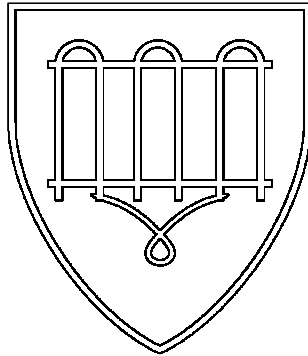


THE PARISH OF LUDLOW ST LAURENCE WITH ST JOHN



ANNUAL PARISH MEETINGS

11.15 am Sunday 21 March 2010

St Laurence's Church, Ludlow

Agenda for the Meetings
Minutes of the Annual Parish Meetings 2009
Reports for the year 2009–2010

AGENDA FOR THE MEETINGS

1. Welcome and Apologies
2. Opening prayers

ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

1. Minutes of the meeting 2009
2. Vote of thanks to Churchwardens for previous year
3. Election of Churchwardens

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting

St Laurence with St John

Churchwardens' Report; Report of Electoral Roll Officer; Secretary's Report on Proceedings of Parochial Church Council; Fabric Committee; St Leonard's Churchyard, Finance Report, including Presentation of Parish Accounts [Appointment of Independent Examiner for present year]; St John's Church Report (*at the annual meeting of St John's congregation on 7 March, Mr Don Craft and Mr Bill Eastwell were elected as Deputy Churchwardens serving until 2011*); Liturgy and Music; Special Music Projects; St Laurence's Children's Group; Servers; Bells & Bellringing, Handbells; 'Holy Dusters'; Pastoral Committee; Social Committee; Stewarding; The Conservation Trust for St Laurence, Fair-trade.

Ludlow Team Ministry Reports

Team Rector's Report; Local Ministry Team; Deanery Synod; Team Treasurers' Report; Mothers' Union and Churches Together Around Ludlow.

Elections

1. Lay Members of the Parochial Church Council
2. Sidesmen
3. Electoral Roll Officer

**Any other business of general parish concern,
or items those attending may wish to be referred to the PCC.**

**MINUTES OF THE
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF ST LAURENCE WITH ST JOHN
SUNDAY 29 MARCH 2009
IN ST LAURENCE CHURCH, LUDLOW**

Present: The Revd Brian Curnew (Team Rector), Ewart Carson (Churchwarden), Anna Branston (Churchwarden) and 37 parishioners.

Apologies: Revd James Stewart, Peggy James, Jill Swift, June and Michael Day, Di Corston, Pat Baulch, Derrick and Shelagh Jenkyns.

1. Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners held on 6 April 2008 were agreed as a true record.
2. The Rector thanked the Churchwardens for the work over the past year.
3. Election of Churchwardens for the coming year.
Two nominations having been received it was proposed by Jen Pollard and seconded by Jane Branston that Ewart Carson be elected churchwarden and it was proposed by Shirley Lloyd-Kitchen and seconded by Bill Lloyd-Kitchen that Anna Branston be elected churchwarden. There being no further nominations Ewart Carson and Anna Branston, with the approval of the Rector, were unanimously elected Churchwardens for the coming year.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.05 am

Signed
CHAIRMAN

Date

**MINUTES OF THE
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Present: The Revd Brian Curnew (Team Rector), Ewart Carson (Churchwarden), Anna Branston (Churchwarden) and 37 parishioners.

Apologies: Revd James Stewart, Peggy James, Jill Swift, June and Michael Day, Di Corston, Pat Baulch, Derrick and Shelagh Jenkyns.

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Meeting held on 6 April 2008 were approved and signed.

Ludlow Team Ministry Reports: Reports, which had been available to all congregations, were received from The Team Rector, Local Ministry Team, CTAL, Children and Young People, Ludlow Deanery Synod, Deanery Treasurer's Report, Mothers' Union, Parishes Prayer Fellowship, Thursday Prayer Group, Bible Reading Fellowship, Walsingham Group and Overseas Links.

Churchwardens Report: On behalf of both wardens, Ewart Carson expressed thanks to the large number of people for their help over the past year in particular to Don Beattie, Treasurer and Shaun Ward, Clerk of Works for their expertise and professionalism. In respect of the Vision Project for St Laurence's there is shortly to be a mail drop to all Ludlow homes informing them of progress and seeking their views. David Lloyd thanked the Churchwardens for their report and expressed hope that the misunderstandings of the past year would be avoided in the future.

Reports: Reports from all committees had been received and were available for inspection.

Finance Report: The accounts for the year 2007/2008 had been available for inspection by the congregation and it was proposed that these be accepted subject to audit. In view of the fact that the Treasurer wished to negotiate with various accountants it was proposed by Paul Renshaw and seconded by Jeffrey Wilcox that this appointment be submitted to the PCC.

Bells: It was reported that the seven year project for enhancement of the bells had been completed and they would ring out again on Easter Day. Thanks were recorded to Keith Goode who is to retire as Tower Captain and welcome to Tony Greatorex who would take his place.

Elections:

Deanery Synod - it was proposed by Helen Coleman and seconded by Tessa Curnew that Barbara Atkins be elected to the Deanery Synod.

