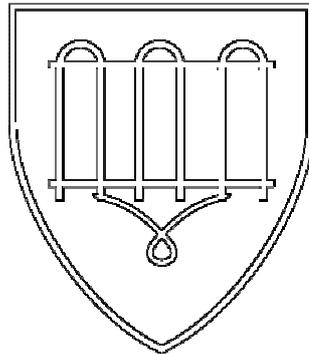


THE PARISH OF LUDLOW
ST LAURENCE WITH ST JOHN



ANNUAL PARISH MEETINGS

11.30 am Sunday 17 April 2011

St Laurence's Church, Ludlow

Agenda for the Meetings
Minutes of the Annual Parish Meetings 2010
Reports for the year 2010-2011

AGENDA FOR THE MEETINGS

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

- 1 Opening Prayers
- 2 Apologies for Absence
- 3 Minutes of Annual Meeting of Parishioners 2010
- 4 Vote of Thanks to Churchwardens for previous year
- 5 Election of Churchwardens

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

- 1 Minutes of APCM 2010
- 2 Matters Arising from Minutes
- 3 Report from Electoral Roll Officer
- 4 Annual Report on Proceedings of PCC and activities of PCC generally (please see attached Reports)
- 5 Presentation of PCC Accounts for year ended 31 December 2011 (and appointment of Independent Examiner)
- 6 Churchwardens' Report (please see attached reports from Churchwardens and from Fabric Committee)
- 7 St. John's Church Report (including report on nomination of Deputy Churchwardens at St. John's Annual Meeting on 10 April 2011)
- 8 Report from Ludlow Team Ministry (attached)
- 9 Deanery Synod Report (attached, as part of report from Ludlow Team Ministry)
- 10 Election of Deanery Synod Representatives
- 11 Election of Lay Members of PCC
- 12 Appointment of Sidespersons
- 13 The Rector
- 14 Open Forum
- 15 Closing Prayer

Parochial Church Council

- 1 Election of Vice-Chair
- 2 Election of Secretary
- 3 Election of Treasurer

**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 21 MARCH 2010
IN ST LAURENCE CHURCH, LUDLOW**

Present: The Revd James Stewart (Acting Team Rector), Ewart Carson (Churchwarden), Anna Branston (Churchwarden) and 50 parishioners.

Apologies: Don Beattie, Pat and Ian Schofield, Rosemary and Alan Laurie.

1. Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners held on 29 March 2009 were agreed as a true record.
2. Revd Stewart 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 Maureen Stinton and seconded by Helen Coleman that Ewart Carson be elected churchwarden and it was proposed by Colin Hamer and seconded by Pat Pardoe that Anna Branston be elected churchwarden. There being no further nominations Ewart Carson and Anna Branston, with the approval of the Acting Team Rector, were unanimously elected Churchwardens for the coming year.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.20 am.

Signed
CHAIRMAN

Date

**MINUTES OF THE
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL MEETING OF ST LAURENCE WITH ST JOHN
SUNDAY 21 MARCH 2010
IN ST LAURENCE CHURCH, LUDLOW**

Present: The Revd James Stewart (Acting Team Rector), Ewart Carson (Churchwarden), Anna Branston (Churchwarden) and 50 parishioners.

Apologies: Don Beattie, Pat and Ian Schofield, Rosemary and Alan Laurie.

It was proposed by Katherine Bromley and seconded by Jen Pollard that the Minutes of the Annual Parochial Meeting held on 29 March 2009 be accepted.

Ludlow Team Ministry Reports: Reports, which had been available to all congregations, were received from The Acting Team Rectors, Local Ministry Team, Ludlow Deanery Synod, Team Treasurer's Report, Mothers' Union, Churches Together around Ludlow

Churchwardens Report: On behalf of both wardens, Ewart Carson expressed thanks to the large number of people for their help over the past year. The Book Shop has been enhanced, the Bells retuned and re-hung together with the addition of two bells. Work is taking place on the Mission Action Plan. Thanks were passed to Matthew Lenthall who is retiring as Verger at Easter. Interviews have taken place and Joe Brennan from Birmingham Cathedral has been appointed as Head Verger assisted by Katherine Bromley from St Laurence's.

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

Additional comments -

Liturgy and Music - Thanks passed to Shaun Ward for the music and for the trouble taken in preparing weekly Order of Service. Thanks also to the Choir.

Children and Young People - This report was prepared by Katherine Bromley.

