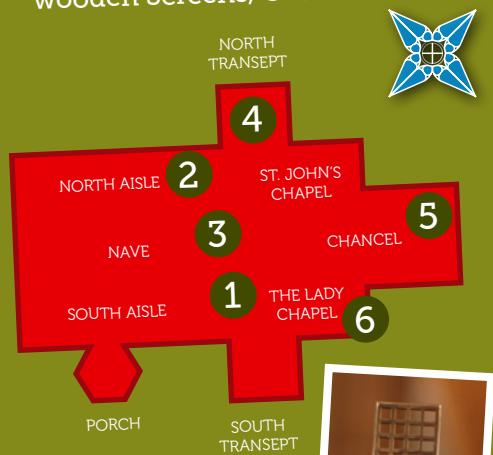




A Tour of the Church



It's a good idea to sit for two or three minutes near the back of the Church. From here you can get a fine view of the main parts of the building. From the Plan, work out which are the Nave, Aisles, wooden Screens, Chancel.



There has been a church here since 1199, over 800 years. It has changed quite a lot since then. The people of Ludlow long ago wanted their church to be big and beautiful, so they kept adding new parts. The first church was smaller and lower than it is now. **The last big change was made in about 1450**, when they made the whole church higher, and built the massive tower. The wooden ceilings above you were made then.

At that time the church looked very different from the way it does now. If you look at the walls now you see bare stone. **500 years ago, much of it was painted very brightly**, with pictures of saints (good and holy people), Bible stories and other patterns. You can probably see the remains of some striped paint near the Lectern (brass reading stand). [No. 1 on the Plan]



1. Look out for more wall-painting as you go round the church, write here where you found it

Another difference then, was that there were no pews (seats). People stood in the Nave for services (Mass). The Nave had lots of Chapels in it - small "churches" about the size of a room - where priests would say prayers every day.

About 450 years ago big changes were made in the churches in England. All the chapels were removed and wall-paintings were white-washed over. **In some churches statues were broken and coloured windows smashed.** Here in St Laurence's Ludlow, nobody broke the windows, but the wall-paintings and chapels went. (But there are three chapels again now, if you look at the plan).



The Tour



Start in the North Aisle, near the very modern glass kitchen and toilet. Up on the wall you will see a painted board. This is the **Coat of Arms of King Charles I.** [No. 2 on the plan]. You will see his initials up at the top – CR – Charles Rex (Charles, the King). If you look closely at the letter C, you will see the number 2 inside it. When Charles II became king, the church saved some money by just adding his number, instead of painting a new board.



2 Next, you come to the **Pulpit** [No. 3 on the plan] on your right. Look at the beautiful carving on it. From here the priest can be easily seen and heard by all the people when he or she explains the Bible.

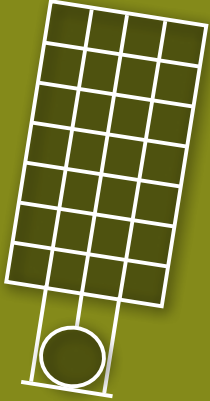


4 On your left is the big **Organ** [No. 4 on the plan]

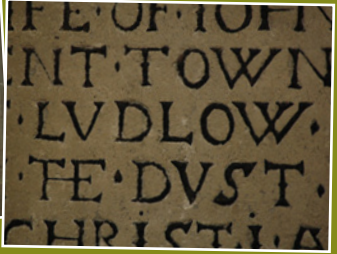


2. When was it built?

 (You can find the date on the Organ itself, in Roman numbers, or on the Information Board next to it).



In **St John's Chapel** you will see on the right the door to **the Tower** - 135 feet (45 metres) one of the highest in Britain. **There are 200 steps to the top.** Above the altar-table you will see, high up, a wooden canopy or cover (very rare in Britain).



3. Why do you think they built it?

 [There is a separate sheet on the Stained Glass Windows]

As you leave the chapel, turn left and left again up the steps into the **Chancel.** (This was where the daily prayers and services were said.) **Only the priests and choir came in here. Ordinary people stood in the Nave and listened.** [There is a separate sheet on the Misericord seats in the Chancel]



The Chancel is the most beautifully decorated part of the church.

Because this was the most important part, people liked to be buried here. You can see a number of tombs of rich people and brass plates on the wall. Look at the big coloured tomb [No. 5 on the plan] on the left, by the altar-table. It is of Sir Robert Townsend and his wife. They died in Queen Elizabeth I's reign.



5

4. Round the sides of the tomb are some small figures. Who do you think they are?

.....

One of the most interesting burials here is of **Prince Arthur** – eldest son of Henry VII (Henry 7th). Arthur died in Ludlow Castle and was due to be buried in Worcester Cathedral, about a week's journey away. **Before they took his body there, they buried his heart, lungs, etc. in the Chancel here.**

5. Why do you think they did that?

.....

Look up at the painted ceiling

6. Who are the figures there?

.....

7. What do you think they are holding?

.....



Coming from the Chancel, turn left and left again, into the **Lady Chapel** [No. 6 on the plan] named after Mary (Mother of Jesus). In front you will see the magnificent Jesse Window, **nearly 700 years old**, which shows the family tree of Jesus, with his ancestor Jesse lying at the bottom and Jesus in the in the centre near the top. [See the separate sheet on the Windows]

6



This chapel, now used for prayer, has at other times been used for different things. About 200 years ago, Ludlow's fire engine was kept here. It was a small, hand-pumped machine. In the right-hand wall, you can see where the doorway was. On the left you can see the pegs where they hung the fire-buckets.



8. Later on, the chapel was used for something else. What do you think it was? Clue: look at the front seat on the right and the back seat on the left

.....

Turn left into **St Catherine's Chapel**. The flag here was from a ship, H.M.S. Ludlow, named after Ludlow in Shropshire and Ludlow in the U.S.A. The window was put together from broken pieces of stained glass found in different parts of the church 100 years ago. **The monument by the wall is unusual.** The lady (who died 400 years ago) is lying on her side.



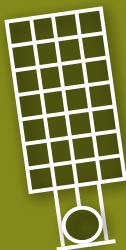
9. Why do you think they carved her like this?



On your way back to the entrance-porch to the Church, look at the beautiful big **West Window**. In the middle are **six barons who owned Ludlow Castle at various times about 800 years ago**. Two of them are holding models of the Castle. Beneath them, kneeling down, are four men from the royal family who came to Ludlow Castle.



As you leave St Laurence's, think of the hundreds of thousands of people who have built this Church, loved it and worshipped here. And still do, of course.



1. There are small areas of painting in St Catherine's Chapel, behind Robert Townsend's tomb and a few other places.
2. The Organ was built in 1764.
3. The canopy was built over the altar to make it look special.
4. The figures round the tomb are their children.
5. They removed the heart lungs, etc., because these would rot quickly, and they had a long journey to take the Prince's body before burial.
6. The figures in the Chancel ceiling are Angels.
7. They are holding verses from the Bible.
8. The Lady Chapel was used as a school for a time. Pupils carved their names on their desks.
9. She was carved like this, so that the tomb would take up less space.