PCC - Jane Branson, proposed by Anna Branston and seconded by Shaun Ward; Shaun Ward, proposed by Nick Deakin and seconded by Anna Branston and Katherine Bromley, proposed by John Dawes and seconded by Helen Coleman were duly elected to serve on the PCC for three years.

Sidespersons - 8.00 am Robbie and Barbara Burns, 9.30 am Fay Carson and 11.30 am and 3.30 pm Barbara Jones all expressed their willingness to continue.

Electoral Roll Officer - It was proposed by Jen Pollard and seconded by Helen Coleman that Claire Wilcox continue as Electoral Roll Officer.

Open Forum:

David Lloyd expressed his concern, and that of some members of the congregation, over the introduction of some practices during the 9.30 am Parish Communion. He asked that a meeting be arranged for members of the congregation to express their views.

The Rector reported that the PCC had recently attended an open day during which the Vision for the Future had been discussed. Pleasure had also been expressed at seeing more junior choristers.

In respect of outreach giving, Jen Pollard suggested there was a need to spread the feeling that we are here to look after the people as well as the building and that we should strive to increase outreach giving to 10%. Ewart Carson

said that although we had had financial problems in 2007 we are now in a slightly better position and therefore we have increased our giving to 7½%. It is hoped we will be able to restore it to 10% as soon as possible.

Children 's Work - 200/300 children from schools in and around Ludlow are to take part in the Easter Experience during the coming week. Children will visit St Giles, the Elim Church, Bishop Mascall Centre and St Laurence's to take part in various activities.

Outreach - The Pastoral Committee are collecting dried and preserved goods together with baby items to pass on to homeless and less fortunate families.

Ann Barge thanked The Rector for his work in the Team Ministry and The Rector in turn thanked the Clergy and all those who had prepared reports for the annual meeting.

The meeting closed at 11.45 am.

Signed
CHAIRMAN

Date

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

Another year of major activity and change. New worshippers continue to be attracted to St Laurence's through our provision of choral and other services, meeting the spiritual needs both of our local community and of the many visitors who come to us as a Greater Parish Church. Special services attracting large numbers included the High Sheriff's Legal Service, the Welcome for our new Bishop of Ludlow and the BBC Radio Shropshire Christmas Carol Service. Visitor numbers reached a new high of 50,000, with once more an increase in the number of tower visitors.

Many projects have been completed: the peal of 10 bells which now rings out loud and clear; refurbishment of the St Laurence Shop, now much more profitable; completion of a new guide book (one of many endeavours resulting from the enthusiasm of the greatly-missed David Lloyd). Phase I of the Vision Project has been completed with extensive consultation across the town regarding the re-ordering of the interior of St Laurence's. Musical outreach has continued apace, including much praised Mystery Plays that involved so many of the local children.

Highly successful fund-raising events, including a summer fête and Christmas bazaar have been both financially very rewarding, and a means of engendering a true sense of community not only with our congregations, but also across the wider town of Ludlow. The by now well established tradition of enjoyable Candlemas and Harvest Festival suppers, together with quarterly Parish Breakfasts continues.

We thank Brian Curnew for his service to the Team over the past 15 years and wish him and Tessa much happiness in Headcorn. Special thanks go out to those who have stepped down from their positions or will shortly be doing so: Matthew Lenthall who has provided valued custodianship of the church in his capacity of verger; Peter Turner who has acted as Administrator for the Team over many years; Don Beattie who has provided astute and invaluable professionalism over the past two years as Honorary Treasurer; Maureen Stinton for her calm professionalism as Honorary Secretary; and Doreen Watkins for filling the church with such wonderful flower arrangements over so many years.

We also express our thanks to: Lesley Draper, Secretary in the Parishes' Office; Di Corston for her continuing management of the St Laurence Shop, and with her team of helpers for cash counting; Pat Schofield and the Holy Dusters; all the flower ladies; the marvellous Social Committee ably assisted by Jackie Ward; Shaun Ward, for his great enthusiasm and commitment as Clerk of Works, Director of Music and Vision Project Co-ordinator; the choir for their commitment and contributions to worship; Fay Carson for organising the Sunday morning hosts; Pam Latchford and all stewards; Antonia O'Kennedy and supporting sacristans; all members of the PCC and its committees; and Matthew Lenthall and Gill Leary our licensees. Thank you to all our clergy, including the officially retired, the Ministry Team, and those involved with pastoral work, and to you all for your continuing kindness and support.

Anna Branston and Ewart Carson *Churchwardens*

REPORT OF THE ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER

	03/09	03/10	R	NR	
Total number on ER	226	243	209	34	200 St Laurence 43 St John
Men	76	80	-	-	-
Women	148	163	-	-	-

There are 243 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, comprising 80 men and 163 women. Of the total 34 are not resident within the parish. Of the total, 199 normally worship at St Laurence's and 44 at St John's. Please keep me informed of people moving away from the parish and of those who have died.

Claire Wilcox *Electoral Roll Officer*

SECRETARY'S REPORT ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

The PCC has held its normal quarterly meetings, these now being held in the Upper Room at the Methodist Church. Attendance at meetings has been between 11 and 17 with one member unable to attend any meetings and all others attending two or more.