Servers - It is hoped to get younger members involved.

Web Site - This report was omitted from reports but thanks are due to Colin Hamer for taking over the web site.

'Tower' - It was pointed out that there was no report on the magazine which is a very good tool for passing on information. It is also available on the web site.

Finance Report: The accounts for 2009 had been available for inspection by the congregation and it was proposed that these be accepted subject to audit. Jen Pollard queried whether Outreach Giving would be returned to 10% and it was stated that this was intended for the coming year if possible. Eric Noble asked if the treasurer had budgeted for the salaries of the new members of staff and he was assured that he had. Shaun Ward proposed a vote of thanks to Don Beattie for his work as Treasurer and this was endorsed by all present.

St John's

Bill Eastwell and Don Craft were re-elected as Deputy Wardens at their Annual Meeting.

Elections:

PCC - It was proposed by Shaun Ward and seconded by Jill Swift that Claire Wilcox be re-elected to the PCC. It was proposed by Elizabeth Nixon and seconded by Jill Swift that Chris Potter be re-elected to the PCC. Proposed by Di Corston and seconded by Katherine Bromley that Jim Hooper be elected to the PCC. It was unanimously agreed that the three be elected to the PCC for three years.

Sidespersons - 8.00 am Robbie and Barbara Burns, 9.30 am Fay Carson. Fay Carson also to organise the reading rota for 11.30 am and 3.30 pm.

Electoral Roll Officer - Claire Wilcox will continue as Electoral Roll Officer.

Open Forum:

It was suggested by Elizabeth Nixon that the PCC consider the possibility of electing Deputy Churchwardens. This would teach and train and perhaps make it easier to become a churchwarden in the future.

The question of Ann Barge presiding at 9.30am service was raised.

Concern was raised at the amount of incense used.

Parishioners queried whether children recently confirmed were catered for and suggested a report be put in the Tower.

James Stewart reassured all that it was hoped that a new Team Rector Designate would be appointed hopefully by mid-July. James also indicated that he was to retire by 31 October.

The relevant issues raised would be considered by the PCC.

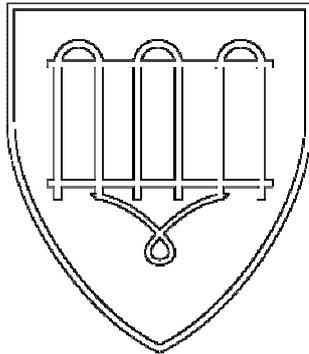
The meeting closed with The Grace at 12.30 pm.

Signed
CHAIRMAN

Date

LUDLOW TEAM MINISTRY

THE PARISH OF LUDLOW, ST. LAURENCE WITH ST. JOHN



REPORTS FOR THE YEAR 2010-11

RECTORS REPORT

I am delighted to have the privilege of writing for the first time a contribution to the Reports which will inform the Annual Meeting of the parish of St. Laurence-w-St. John, Ludlow. I hope that what I write here will be read alongside all that I have written in the set of papers which is the Report from the Ludlow Team ministry

I have become Rector at a critical time in the life of both of the churches in this Parish.

I join **St. Laurence's** at a time when the Vision Project is approaching critical mass. Vital as it is for the life and witness of St. Laurence's, I have been and remain happy to lend my full support to the Project and its exciting vision of what our church can be and do in service of God's people and of all the people of our town. It warrants and needs our full support. The Vision Project however cannot stand alone in enabling Laurence's to build for the future. A building renewed also needs a people renewed

- A people renewed in prayer and worship The worship which is on offer in St. Laurence's would be the envy of most parish churches in the land, We are fortunate indeed to be blessed with such splendid music and liturgy. My experience of the life of St. Laurence's over the last few months is that we need to make sure that our very proper focus on securing the future of our glorious building must go hand in hand with a strengthened commitment to gathering around God's Table and God's Word as well as a renewed exploration of what it is to live as a holy people, committed to the discipline of corporate and individual prayer
- A people renewed in mission Our Mission Action Plan which is currently evolving is planned to help us focus on what we need to do in order to live up to our calling to proclaim Christ's love in the community which we are called to serve.
- A welcoming people. St. Laurence's works hard at this and there is much good work on which we can build

- A people renewed in fellowship I have spent more time than I would like since arriving at St, .Laurence's in dealing with lack of a proper sense of fellowship between individuals and groups within the congregation. This is sad as in so many other respects there is so much evidence of love and mutual respect between members of our congregation. I hope that together we can become a congregation of which those who come from the outside can say 'See how these Christians love one another '
- A resourced people So many people are so generous towards St, Laurence's, both in their giving of their resources and their giving of their time; and we are together greatly blessed in that. We do however live on something of a knife edge in terms of our own financial position and there is still some way to go in making St Laurence's financially secure. This too must be one of our priorities in the coming year.

