

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST LAURENCE LUDLOW

Ludlow Team Ministry Diocese of Hereford



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Tuesday, 28 October 2008

Dear Parishioner,

Vision for St Laurence s

We have now embarked upon our project which is designed to create within St Laurence s Church, Ludlow a space that is adaptable for all uses: for worship, for recreational use, as well as educational activities consistent with its nature as Ludlow s Parish Church.

The project was launched at the *Open Forum* held in the Assembly Rooms on 8 October. One of the key messages stated at that forum was that we would engage and communicate regularly with all who had an interest and involvement in St Laurence s. This letter is the first instalment of this communication process.

Enclosed you will find copies of the press release produced immediately after the Open Forum meeting, an *Opinion* column from the Ludlow Advertiser, and details of the next steps in the project, including the advertisement for a *Project Driver*.

Already we have received many positive comments, observations and suggestions. We shall shortly be starting a formal process of engagement and consultation, and this will provide opportunity for further comment and input. We shall be delighted to hear from you in this way as the project progresses.

Yours sincerely,

Preb. Brian Curnew *Team Rector*

Anna Branston *Churchwarden*

Ewart Carson *Churchwarden*

LUDLOW ADVERTISER

Thursday 16 October 2008

Editorial Opinion

Saving Ludlow's 'cathedral'

ST LAURENCE'S Ludlow is one of the 24 Greater Parish Churches in the UK and a prominent landmark in south Shropshire, dubbed "the Cathedral of the Marches".

It houses a rich range of treasures, from the imposing structure of the church itself and its famous 15th century tower, to the complete set of 15th century misericords; from the fine 18th century organ to its internationally important stained glass.

St Laurence's also has a proud reputation for

Opinion

its music, hosting a wide range of events of high quality through the year and as part of Ludlow Festival.

As well as its significant role in the religious life of the area, it attracts about 40,000 visitors a year from all over the world.

But it is a forward-thinking church and has projected its financial future with admirable clarity - even if the projections are alarming. The benefit of the stark fiscal assessment that says it will run out of cash in five years is that action can be taken now to safeguard it.

Expert advice is being sought as well as the views of those who value the church as a building, religious and artistic centre.

Making the start now should make sure that Ludlow's 'cathedral' has a sound future.