All meetings have followed a standard pattern, with reports on current issues and from the Ministry Team and PCC committees. It has been much appreciated by members that most meetings have finished at 9.30 pm or very soon afterwards.

Much of the work of the PCC is delegated to its subcommittees. The Standing Committee meets monthly during the year, other committees as required.

An 'Away Day' for the PCC was held in February 2010.

It has been decided that in view of the amount of business to be discussed the PCC will now meet on alternate months. The Standing Committee will therefore meet on the other alternate months.

Maureen Stinton *PCC Secretary*

FABRIC COMMITTEE REPORT

2009 was again a very busy year for the Fabric Committee. The AGM marks the end of the second year with Ewart Carson as Chairman of the Committee and myself as Clerk of Works. The schedule of works continues to evolve and more tasks are added to this document. The schedule of works records regular maintenance, minor works arising, urgent works, non urgent works, major works 2-5 years on and maintenance works over the next 5-15 years. This helps us plan financially and budget for works. In 2009 we have continued our research and are well on our way to creating a 25 year plan. This new Asset Management Plan will show how much investment per year the building will need over the next 25 years, therefore enabling proper pro-active management of the fabric.

Our emphasis on works during 2009 has been again general maintenance of the fabric, catching up with tasks that have fallen by the way side, our emphasis being 'a stitch in time saves nine'. The PCC committed a total of £113 210 on works, of which came £27 910 came from the Conservation Trust. We are grateful to the Trust for their continued support of works to the building.

Work has included:

General Maintenance	£12 000
Flower stands, external doors, servicing: boiler, bells, and lightening conductor repair, chancel step, cleaning drains & hoppers, changing light bulbs, cleaning tower stairs, electrical works	
Cleaning Chancel Floor	£1000
Restoration of Tower Bells	£70 000
New Carillon	£10 000
Overhaul Tower Down-pipes	£3500
Repairs to lightening conductor	£1000
Repairs to St Leonard's Wall	£4000
Dismantling of 6 no. Pinnacles	£1000
Re-ordering Shop	£8000
Stained Glass Survey	£800
New tower floodlights	£1300
Painting conservation – Adam Ree/Charles Evans	£610

Shaun Ward *Clerk of Works*

ST LEONARD'S CHURCHYARD

The focus of our work continues to be keeping the balance between heritage and wildlife to ensure the green space is accessible to local people and visitors. We have made progress in clearing a bigger area but the challenge, as in each year, is to maintain this by keeping the grass and nettles under control to ensure paths are accessible and the area pleasant to visit. Once again there is a big thank you due to the working parties organised by 'Caring for God's Acre' and others and to the small and diminishing group of volunteers for all their hard work. We are now planning to reinstate headstones laid down for Health and Safety reasons and are applying for grants for the necessary work.

We held an intimate and moving Remembrance Day service last year and plan to make this a regular event.

John Aitken *Chairman, Friends of St. Leonard's Churchyard*

FINANCE REPORT

2009 was a challenging year for the Parish.

For St Laurence's, the pressures on costs continued which, combined with some shortfall in expected levels of giving, required some exceptional action to be taken to "balance the books". The PCC also had to take decisions on whether to invest in new guide books and improvements to the shop, with the prospect of increased revenue in the future from such investments.

In the end, the outcome for St Laurence's was satisfactory. Notwithstanding the £ 20,000 of unbudgeted spend on the new guidebooks and the shop enhancements, the core loss for the year was just £ 2,378 (compared with a small surplus in 2008). In 2009, there was also an expenditure (included in the above) of some £ 8,700 on the 'Vision Project', significantly above the amount budgeted for this.

Both the guidebooks and the shop enhancements are already generating additional levels of income, and the PCC confidently expects that this small loss for the year will be compensated for by a very significant increase in income in 2010.

Excluded from the above figures are three separate financial entities:

- the Bells project, which was net zero cost to the Parish General Fund (being funded by donations, grants, the existing Bells Fund and the Conservation Trust)
- the Special Music Project, which is a separate activity, but under the general responsibility of the PCC
- St John's Ludlow, which returned a loss of £ 377 for the year

Day-to-day financial management of the Parish is delegated by the PCC to the Finance and Management Committee, which comprises the Churchwardens, Treasurer, Clerk of Works, Team Rector and lay members.

For 2010, St Laurence's has a broadly break-even budget, but funding is yet to be secured for phase 2 of the Vision Project. 2010 will be another challenging year, as we seek to restructure our verger arrangements and our administrative support.

Donald F Beattie *Treasurer*

ST JOHN'S REPORT

The issue dominating the year has been that of the rewiring of the church with difficulties in applying for a faculty. Thankfully these are now resolved and the contractors are now close to completing the work which has caused no disruption to services. We regretted the transfer of the Christingle service to St Laurence, since it had been a highlight of the Christmas season. An experiment of opening the church on Wednesdays during the summer for tea, coffee, conversation, prayer and private reflection met with mild response, but we are encouraged to persevere with this during the coming year so that people may begin to see us as an open church in the community. A short series of discussion groups was organised during the year, in which priests addressed issues such as 'youth culture' and 'forms of worship'. These proved illuminating, as a result of which an extended programme is being arranged

for this year. One consideration is to open this series up to people from other churches. Events during the year included several coffee mornings, Spring and Harvest lunches, a garden party at Hillcrest on 9th August and a carol concert with 'Simply Singers', which included readings and tea. We were pleased to share with St Giles a very well supported concert by Craven Arms Men's Chorus on 17th July. It was also a pleasure to welcome friends from St Laurences' to our Patronal Festival in January. Engagement in the Mission Action Plan is proving a good discipline for us.