I am privileged too to have overall responsibility for the life and witness of **St. John's**. I have developed a pattern of leading worship at St. John's on one Sunday per month. I have been glad to work with the people of St. John's. Together, we are discerning that St. John's cannot stand still but needs to grows into a place which is open to all who live around it and available to serve the needs of the part of Ludlow in which it is set

The town of Ludlow embraces three Anglican churches. In the challenging environment in which we find ourselves, we can no longer afford the luxury of each of them working independently of each other. I will be using the first meetings of the PCCs elected today - and also the meeting of St John's Church Council - - to bring forward for consideration proposals for a united Anglican approach and a united Anglican voice to issues which face our town and community - social need, pastoral care mission, outreach ecumenical work among them

Finally a word of thanks. Thank you for the huge amount of work which lies behind the reports which are brought to the Annual Meeting this year. Thank you for the welcome which I have been given since coming among you. I look forward to twelve months of rich achievement and of God's powerful blessing for our work in his name

The Venerable Colin Williams

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

Again, this past year has seen major activity and much change. First, we have been delighted to welcome Colin Williams as our new Team Rector (still technically Designate) and to enjoy his leadership and vision for our Parish and the wider Team. It is good, too, that 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 have continued to attract large numbers and once more we provided the BBC Radio Shropshire Christmas Service. Visitor numbers continue to rise, now over 53,000 and the number of tower visitors is also on the increase.

The Vision Project continues to move forward. Arrol and Snell have been appointed as Project Architects and Comptons as our fund-raising consultants. A Statement of Significance and Need has been prepared and preparatory work for major funding applications is in hand. Last year's refurbishment and restocking of the St Laurence shop has seen profits more than double; generating funds to assist with our overall mission. New choristers continue to be recruited to the choir.

The success of our now well established fund-raising events continues: the summer fête and Christmas bazaar; this year complemented by the Cowpat Game and other smaller ventures. To all who have created these success stories, we offer our thanks. The by now well established tradition of enjoyable Candlemas and Harvest Festival suppers, together with Parish Breakfasts, continues. Our Outreach Giving has been restored to 10% of planned giving by the members of our congregations.

During the year we have welcomed Susan Goble as Administrator and Joe Brennan and Katherine Bromley as Head and Assistant Verger respectively; to all three we express our thanks for the commitment that they bring to their tasks. Mike Beazley is to become our new Treasurer, and we are being ably supported by Brian Thomas as newly appointed Deputy Warden.

Special thanks go out to those who have stepped down from their positions or will shortly be doing so: Don Beattie who has provided astute and invaluable professionalism over the past three years as Honorary Treasurer; and Maureen Stinton for her calm efficiency as Honorary Secretary.

We also express our thanks to: Lesley Draper, Secretary in the Parishes' Office; Di Corston, now ably joined by Helen Forrester, for their continuing management of the St Laurence Shop. Pat Schofield and the Holy Dusters; all the money counters and the flower ladies; the Social Committee who provide delicious refreshments for an increasing number of events; Shaun Ward, for ever-continuing enthusiasm and commitment as Clerk of Works, Director of Music and Vision Project Co-ordinator; Roger Judd as Deputy Organist and 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. 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

	03/10	03/11	R	NR	
Total number on ER	243	248	206	34	198 St Laurence 42 St John
Men	76	77	-	-	-
Women	148	163	-	-	-

Newcomers at St Laurence's should now receive a "Welcome pack" which includes an application form to join the ER.

The ER officer is always pleased to receive notice of any changes, not only of deaths, but also of changes of address

Claire Wilcox *Electoral Roll Officer*

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

The PCC has held six meetings in the Upper Room at the Methodist Church, Broad Street alternating with six meetings of the Standing Committee held in 2 College Street. Three special meetings of the PCC have also taken place to discuss specific items.

All meetings have followed a standard pattern, with reports on current issues and from the Ministry Team and PCC committees. Much of the work of the PCC is delegated to its subcommittees meeting regularly as required.

Three successful 'Away Days' took place during the year to discuss the Vision Project and the Mission Action Plan. A visit to Cirencester and Bath also took place to visit Churches that had re-ordered their church buildings.

