

# Vision News



October 2010

## *From the Rector, The Venerable Colin Williams*

I have been in Ludlow for three months now and am very excited to support **this dynamic project. Knowing that St Laurence's was embarking on such a** major project was a vital factor in my decision to apply for the post here in Ludlow. The wide scope of the Project **demonstrated that St. Laurence's means** business about being a church and a community which is ready for effective service of God and of our town. There is a long way still for us to go – but we are determined that the Project will move forward so that our Parish Church which has been so much loved down the centuries can continue to be a place which will be treasured and loved in the generations to come. Our Church was conceived in mediaeval times not just as a place to reveal the glory of God but also to serve the community in which it was set. It is our determination **that St. Laurence's will continue to serve our local community in a wide** variety of ways.



There is much still for us to do and this newsletter outlines much of the work going on behind the scenes. It goes without saying that the success of this project relies on the support of the whole community. I look forward to working with the whole community of Ludlow in helping deliver what is both a regionally and nationally important project. This is a real opportunity for us to breathe life into our much loved and celebrated building.

Thank you for joining with us on this exciting journey as we plan and adapt our much loved building so that future generations may also share in this rich heritage.

*Colin Williams*

# *From the Churchwardens*

**You could be forgiven for thinking that the Vision Project has 'gone quiet',** but much has been happening behind the scenes over the past year and so this newsletter provides an opportunity to update you on the progress.

The Vision Project Team

Since 2008 the Project Team has been responsible for taking forward the Vision Project; the Team is a sub committee of the Parochial Church Council (PCC). Over the past 12 months it has been enlarged to include

**representatives from St Giles' and St John's Churches. Moreover, the**

Venerable Colin Williams has joined us this July as Team Rector of the Ludlow Team of Parishes. The Project Team now comprises:

The Venerable Colin Williams *Team Rector*

Don Beattie *Treasurer*

Anna Branston *Churchwarden*

Dr Ewart Carson *Churchwarden*

Wendy Coomby & Joanne Gibbon

*Hereford Diocese Community Partnership and Development*

Bill Eastwell *St John's Church*

Susan Goble *Parishes' Administrator*

John Nash *St Giles' Church*

Shaun Ward *Project Co-ordinator*

Canon Jeffry Wilcox *Ludlow Town Councillor*

The Project Team normally meets once every two weeks, and reports on a bi monthly basis to the PCC.

The Vision Project Steering Group

To ensure the involvement of the wider community we created a Steering Group. The Steering Group for the Vision Project includes representatives of **many of the organisations in Ludlow that have a key interest in St Laurence's Church**, together with a number of individuals who bring their own particular professional expertise.

Organisations represented include: the Conservation Trust for St Laurence, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, Ludlow Choral Society, Ludlow Civic Society, Ludlow Cittaslow, Ludlow College, Ludlow Festival, Ludlow Food Festival, Ludlow Historical Research Group, Ludlow Methodist Church, Ludlow Music Society, Ludlow Orchestra, Ludlow Rotary and Ludlow Town Council.

The Steering Group meets with the Project Team several times per year, receiving regular updating on progress and offering feedback and comment to the Project Team. Membership of the Steering Group currently includes:

John Aitken, Alan Althorp, James Caird, Sue Carloss, Helen Coleman, Roy Coles, Chris Crowcroft, Alison Cundall, Jonathan Davis, Beth Heath, Igor Kennaway, Bill Lloyd-Kitchen, Don Millington, John Nash, Mike Page, Paula Redway, John Stinton, Laurence Taylor, Gareth Williams, Doris Wood and Rosemary Wood.

We are committed to completing a successful project. It goes without saying that this project is incredibly complex and its success will rely largely on the involvement of our whole community. It will take time, patience and a great deal of hard work. We look forward to continue to work with you.

Ewart Carson & Anna Branston *Churchwardens*

# Public Exhibition

## 'Creativity and Care'

*New Works in English Cathedrals*

October 20 to November 20

The Chancel – **St Laurence's**

As part of the Vision Project we will be exhibiting the recent English Heritage publication highlighting 16 major projects that have been completed in English cathedrals. These range from the new font at Salisbury Cathedral to the new visitor centre at Norwich Cathedral.

**The exhibition will be in the chancel of St Laurence's and on display until 20 November.** We hope you can take this opportunity to learn about how other major church buildings are responding to changing needs.

