

**Press Release - 20<sup>th</sup> June 2009**

For immediate use

**A Vision for St Laurence's Church**

**Time for You to have Your Say**

St Laurence's Church, Ludlow is embarking upon a major, long-term project, with the vision of creating a church building that can better meet the needs of the wider community. This will involve a re-ordering of the interior of the church so as to make it more accessible, usable and comfortable for worship, concerts, exhibitions, meetings and all the other activities that take place within its walls.

An early part of the project involves engaging with the town, and over recent weeks we have been seeking the views of representatives of a wide range of worshippers, residents, businesses and organisations in and around Ludlow. Now we are about to complete a mail-drop to every household in Ludlow, so that everyone can have their say as to how St Laurence's can better meet the needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This is your parish church, so do please take this opportunity to respond.

Anna Branston and Ewart Carson

Churchwardens

St Laurence's Church, Ludlow

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION and CONTACT DETAILS**

St Laurence's Ludlow is one of the 24 "Greater Parish Churches" in the UK. Dating back to 1199, it is a prominent landmark in South Shropshire at the top of Ludlow town. Given a five star rating by Simon Jenkins in his book "England's Thousand Best Churches", the church is dubbed by him "the Cathedral of the Marches".

The church is home to 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 is the mother church of the Ludlow Team Ministry, covering 12 churches in South Shropshire, and led by the Team Rector, Revd. Preb. Brian Curnew and four clergy colleagues.

St Laurence's plays a key role in the religious life of South Shropshire, from regular Sunday worship to festival and civic services. It has a fine musical tradition. Its choir was founded in 1492, making it one of the first Parish Church choirs in the country. The church is also home to the Ludlow Choral Society, and numerous other musical events, from organ recitals to chamber music, and hosts major events as part of the Ludlow Festival. It attracts some 40,000 visitors a year from all over the world.

## CONTACTS

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