John French *Secretary*

LITURGY AND MUSIC

Choir

This has been another successful year for the choir of St Laurence's. The choir has performed consistently to a high standard, particularly at the major festivals including Easter, All Souls, Christmas and importantly at the BBC Shropshire broadcast of Nine Lessons and Carols. Attendance and commitment to the choir have been consistent throughout the year; we now have 8 junior choristers and 17 adults, all of whom attend three times a week. The music library has continued to grow and we now have over 75 complete sets of music, bound and stored in new boxes; 25 more than at the end of 2008. Roger Judd has completed his first year as Sub-Organist. We are particularly grateful for his loyalty and commitment. His skills have enabled us to learn new repertoire. The choir sang a complete set of Sunday Services at Hereford Cathedral in October to great acclaim; rarely do visiting choirs sing all three services, especially Choral Matins.

Instruments

The organ is now tuned and maintained by Gary Owens of Liverpool. Gary previously worked for David Wells of Liverpool and regularly tuned the cathedral organs in that city; our famous organ is in good hands. Again this last year saw a very successful series of organ concerts; we average audiences of at least 70.

The two pianos are maintained by Philip Kennedy of Hereford. The new Yamaha continues to be the backbone of rehearsals and the Bechstein is used regularly in the vestry. The hand bells have also been restored during the year and augmented in compass.

Outreach

Special Music Projects has continued to benefit from the on-going work of Jane Allsopp and Tom Caulcott, who have raised substantial funds for the organ and musical outreach projects. There is a separate report of this contained within this document. Further performances of Peter and the Wolf have been held. In the spring we hosted a major new production of two mystery plays 'Noah and his Ark' and 'David and Goliath'. Over 70 children took part in this production, the score written by Steve Dunachie, libretto by Ian Barge, a professional band, sound and lighting rig; 700 people came to the successful performances. During the festival SMP hosted the Housman Anniversary concert, the Schubert Ensemble with James Gilchrist, tenor.

Patterns of Worship

We have continued to enjoy regular patterns of worship with the choir singing twice weekly. The choir has sung a full choral setting of the eucharist once a month on a Sunday morning as well as on festivals and feast days. The congregations for Choral Matins and Choral Evensong continue to grow steadily, on average there are now 28 people at the third service.

We have now completed our second full year with the new weekly pew sheets at the 9.30am service and all special services. Producing these in house has enabled the many visitors we welcome to partake fully in our worship. They are also a vital tool for use at Home Communion; the house bound can feel part of our Sunday congregations.

Servers

The servers have enjoyed another successful year and a separate report is enclosed within this document. They have received completely new cassocks, albs and apparelled amices, as well as cottas for the Sunday 8 am and other offices.

Liturgy and Music Committee

The Liturgy and Music Committee formed in the spring of 2009 has met regularly during the year and continued the work of reviewing the standards and operating procedures of our liturgical patterns. Noticeably this has had a significant effect on the length of the Sunday 9.30 am Parish Communion allowing more space for silence and

reflection as well as fellowship after and space before the next service. The children have continued to lead the sermon slot once a month to great effect, ably supervised by Katherine Bromley and Ann Goode.

Revd James Stewart *Acting Team Rector* Shaun Ward *Director of Music*

SPECIAL MUSIC PROJECTS

There were three main areas of activity in 2009.

The Organ

The first was a series of organ recitals given throughout the summer including celebrity recitals by two of the country's leading organists, Thomas Trotter and Simon Preston. The series was highly successful and continues to demonstrate the importance of the historical organ in St Laurence's. Roger Judd, Shaun Ward and Gloucester Cathedral's Ashley Grote, were the other three recitalists.

In addition to funding the recital series, SMP paid for two organ tunings and £900 worth of work to the organ.

Housman Anniversary Concert for Ludlow Festival

SMP mounted a concert given by James Gilchrist, tenor and the Schubert Ensemble, as part of the Ludlow Festival in a programme of Housman inspired works. Again this was highly successful with the church about two-thirds full and was an excellent demonstration of SMP's willingness to co-operate with other music providers in the town.

Education Outreach Work

As part of its ongoing education outreach work, SMP mounted two Mystery Plays, commissioning both composer and librettist, and which was performed by children from local Ludlow schools. Performances were held over two evenings. Given the nature of the production, this was necessarily the most expensive SMP project of the year.

Jane Allsopp *Hon Administrator*

ST LAURENCE'S CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Our main event of 2009 was the staging of the Mystery Plays, 'Noah' and 'David and Goliath' which took place in June. Children from Ludlow New Voices and from local schools were involved, and they brought family and friends to the performances, both of which were well attended.