# *What have we been doing over the last year?*

## *Preparing Documents*

Although it might have appeared that all was quiet on the Vision Project front over recent months, nothing could be further from the truth. A great deal of effort is being devoted to preparatory works, mainly in the preparation of key documentation. These documents will be of great importance as we seek the necessary approvals for the conservation and re-ordering the interior of St Laurence's and in seeking financial support from bodies such as English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund. The PCC has approved the project brief and this has been presented to the Diocesan Advisory Committee as well as other consultative bodies such as the Church Buildings Council. The document has been commended as an excellent example of its type. We are committed to continuing to revise it over the course of the next few months, as plans develop. Other work has included:

## *Asset Management Plans*

Asset Management Plans are being drawn up for the three properties owned by the Ludlow Parish: St Laurence's Church, St John's Church and No.2 College Street. These will provide estimates of the costs involved in their future maintenance over the next 20 years. This will help us understand the full cost in maintaining these properties.

## *Conservation Management Plan*

A conservation management plan is simply a document that helps you to understand why heritage is important. It lists in detail the history of a building and its contents. It also helps you to look after it. It includes both management and maintenance plan and helps to ensure that any proposals that affect existing fabric are done so sympathetically.

## *Statement of Significance and Need*

This document forms the basis of the project brief. It continues to evolve and in its present form has already been seen by the relevant planning and heritage bodies. It describes first the historical and current significance of St Laurence's as one of England's most important Parish Churches. It then goes on to describe the need, highlighting the catalysts for the Vision Project and what it is that the Project would seek to achieve in terms of Conservation and the role and functioning of the Church in terms of Worship and Wider Community Use. It forms the basis of the project brief.

## *Mission Action Plan*

This is a living, and constantly evolving document which sets out the Mission Goals for the Parish and ways in which we can seek to achieve them. The four goals are: enabling the people of God to discover and exercise their ministry by nurturing their spiritual and pastoral gifts; celebrating the richness and diversity of our worship and music by encouraging and developing our choral and liturgical tradition; engaging with the local Community and the wider world to address issues of social concern; and creating a sustainable building and infrastructure for the ministry of the Church.

***Here is an overview of how the project will progress...***

## *Mount St Laurence*

*Base Camp: Project Launched October 2008!*

*Camp 1 Public Consultation & Engagement December 2008 -*

*Camp 2 Feasibility and Design November 2010 -*

*Camp 3 Completed Design & Start of Fundraising  
September 2011 -*

*Camp 4 Works on Site 2012/13*

*Summit Project Completion ...*



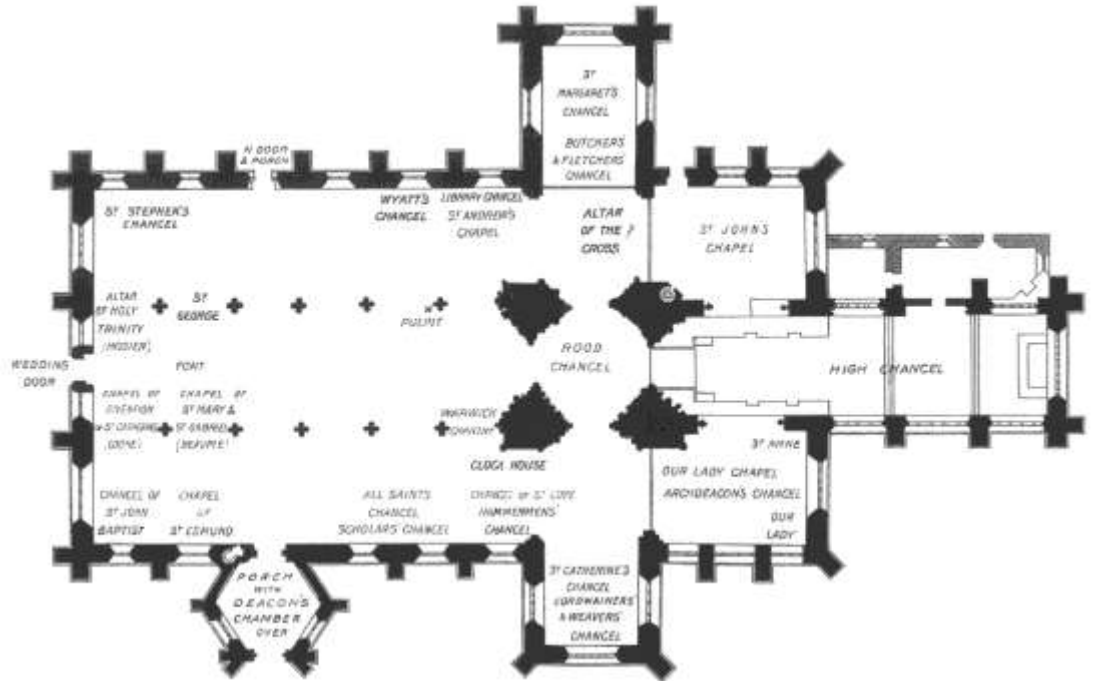
## *Parish outing to Cirencester and Bath*

*On October 16 the PCC and members of the congregation enjoyed a visit to projects including Cirencester Parish Church, St Michael's Without, Bath and Bath Abbey. This gave us a valuable opportunity to experience two churches which have completed major re-orderings, including using under floor heating. Here is what people said: 'We were warm! - so we wanted to stay!!', 'Imaginative creation of gallery', 'Beautiful new balcony' and 'Excellent floor'. We also learned valuable lessons: 'Lacks quiet prayer space', 'Seating a mess, project not seen as a complete whole', 'Still an appearance of clutter', 'Over budget, over time, no master plan'.*

# St Laurence's - A Changing Church

15th Century...