All members of the PCC have been able to attend most of the meetings throughout the year.

Maureen Stinton *PCC Secretary*

FABRIC COMMITTEE REPORT

2010 has been a quieter year in the area of conserving our magnificent building and its contents. The Fabric Committee has reduced its meetings to a quarterly monthly basis. A representative of St John's has joined the Committee and we value the opportunity to offer them help and support. On top of the usual schedule of maintenance, which amounts to around £5000 last year, a number of minor works have been completed. These include:

Provision of shop storage
Removal of the chancel cross from the west gable
Repair of a broken bell clapper
Repair of the flag pole
Repair to No.2 College Street front door
Repair of leaking stop cock in vestry
Installation of access system for the tower lantern
Bonding roofs to lightning conductor

Major projects have included the completion of a detailed survey of over 100 monuments. This has led to the development of a maintenance plan, the cost of which is some £20k of work. Phase 1 will begin in 2011. Two paintings of organists of the parish have also been conserved by a specialist.

Long term issues continue, such as the failure of the lighting; again remedial repairs have been made. Access to the lights is now only possible by scaffolding or a cherry picker, both of which are very costly. A change of light bulbs now costs £1500. The heating has managed to hobble through another severe winter, the pump holding. The rise in gas prices makes it increasingly difficult to raise the temperature in the building.

Much of 2010 has been spent in preparation for major works in 2011. These include repairs to chancel clerestory windows, repairs to a number of roof leaks, repairs to stained glass, repairs to the Parvis room ceiling, and repairs to St Leonard's churchyard wall. A great deal of this work is supported financially by the Conservation Trust; we are very grateful for their commitment. We also received a grant of £6k from Shropshire Historic Churches Trust, the second grant in three years, for which we are most grateful.

Shaun Ward *Clerk of Works*

ST LEONARD'S CHURCHYARD

We appear to have achieved the balance between heritage and wildlife to ensure the green space is accessible to local people and visitors. More local people and visitors are using the churchyard and are interested in the inscriptions on the headstones. The challenge is to keep the grass and nettles under control to ensure paths are accessible and the area pleasant to visit but we have seen progress as a result of regular mowing and strimming. Once again there is a big thank you due to the working parties organised by the Friends of St Leonards and to the small and diminishing group of volunteers for all their hard work, and by 'Caring for Gods Acre'. In 2011 we will start to reinstate headstones laid down for H&S reasons thanks to a grant from the Big Lottery Fund. We held an intimate and moving Remembrance Day service and the service in 2011 will be held on Saturday 12th November.

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

FINANCE REPORT

At a gross level, the Parish has operated at a surplus for 2010. Much of this is due to the results now being achieved by the improved display of shop items in SLL, and revisions to stock policy. The investment made in these improvements has more than been recovered in 2010, and should continue to yield returns into the future.

St Laurence Ludlow

St Laurence's alone showed an operating surplus of nearly £ 11,000.

This is made up as follows:

PCC declared surplus:	1,702 *	
Less St John's Ludlow	(111)	
Less Special Music Projects (reported in the PCC accounts, but a separate financial entity)		(9112)

Core St Laurence surplus **10,925**

* Includes a reduction in stock valuation of £ 4,186 compared to the opening 2010 position

The St Laurence outturn would have been some £ 6,000 better, had higher than planned additional funding not been needed to pay a portion of the Ludlow Team Ministry costs.

St Laurence's congregational giving shows a heartening swing away from the use of envelopes and to the use of Standard Orders, but the overall level of giving from these two sources has reduced by some £ 2,500 or 6%. This is a very worrying trend.

Financial management

The Finance and Management Committee meets on a monthly basis to overview the financial performance of St Laurence's and to plan and implement the management activities necessary for the smooth running of the church. The St John's Committee does the same for its church.

Outreach payments provisioned during 2010 totalled £ 4,000. This returns the Parish to the earlier level of giving as a proportion of pledged giving, after reduced giving in recent years.

Outlook for 2011 and beyond.

The proposed budget for 2011 shows a modest loss, which, taken with the 2010 outcome, is hoped will result in a balanced performance over the two years.

Summary

Taking the long-term view, the finances of the parish need careful handling because of the underlying longer term trends. The PCC and the Finance and Management Committee will continue to manage the short term, but the full implementation of the Vision Project is urgently needed, to realise the benefits it will bring to the congregation, visitors and to the finances of the church.