The Christingle service took place at St Laurence's in 2009 and was attended by around 300 people. The arrangements for the First Light services have been altered so that the children and young people do the sermon at the 9.30 am Parish Communion on the first Sunday of the month. In conjunction with this, the sessions in the vestry with the children have been re-arranged to give more time for First Light preparation and to include children attending the service who are not members of the choir. Following the confirmation in November of 16 children and young people, a handful of those children are now coming to the 9.30 am Parish Communion. We are exploring ways of offering them the opportunity to be more involved in the service, and a post-confirmation discussion group has been started meeting at 11.0 am in the church on the third Sunday of each month.

We are currently making arrangements to visit the local primary schools to offer them the chance to be involved in some musical activities which we hope will create an opportunity for outreach and recruitment to the choir.

A number of school groups have visited St Laurence's and some of them were given a short tour which we hope might be a model for the future.

A Baby and Toddler group has been set up, meeting on Tuesday mornings in the church: numbers have so far been low, but we hope more people may attend as the warmer weather approaches.

Anna Branston *Chair of Children's Committee*

SERVERS

A dedicated group of servers has continued to play their vital role in sustaining the order and beauty of our worship through the liturgical year. We thank them all for their contribution to the ministry of St Laurence's.

Three servers, Rory Chase, Nick Deakin, and Rob Downes, now act as MC (Master of Ceremonies), leading the serving team at the 9.30 am Parish Communion. We are grateful to them for taking on this particular role which is a great help to the presiding priest.

We now have the new robes, planned a year ago; a great improvement on the elderly and shabby cassock albs which they replaced!

We are always delighted to have new members of the serving team, both adults and young people, and full training is given. If you are interested please speak to me or any of the clergy.

Revd James Stewart *Acting Team Rector*

BELLS AND BELLRINGERS

At last the bells after many years of waiting and fundraising have been augmented into a gorgeous ring of 10. The old eight were removed in December 2008 by Nicholson Engineering and sent to the Whitechapel Bell Foundry. There the tenor was scrapped, five new bells cast and all the bells including the two from Kidderminster retuned.

The bells were returned in March 2009 and Nicholson's re-hung them in a modified frame to give us a lighter ring of 10 with the tenor weighing 16.5 cwt (840 kg) and a carillon with 13 bells. The carillon was also modified and updated at this time. Those of you who came to see the raising of the bells into the bell chamber from the Chancel floor will appreciate how difficult this operation was.

Bishop Michael Hooper blessed the bells in March and the first ringing took place at Easter. We have now I believe a glorious ring of 10, which augments St Laurence's Greater Church status.

Our new bells have attracted many visiting bands and individual visitors who all have acknowledged the improvement over the old ring of eight. Several quarter peals have been rung during the year on the third Sunday of each month and the first peal of Grandsire Caters was rung in June 2009 to celebrate the retirement of Bishop Michael.

Our band numbers have remained constant throughout the year and we have managed to ring on most Sundays. New ringers and recruits are always welcome.

Thanks must go to Bishop Michael Hooper, Preb. Brian Curnew, the Churchwardens Ewart Carson and Anna Branston and Shaun Ward Clerk of Works for all their help and encouragement over the past 12 months.

Tony Greatrex *Tower Captain*

HANDBELLS

St Laurence's Handbells has had another successful year. Over the summer the bells were refurbished and augmented to two full octaves. We enjoyed playing in various Christmas services, particularly taking part in the BBC Radio Shropshire Nine Lessons and Carols and playing for the Parish Wives in St Giles, Ludford.

We are a small friendly group who meet on a Tuesday night and who would welcome new members. Contact Sally Newman-Kidd c/o the Parishes Office.

Sally Newman-Kidd

CHURCH CLEANING - HOLY DUSTERS

Thanks are due to the Holy Dusters, who have managed to keep the church dusted and the brass cleaned this year. Visitors to St Laurence's often remark on how well the church is kept. Recently several of our number have had to retire and we are hoping that more volunteers will come forward.

Pat Schofield

PASTORAL COMMITTEE

We are a small, enthusiastic group committed to our aim of overseeing the care of St Laurence's and St John's congregations, maintaining a link with all, so if a need arises we can be there for that person. This includes those who are not able to come to church because of health or other issues.

Our role is to act in tandem with the Ministry Team/Mother's Union/CTAL with regard to aspects of pastoral care and below is a sample of some of the activities with which we are involved:

- Link Contact visiting
- Welcome visits to new members of the congregation
- Lifts to church for people who need transport
- Home Communions
- Bereavement Support
- Residential Care ministry
- Making contact with the local Women's Refuge
- Regular Coffee Mornings at St John's church and occasionally at St Laurence's

In the Wider Community we have:

- Attended the Ludlow Partnership Group to share information and represent Ludlow Team Ministry
- Liaised with Age Concern and other organisations
- Distributed Harvest Parcels to the housebound, Women's Refuge and South Shropshire Housing Association.
- Advocated and liaised with professionals re the Mother's Union "Away From It All" scheme
- Participated in Home Start activities

We have been pleased to welcome Mary Williams and Sue Thomas as members of the committee this year. Many people are involved in supporting these activities and we are grateful especially to Jen Pollard and the Links, Pam and Alan Latchford and Michael Day. We look forward to the challenges and opportunities of this coming year.