During the late medieval period the church was extended and extensively rebuilt. The building was brightly coloured and it must have been very busy. There were 27 chantry chapels throughout the



**church.** Many of these were used by the town's guilds such as the Fletchers and Palmers Guild. The building would have been a hive of activity; so much took place within the walls: divine service, people meeting and of course the town's commerce.

18th Century...

During the 18th century the church was reordered. Galleries and box pews were installed throughout the nave. The Earl of Powys paid for a beautiful



new organ by the fashionable London organ builder John Snetzler. The side chapels and chancel were left largely unfurnished and left unused. The town fire engine was even stored in the former Lady Chapel.

## 19th Century....

In the 19th century the church was reordered yet again. The clutter of previous centuries was removed and replaced with ordered pews and aisles. The latest technology of coal heating and gas lighting was installed. The focus in services returned to the high altar, beautiful embroideries adorned the once bare high altar. The organ was moved from its imposing position under the tower into the north transept. The tower was completely refaced in new stone; the great piers had their foundations rebuilt.



## 20th Century....

The church has been extensively repaired including major restoration of the roof timbers and masonry, as well as the organ and bells. However, the beautiful interior has become cluttered by successive piecemeal alterations, the nave altar and rails, the toilet and kitchen pods, the shop and the staging and seating, all filling every available space. The failing heating, lighting, flooring and audio system it makes the building more difficult to use. All these are vital aspects of our modern church, they are needed to help make



St Laurence's the community building it was always intended to be. It is now time to apply order and planning so that we can continue to serve the community and provide a legacy that future generations can be proud of.

# Conserving St Laurence's for the future

Caring for the historic fabric of our building is a never ending process. Since 1860 there has been a continuous programme of repair and maintenance. The conservation of the building was identified as one of the main priorities of the Vision Project in the town consultation.

Much work has been going on behind the scenes to progress the next stage of works on the building and its contents. The month of May saw the return of two of our paintings, both of past organists, one in oil and one in watercolour; these have been cleaned, the torn canvas repaired and conserved (*pictured right*).



They can be viewed by the organ case in the North transept.

We have now secured the funding for a further approximately £70k of work. We now await the necessary permissions before this work can proceed. These works include:

1. Repairs to stone masonry of chancel clerestory windows
2. Repairs to stained glass Phase 2
3. Repairs to Parvis Room ceiling
4. Repairs to monuments Phase 1
5. Repairs to chancel reredos
6. Conservation of Royal Arms and Ten Commandments Board
7. Installation of a Roped Access System on the nave, chancel and transept roofs
8. Repairs to the flashing and stone masonry of the nave south aisle clerestory
9. Repairs to stone masonry plinth west door
10. Repairs to parapet gutter nave north clerestory (above pulpit)
11. Gilding of the façade pipes of the organ
12. Repairs of nave north aisles three stained glass roundels\*

\*David Lloyd Memorial

We are also in the process of submitting a major application to English Heritage for works to stone masonry and replacement of the lead on the **Lady Chapel and St John's Chapel roofs.**

During the early months of 2010 you will have seen Kieran Elliot, conservator, examining and compiling a report on over 100 funeral monuments within the church. This substantial report has been funded by grants from the Church Buildings



Council, The Conservation Trust and a generous benefactor from our community. We are pleased to report that in total we need to spend £20k, much less than we had anticipated, on the conservation of the monuments, with there being an immediate need to spend £7k to secure the most fragile monuments. We are pleased to announce that the Conservation Trust has agreed to support Phase 1 of these works. Works should begin in early 2011.



You may also know that we have a collection of historic textiles, most of which are fine examples of 19<sup>th</sup> century embroidery: altar frontals, a burse and the parish banner. Some of these are in a truly perilous state and so the PCC decided that until such time as these items could be fully conserved their use should be restricted, thereby reducing the risk of any further deterioration. In total these important parts of our heritage need some £20k of work. The extensive work would be undertaken by a specialist conservator. We currently have no sources of funding for this work and the Team Rector and Churchwardens would be pleased to discuss the sponsorship of any part of this work with individuals. In the meantime funds have been secured from Shropshire Historic Churches Trust to repair the boxes in which these delicate items are housed to prevent further environmental damage.