On a personal note, I would like to thank the members of the Finance and Management Committee for their support over the last four years that I have been involved in the finances of the Parish, and wish Mike Beazley, the incoming Treasurer, every success in his new role.

Donald F Beattie **Treasurer**

ST JOHN'S REPORT

Major work on rewiring the church was carried out during the year and in addition the lightning conductor was upgraded. Disabled access continues to be a problem due to the quite steep slope up from the gates on Gravel Hill to the main entrance. With the rewiring completed we are addressing this problem once again. We are endeavouring with the Rector to clarify our role in the parish, which we believe should arise from the particular characteristics of the congregation and the church's location in the town. To this end Don Millington initiated 'St John's Midweek', a series of discussions on a variety of issues introduced by different speakers and held on Wednesday evenings. The response has generally been good and we think there is much mileage here for a thinking church community. Also on Wednesdays during the Summer and Autumn the church has been open for 'drop ins'. Lenten reflections, accompanied by compline and run on this occasion by Rev David Roberts, introduced an illuminating aspect to worship. It was pleasing to welcome many friends from St Laurence to our Patronal Festival in January. The church was packed for the very successful carol service with readings, in which Ludlow Town Band and 'Simply Singers' featured. Work on the new kneelers, designed by Sheila French and co-ordinated by Barbara Atkins is now enthusiastically underway and involves a team of embroiderers from both St Laurence and St John. Spring and Harvest lunches, co-ordinated by Carla Phelps and the garden party at Hillcrest were once again, enjoyable social occasions of the year. We were all shocked and saddened by the sudden death of our loyal friend Edmund Rowsell in January.

John French

LITURGY AND MUSIC

2010 has been another busy year in the life of St Laurence's. We've welcomed some new choristers: Molly Faulkes and Joe Brennan. We've also said farewell to two choristers: Matthew Elliot who was valedicted at the end of the summer term and Elizabeth Nixon who retired at the end of the Christmas term.

We have enjoyed the usual round of services including many specials: Shropshire Three Choirs Festival service, Easter and Christmas services as well as a second BBC Nine Lessons and Carols. A highlight of the year was the installation of our new Team Rector, The Venerable Colin Williams.

New repertoire has ranged from Tudor polyphony to the newly commissioned Mass of St Laurence by Steve Dunachie. The choir has regularly sung choral eucharists once a month, as well as on feast days. We have also added another choral matins, so each week we now sing choral matins or evensong. Each week brings a great deal of music: two psalms, two anthems, morning or evening canticles, responses, all keeping us very busy. In late 2010, Gemma King joined us as our new vocal coach, helping train juniors and adults. Gemma is the new head of music at Ludlow School and we are working on closer links with all the local schools.

The choristers and supporters have also enjoyed many social activities including a summer BBQ, a party at the Rectory and a Christmas meal for the adult choristers.

Instruments

The organ has received new toe pistons at a cost of approximately £6000, the funds being raised by Jane Allsop and Tom Caulcott from Special Music Projects. We are extremely grateful for the hours of work that Tom and Jane have given. After many years raising money for the organ and educational outreach work we have now drawn SMP to a close as we begin to focus on the Vision Project. The organ remains in good condition and has been tuned quarterly. The piano is used regularly at choir practices and also by people hiring the building for concerts; it too has been tuned quarterly. The handbells were restored in 2009 and are also in good condition.

The Team Rector has established a liturgy and music working group which meets monthly and an annual diary of special services has been produced. Orders of services for these are produced by Fr Richard, who also acts as master of ceremonies at these important occasions, thereby ensuring smooth running.

Shaun Ward *Director of Music*

ST LAURENCE'S CHILDREN'S CHURCH

During this year we have developed the children's role in providing the sermon and sometimes the prayers on the first Sunday of the month. The children seem to enjoy taking part and the preparation on the preceding Sunday provides a good learning opportunity. Those young people who are not members of the choir now have the chance to take part in the service by doing the readings on the third Sunday in the month. The post-confirmation group continues, and although only a handful of young people attend those who do come find it worthwhile and enjoyable. The Christingle service was once again well attended and some very positive feedback was received. Several of the children took part in a sponsored tower climb in November to create a fund to provide outings. The first outing was to take place in January, but it proved impossible to arrange it in time and we hope to offer an alternative trip later in the year.

A group of young people and parents visits Churchill House three or four times a year to provide a short act of worship. This is much appreciated and we are looking at developing this further.