Pat Pardoe *Secretary*

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

In 2009 the Social Committee organised various parish breakfasts and most enjoyable Harvest and Candlemas suppers. The suppers raised in excess of £500. The money raised from the raffle at the Harvest Supper was donated to the Kenyan harvest crisis fund.

We have also provided food for the wine tasting fundraiser, refreshments for the Summer Fête and Christmas Bazaar as well as mulled wine and mince pies following the service of nine lessons and carols.

This year we are hoping to run some tabletop sales with refreshments and also cream teas following a new service in the summer for those who are unable to get to church, special transport is being made available.

Anna Branston - *Chair*

STEWARDSHIP AT ST LAURENCE'S

The commitment and enthusiasm of our stewards has been a great help to me in keeping the Church open seven days a week. As usual, for a variety of reasons, a number of our cohort of stewards (over 100 in number) have had to give up during the course of the year and we are of course grateful for their service over many years. However, I am pleased to report that a number of new stewards have come forward in response to a recruitment campaign.

Although the overall number is still a little down on last year, we are able to have a minimum of two stewards at all times during the week. During the coming year we are hoping to continue recruiting new stewards.

Pam Latchford *Chief Steward*

THE CONSERVATION TRUST FOR ST LAURENCE

The Trust held several events during the year which included a Coffee Morning at 26 Broad Street; the Palmers' Feast at De Greys; a 'Journey through Time' described as a "leisurely evening stroll visiting four historic houses in the town" – it was during this event that the news of David Lloyd's death was announced bringing the occasion to an abrupt and shocking end. The Garden Party at Maryvale in June went ahead despite the pouring rain – many thanks to the College for agreeing for us to move into the Old School Room for lunch. The Old Ludlovian Market Stall was held as usual as was the Annual Meeting; however the planned evening walks for June and July, to be guided by David, did not.

The Trust welcomed three new Trustees: Claire Wilcox, Elizabeth Bennett and Julian Morgan; Jen Davies, due to retire, agreed to stay another year providing valuable continuity after David's death – the Trustees were very grateful to her and she organised the Trust's very first street collection!

As always, grateful thanks go to all who generously offered their homes for events.

The Trust continues to work closely with the PCC in order to provide funding for the conservation of St Laurence's – I liken it somewhat to the Forth Bridge! The Trust does need to increase its budget awareness and I would like to encourage people to make a commitment for regular giving, no matter how large or small.

Finally, my thanks to my fellow Trustees for their never ending good spirits and support.

Helen Coleman *Chair of the Trust*

FAIRTRADE

During 2009 Fairtrade produce started to be stocked in the St Laurence Shop. Traidcraft stock is being sourced from The Ludlow Conference Centre, by arrangement with Liz Taylor, Traidcraft Fairtrader and Co-ordinator of The Traidcraft outlet at Ludlow Conference Centre and Chair of The Ludlow Fairtrade Town Group.

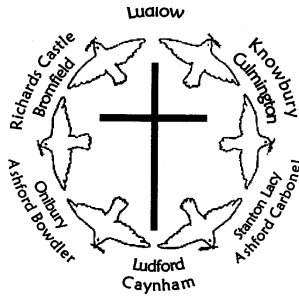
On 21 October 2009 The PCC agreed to support an application for St Laurence to become a Fairtrade Church. In addition, Poterion Fairtrade Communion Wine was ordered for the team parishes. St Laurence Fairtrade Church Certificate arrived in February 2010 with a thank you letter from The Fairtrade Foundation.

During Fairtrade Fortnight 22 February -7 March 2010, there was a Traidcraft Stall and display behind the font, focusing on tea producers. The main aims were to raise awareness of Fairtrade, encourage participation in the nationwide Fairtrade SWAP campaign and also in the Traidcraft 'Make it Fair' campaign challenging the five big tea producers to become Fairtrade. A BIG BREW Parish Breakfast was held on 7th March.

It is envisaged that Fairtrade will be 'overviewed' in the newly formed Outward Concern Committee and that work will be coordinated with Churches Together Around Ludlow (CTAL) and The Ludlow Fairtrade Town Group.

Traidcraft Sales July to December 2009	£493.00
Traidcraft Sales January and February 2010	<u>£178.00</u>
Of which taken during 1 st week of Fairtrade Fortnight	£82.00
Sales during 2 nd week of Fairtrade Fortnight	£132.35
Sales of Traidcraft marmalade, jam etc for Big Brew (Paid for subsequently)	<u>£16.45</u>
Sales during Fairtrade Fortnight	£230.80
Big Brew Parish Breakfast 7 March 2010 profit	£100.00
Attended by 45 people	
Donations to Traidcraft Exchange	£10.19
of which £5.00 gift aided	<u>+£1.25</u>
	£11.44

Penelope A Bridstrup



LUDLOW TEAM MINISTRY

TEAM REPORTS

FOR PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS 2010

Many aspects of our ministry are shared between a number or all of the parishes. The following reports are about them. Please read them.