*Shaun Ward*

# *What is the project really all about?*

Identifying the Needs

Catalyst for Change

In November 2007, Tim Ratcliffe, Quinquennial Inspecting Architect, noted that **'the floors in the nave continue to deteriorate and that replacement would be necessary before long'** and that **'the lead work to the Lady Chapel roof has been patched on a number of occasions, and is coming towards the end of its useful life.....complete releading is likely to be required in the foreseeable future.'** Coupled with these two major issues, the ageing heating and lighting systems have become unreliable, expensive to maintain and expensive to run (450 % rise in the cost of gas over the last 5 years). In response to these problems the PCC decided to launch a campaign that would engage the public in the conservation of the building and to facilitate the new building services required in a community building in the 21st century.

*The Vision Project intends to:*

Conserve the fabric - including replacement of the Lady Chapel roof covering. A major phase of stone masonry repairs, conservation of stained glass, paintings, and monuments.

Create better facilities for worship & wider Community use - A building that meets the worshipping needs of the current congregations, and allows greater use by the whole community.

Create an ordered interior - Providing clarity, more open space, free of clutter, a church worthy of the historic heritage.

*As well as replacing basic services:*

Lighting - Appropriate energy-efficient lighting

Audio systems - Comprehensive public address system

Heating - Appropriate energy-efficient heating

Flooring - Appropriate floor surface, fully accessible

Amenities - Provision of toilets, catering facilities, shop, storage, meeting rooms and offices

# *Most importantly, we've appointed the Project Architect...*

The appointment of the Project Architect for the Vision Project is one of great importance. Some 17 architectural practices of national renown expressed interest in the Project, and from this number four were short-listed on the basis of an explicit set of criteria. The process was supervised by a working party of experts, James Caird, James Harris and Stephen Treasure, as well as Ewart Carson and Shaun Ward. During the latter part of September and the beginning of October, the offices of all four practices were visited by members of the Project Team, as were examples of projects that they have undertaken (which also enabled us to meet clients). This assessment process was completed by formal interviews, at which a unanimous recommendation was made. The panel members were the Team Rector, Team Vicar, Churchwardens, Treasurer, Clerk of Works and James Caird. The PCC met on October 15 and were then fully briefed on the whole process of assessment. They unanimously resolved to accept the recommendation of the interview panel.

- *In the 15th century Ludlow sent for the Mason of Gloucester Cathedral*
- *In the 19th century Ludlow sent for Sir George Gilbert Scott*
- *In the 21st century Andrew Arrol, Architect to York Minster, has been appointed Project Architect*

The successful practice is Arrol & Snell, Shrewsbury. The practice was founded in the late 1980s and consists of around 15 staff, who are all passionate about historic buildings, especially those in Shropshire. They have the care of a number of major ecclesiastical buildings in their portfolio including York Minster, as well as designing the award winning new song school at Chester Cathedral. The panel was particularly impressed by the attention to detail, the high quality design and finish, liturgical and spiritual awareness and understanding, and a thoroughly prepared submission.



## *What happens next.....*

Over the coming months, more work will be carried out in completing the many documents referred to earlier. Also the fund-raising methodology for the Project will be finalised and Fund-Raising Consultants identified and appointed.

Most importantly the Project Architect will carry out a Feasibility Study. This will involve many specialists such as archaeologists, mechanical and electrical engineers, structural engineers, lighting consultants, organ advisor, ecologist, and quantity surveyor. The completion of this study is expected in the Autumn of 2011, and will provide a design that has been approved by the PCC, Diocesan Advisory Council and all national heritage bodies, as well as detailed budgets for the project calculated by a quantity surveyor.

### *Feasibility Study – A Brief Overview*

- Stage 1 Briefing Project Architect
  - Assembling Professional Team
  - Commissioning Specialist Activities
- Stage 2 Options Appraisal - Concept Design
  - Conservation Review
  - Refining Options & Initial Cost Plan
- Stage 3 Preparation of final brief
  - Preparation of drawings and 3D visualisation
  - Consultation with National and Regional authorities
- Stage 4 Public Meeting, Consultations, Exhibitions and Workshops
  - Final Revision of Preferred Design and Costing
  - Completion and Publication of Feasibility Study

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*We need your help and support*

*Are you skilled in administration, fundraising, communication?*

*If so, why not get involved in this exciting project*

*Contact us at the Parish Office or [vision@stlaurences.org.uk](mailto:vision@stlaurences.org.uk)*

*[www.stlaurences.org.uk](http://www.stlaurences.org.uk)*