

## MEETING OF THE PCC – SEPTEMBER 2011

Amongst the issues discussed and considered at the September meeting of the PCC were the following:

**Church Walk:** The PCC rejoiced at the news that a “White Knight” had bought the proposed development plot of land adjacent to the east window of the Church and the Reader's House on behalf of the Civic Society. Members of the PCC were thanked for their role in supporting the “Stop the Blot” campaign over the past months. In due course decisions will be made as to how the land can best be used for the benefit of the wider Ludlow community.

**Children's Corner:** The success of the play area for children in the north side of the church was welcomed, having been well used by many young children amongst the large number of summer visitors. It was noted that the Children's Corner was established on an experimental basis and will be reviewed in due course.

**Financial Report:** It was reported that income was now running slightly over budget, whilst expenditure was slightly under budget, leading to a much greater overall surplus of income to date than planned. However, cash flow remains very tight and expenditure and financial commitments need ongoing, firm control. Office running costs are continuing to be very well contained and are running well below the budgeted level, thanks particularly to the efforts of Susan Goble. It is now possible that there might be a slight surplus of income at the end of the year, something to be hoped for and achieved if possible.

**Stewardship:** Concern was expressed that Planned Giving by members of the congregations still fell far short of the Parish Share. It was agreed that there was a need to encourage people to give more, if it was within their means, and two sermons at St Laurence's during October would focus on this theme as part of a Stewardship Campaign.

**Vision Project:** Achievements reported from recent weeks include: the effective working of the new Vision Office at No.2 College Street; the completion of a draft Case Statement (project summary) which will inform the Project Brief that is about to be given to the architects; and the

approval by the PCC of a new Vision Project logo. In addition the first phase of the Vision Project, repairs totalling £76k funded by the Conservation Trust, are under way. These relate to monuments, mediaeval roundels, royal coat of arms and ten commandments board and Parvis room ceiling. The installation of an access system for the roofs has begun, enabling some of the persistent leaks to be tackled.

**Committee Structure and Terms of Reference:** The first meeting of the new Finance and Standing Committee had now met and its Terms of reference were formally agreed.

**Outward Concern Group:** Decisions were made for outward giving in 2011 (10% of Planned Giving), namely: 30% to international bodies (USPG and the CMS); 30% to national bodies (Church Urban Fund and Mothers' Union "Away from it all" fund); and 40% (CAB, Homestart and the New Initiatives Fund co-ordinated by CTAL). It was agreed that the payments would all be made before the end of 2011, such that from now onwards, all Outward Giving would take place within the year to which it related (rather than being given in arrears as had been the case over recent years). From 2012 it is planned to ask members of the congregations for ideas as to who the recipients should be.

**PCC Policies:** As part of the process of having in place a complete set of policy documents, the PCC approved an Equal Opportunities Policy (including sections on discrimination and victimisation, bullying and harassment) and a number of policies relating to the Management of Employees.

**Communication:** The need for better communication was acknowledged with this being a responsibility, first, of all members of the PCC. More time needs to be devoted to identifying means of achieving better communication and then implementing such means. Better use must be made of the website and effective marketing and publicity are essential prerequisites for successful events.

**PCC Secretary:** Val Hardwick was enthusiastically welcomed as the new PCC Secretary, having been duly appointed to this position by the PCC.

*Ewart Carson*