**Team Rector's Report; Local Ministry Team;
Deanery Synod; Team Treasurers' Report; Mothers' Union;
Churches Together Around Ludlow**

- Ludlow Town Parishes** St Laurence with St John, Ludlow; St Giles, Ludford
- Ashfords Group** Ashford Carbonel, Ashford Bowdler, Bitterley with Middleton, Caynham, Knowbury, Richards Castle
- Culmington Group** Bromfield, Clee St. Margaret & Cold Weston, Culmington, Onibury, Stanton Lacy, Stoke St. Milborough & The Heath
- Licensed Clergy** James Stewart, Richard Green, Ann Barge, John Beesley, Steve Jarvis
- Readers** Stephen Ashford, Roger Hall, Richard Mercer, Averil Norton, John Robson
- Local Ministry Team** Stephen Ashford, Ann Barge, John Beesley, Madelyn Carlyon, Gerald Didlick, Rob Downes, Richard Green, Roger Hall, Susannah Hall, Steve Jarvis, James Stewart
- Ludlow Community Hospital** Chaplain, Richard Green; Ecumenical Chaplaincy Team.
- Schools**
- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Ludlow CE Secondary School | (Philip Poulton) |
| St Laurence CE Primary School | (Kevin Bryant) |
| Bishop Hooper CE Primary School | (Kerri Phelps) |
| Bitterley CE Primary School | (Jane Bishop) |
| Corvedale CE Primary School | (Chris Ball) |
| Onny CE Primary School | (Philip Dale) |
| Ludlow Infants School | (Val Matthews) |
| Ludlow Junior School | (Sally Swann) |
| Ludlow F.E. College | (Chris Conoley) |
- Clergy with Permission to Officiate** Juergen Bridstrup, Neil Crawford-Jones, Brian Dickson, John Haslam, John James, Derrick Jenkyns, Philip Jepps, Neil MacGregor, Gerald Priday, David Roberts, Jeffry Wilcox, John Williams
- Hereford – Nuremberg Partnership** Ludlow and Langwasser, Paul Gerhardt Kirche
- Churches Together Around Ludlow**

TEAM RECTOR'S REPORT by the Joint Acting Team Rectors Revd James Stewart & Revd Richard Green
The year has been a time of change for our whole Team Ministry. We celebrate the positive and cheerful response of our new parishes, Bitterley with Middleton, Clee St. Margaret and Cold Weston, and Stoke St. Milborough with the Heath, to life in the Team, of which they are now very much a valued part. As they grew into our family, so Prebendary Brian Curnew prepared to leave us for his new charge, a group of Kentish parishes. On 29th November at a memorable last service at St. Laurence's in the morning and at a tea party at Ludlow School in the afternoon, Brian and Tessa bade farewell to many friends made here over the past 15 years. We thank Brian for all that he gave in his notable ministry in Ludlow.

We also said goodbye in June to Bishop Michael Hooper as Bishop and Archdeacon of Ludlow on his retirement. In October we were then delighted and honoured to hold in St .Laurence's the Diocesan service to welcome his successor, Bishop Alistair Magowan. He is now overseeing the appointment of the new Team Rector, whom we hope to see in post by the end of the summer.

We are preparing too for the retirement of Peter Turner, the Team Administrator, at the end of March. We thank him very much for the vital contribution he has made to our life over many years, and we wish him and Carol a long and happy second retirement. We are in the process of appointing his successor.

The Revd Steve Jarvis, our Minister in Secular Employment, is also moving. In April he takes up a new post in the Diocese of Gloucester as Youth Development Officer, although we will continue to enjoy his Sunday ministry until the end of July as he completes his curacy here. We are grateful to Steve for his valuable and widely appreciated ministry at Ludlow School, and at Ludlow College, where he was instrumental in setting up the chaplaincy, as well as his involvement with our parishes.

In July we welcomed the Revd John Beesley, newly ordained deacon, as our full-time Curate in the Team. John has settled happily with us, having already learnt what to expect on a placement here during his training! We look forward to his ordination as priest at the Cathedral on 2nd.October.

Finally we are grateful to all those who have supported us loyally and cheerfully over the past months: churchwardens and other parish officers, members of the Local Ministry Team, our fellow clergy including those retired, and many more who contribute unobtrusively in sustaining the life of the Church in both our town and village parishes.

We look forward with confidence to another year of growth and development for our Team Ministry '*united in Christ for the service of all God's people*'. That is our prayer, our duty, and our joy.

LOCAL MINISTRY TEAM by Fr Richard Green

Some fundamental changes to the way the local ministry team works were agreed this year. We decided to meet as a group less often, but with a wider membership. So as well as the core members of the team, we invited all those involved in ministry across the parishes to a meeting to discuss the way ahead. Members of the baptism preparation group, home communion visiting group, hospital chaplaincy team, lay leaders of worship and St Laurence's link visitors were included. We also decided to change the name from 'local ministry team' to 'local ministry group' to reflect this wider membership. The meeting took place on 4 March and those who came felt that meeting up in this way was a useful thing to do, for mutual support and information sharing.

The current period is an exciting time for local ministry in Ludlow as we seek to discern where God is calling us and how we can best chart a course for the future.

