Final Date
December/January	8 Nov 11	15 Nov 11
February	10 Jan 12	17 Jan 12
March	7 Feb 12	14 Feb 12
April	6 Mar 12	13 Mar 12
May	10 Apr 12	17 Apr 12
June	8 May 12	15 May 12
July/August	6 June 12	13 June 12
September	7 Aug 12	14 Aug 12
October	11 Sept 12	18 Sept 12
November	9 Oct 12	16 Oct 12
December/January	6 Nov 12	13 Nov 12

Please send articles by email to [office@stlaurences.org.uk](mailto:office@stlaurences.org.uk)

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

What we do not know, we cannot pass on!



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## CONTACT US...

### THE PARISH OF ST LAURENCE WITH ST JOHN

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	Mr Brian Thomas, Tallis House, Overton	878719
	Mrs Claire Wilcox, 4 Lower Broad Street	877199
PCC Secretary	Mrs Val Hardwick,	861658
Electoral Roll	Mrs Claire Wilcox, 4 Lower Broad Street	877199

### ST LAURENCE'S, LUDLOW

8am Sidesmen's Rota	Mr and Mrs R Burns, 8 Poyner Rd	872419
Children's Church	Vacant	
Communion Rota	Mrs Fay Carson, Fairfield, Linney	879155
Conservation Trust	Mrs Rosemary Wood	877771
Director of Music	Mr Shaun Ward, Parishes' Office	872073
Flowers	Louise Griffithes	876203
Gift Aid Secretary	c/o Parishes' Office	872073
Pastoral Links	Mrs Mary Williams, 23 Gravel Hill	875884
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Tower Floodlighting	Forms at St Laurence Shop	
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	Mr Don Craft, White Gates, St Julian Ave	874323
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### ST GILES' LUDFORD

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	Mrs Jean Guilbert, 5, Temeside Estate	873489
Treasurer	Mr Phil Ross	873389
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Minutes Secretary	Mrs Karen Unwin, 8 Corve Street	872987
Electoral Roll	Mr B Heatley, St Julians, Park Road, Ludford	877424
Flowers	Ms Elizabeth Woodall	
Wedding Flowers	Mrs H Meyrick, 24 Mary Elizabeth Rd	873813

### LUDLOW TEAM MINISTRY

Bible Reading F'ship	Mrs Joan Bowker, 3 Clayton Close, Knowbury	891549
Mothers' Union Leader	Mrs Shelagh Jenkyns, Sarum House, 9 Bromley Road	874105

## **Hello! - Can you read me? – over!**

Over the next few issues of this magazine we are trying out ways of making it more attractive and readable – especially for folk with poor eyesight.

We are trying different fonts (typestyles – not baptism places!!) and layouts to make reading easier. This month we are trying the Gill Sans font as this is recommended by the RNIB as particularly suitable for the partially sighted.

The Editorial Committee would like to get your feedback and comments on these trials before we settle on the final format. Please let us have your comments and constructive criticisms so we can try to do better!

Please contact Susan Goble at the office on 872073 with your thoughts and comments. Thank you!!

# LARGE

# PRINT

Copies in large print are available from Susan Goble at the Parish Office – 01584 872073.