LUDLOW DEANERY SYNOD 2010 by Andrew Pike (Culmington), Lay Co-Chairman

During the past year we have had our usual four meetings. In May we welcomed Chris Pullen, Canon Chancellor at the cathedral, who spoke on the role of the cathedral in the diocese. He asked us to consider various questions – 'Who are we for?' 'What can we offer that a parish church cannot?' 'How should we be developing for 21st century mission and ministry'? In July the deanery went to St Mary's Church, Burford, for the annual evensong. Archdeacon Malcolm Colmer preached and, after the service on one of the few warm evenings of the summer, we all enjoyed a delicious supper provided by the people of Burford and the surrounding parishes. In October the Revd Nick Read talked to the synod on his enhanced role as Chaplain for the Environment, Agriculture and Rural Life during which he asked us all to consider our carbon footprint. He said that over 30% of the food produced in this country goes to waste, although we spend 10% of our disposable income on it; food for thought! In January we heard from Tony Leach about his position as Diocesan Director of Education and about the challenges faced by the church schools up and down the diocese. We continue to support Jackson Mhunda, 'our' ordinand in Tanzania, although we do urge parishes to organise various events to make up the shortfall in funding for Jackson. Cleobury Mortimer has received £5000 from the Deanery Mission Grant for a Youth Project. Finally, it is good to report that Julie Cook (Secretary to the Tenbury Team Ministry) has now taken over as Administrative Secretary to the Deanery and Aileen Hood as Minutes Secretary.

TEAM TREASURERS' REPORT 2010 by Michael Poyntz (Ashford Carbonell)

It is pleasing to be able to report that all parishes in the Team were able to pay the share they had committed to at the beginning of 2009. This outcome has contributed to the Deanery being able to pay its Diocesan quota for the year in full thus earning a rebate of 2% worth some £6,500. This sum is being held in an Equalisation Account so that the Deanery can continue to be able to assist parishes in financial difficulties.

Because of the adverse impact on Diocesan finances caused by the current economic downturn, in addition to a 2% general increase on the quota for 2010, Deaneries in receipt of phasing subsidies, which includes the Ludlow Deanery, have been requested to pay a further 3% in order to try and reduce this subsidy. The Deanery Synod Standing Committee agreed to use some of the money accrued in the equalisation account to offset this increase to a total of 4% to try and reduce the burden placed upon parishes.

The annual meeting of Treasurers took place on 26 January 2010 and once again thanks to a prevailing spirit of co-operation and understanding from parishes represented the majority agreed to a 4% increase whilst one offered a generous 5.3%. Two parishes disclosed financial difficulties and it was agreed to abate their share leaving a shortfall of £1,383 to be met from the Deanery Equalisation Account.

At the same meeting Peter Turner, the Team Administrator, presented the 2009 draft accounts for the Parish Office and Clergy Expenses and the provisional budget for 2010. In the light of the vacancy for Team Rector following Brian Curnew's departure and Peter Turner's impending retirement there are some uncertainties regarding the likely outcome for the current year and because of this the rate of contribution for parishes will remain unchanged from last year. Peter was warmly thanked by those present for all his hard work, commitment and good humour during his time as Team Administrator.

MOTHERS' UNION by Shelagh Jenkyns (Branch Leader)

We now have nearly 40 members who meet each month at the Ludlow Conference Centre to worship together, to listen to a speaker and share fellowship over a cup of tea. We also visited other churches in a group for Evensong at the opening and closing of our year and have left information at the recently acquired parishes who may wish to be included.

We all enjoyed our outing to Much Wenlock in June and have helped with the cake stalls at St Laurence Summer and Christmas Fairs. We raised £235.00 for overseas work at our November meeting and enrolled three new members in October.

We are due to lead the M.U. Cathedral Prayers in April and to attend a Lady Day Eucharist (March 25th) at Cardington – we do feel privileged to be able to care for the needs of our members – Perhaps you would enjoy being with us.

CHURCHES TOGETHER AROUND LUDLOW by Preb David Roberts

Each of the churches of Ludlow has its own style, traditions and perceptions of the Gospel. But in today's multi-faith world it is important for the churches to see themselves as members of one family and with a concern for the well-being of each other.

During the year the Christians of Ludlow did many things together: - Carols in Castle Square, prayer in each others' churches in the Week of Prayer for Unity and a United Service, Lent Discussion groups and hunger lunches, a Walk of Witness on Good Friday, a Quiet Day at Hennor House, and quarterly united services for fellowship. In addition CTAL has promoted working together at Wesley's Café, Christian Aid Week, Fairtrade, Tradecraft, services in residential homes and chaplaincy at the local hospital, the gift of Christian books to the library, school assemblies, an exhibition during the Ludlow Festival on breaking the barriers in Israel/Palestine, monthly lunch groups, praying for persecuted Christians, emergency food parcels, outreach suppers, the Ecology Group, and a 'New Initiatives Fund' to promote innovative projects especially among young people. CTAL is represented on the Shropshire Ecumenical Council.

That gives a mere flavour of all that has been happening. In addition various individuals express their faith by involvement in good works in the community where they are present on behalf of all. It is gratifying to see that the Moderator is increasingly involved as a Christian presence in the community.