Running a Baby and Toddler group did not prove successful and there were many practical difficulties, not the least of which was the lack of adequate heating. It was decided to discontinue the group after Easter.

The committee will be helping to provide children's activities at the Conservation Trust weekend and are exploring the possibility of putting on some activity days in the summer. We also hope in the longer term that it may be possible to link up with some of the other parishes in the team from time to time for children's activities.

Katherine Bromley *Chair of Children's Committee*

SERVERS

Having been a Server for some considerable time, I have only recently taken over the role of Servers Secretary from Paul Suthern. Paul is taking a well-deserved retirement from the role, but not from the Team. We are an extremely close and caring group; thirteen in all covering Servers, Acolytes, Crucifers, Chalice Assistants and M.C.'s, nothing asked is ever refused. We serve with great humility and dedication at both Sunday and Weekday Services, and are privileged to be involved in all special and civic services throughout the year. Easter approaches which will give us great joy. Eric Noble, serving for many years continues in his role as Crucifier, Chalice Assistant and also has the onerous duty of Intercessor Rota provider.

Antonia O'Kennedy

ST LAURENCE'S CHURCH SHOP, 2011

I am pleased to report that this year has been the most successful since the inception of the shop in 1985.

Improving the display facilities have enabled us to increase the variety of merchandise we offer, culminating in us reaping a healthy profit for the church.

During the Christmas period, our biggest sellers were the enchanting glass tree ornaments and of course, the lovely Nativity sets (four of which were sold in the first week!). You may wonder why we are still displaying them. In fact, we have sold four sets since Christmas. They make delightful gifts for Baptism or Confirmation occasions.

Greetings cards are some of our popular lines, bringing people into the shop frequently when they are often tempted to purchase something else that has caught their eye.

Replicas' of our Misericords have been hugely popular and have necessitated frequent re-ordering.

This year we have been very fortunate to have Helen Forrester join us. She has brought valuable experience having run the cathedral shop at St Albans Cathedral / Abbey. She has been a huge support to me, not just as a colleague but also a friend.

I would like to play tribute to our loyal, invaluable team of voluntary stewards' whom we could **NOT** manage without. There have been frustrating times during the changes, but we have overcome these, (with some training on the till and card machine,) enabling us to be so successful in our impressive turnover. You can read about this in the financial report.

Last, but not least, I would like to thank Don Beattie for his guidance and expertise as our treasurer, which has been invaluable. Also my best thanks to Susan Goble, our Administrator, who has imparted encouragement and great support in her short time here.

Finally, it has been a great privilege and pleasure managing our shop over the years. I have seen the transformation from an 8' x 6' board on top of the pews by the south door to what we have achieved now. It is an answer to prayer... May His name be praised!

Diana Corston. March 2011

CHURCH CLEANING - HOLY DUSTERS

Thanks are again due to those volunteers who dust and clean the brass in St Laurence's. Unfortunately our numbers have diminished and Joe Brennan, the Head Verger, who is responsible for church cleaning, would be happy to hear from anyone who could help. You could see him in church or leave a message at the Parishes Office on 01584 872073.

Pat Schofield/Joe Brennan

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

2010 saw a very busy year for the members and friends of the social committee. We had most enjoyable events, amongst which were various parish breakfasts, a bangers and mash harvest supper, (although before the harvest had been gathered!). Other organized events included mulled wine in the porch, candlemas supper, food for the wine tasting evening and major contributions to both the summer fete, the Christmas bazaar and several teas for visiting musical groups.

May I say a huge thank you to all the people who worked so tirelessly on these events - where would we be without you.

Brian Thomas

STEWARDING AT ST LAURENCE'S

The commitment and enthusiasm of our stewards has been a tremendous help in keeping the Church open for 364½ days of the year (closed on Christmas afternoon!). The welcome provided to our visitors as they enter the church is greatly appreciated. Equally, those stewards who have served in the shop are to be congratulated for their part in helping the shop to more than double its profits during the course of 2010.

During the course of the year a few of our cohort, numbering over 100, have ceased stewarding and to them we express our gratitude for their service over many years. However, we are pleased to report that a number of new stewards have come forward in response to a recruitment campaign. This means that we are able to have a minimum of two stewards at all times during the week. During the coming year we plan to continue recruiting new stewards.

Fay Carson Acting Chief Steward and Pam Latchford Chief Steward

THE CONSERVATION TRUST FOR ST LAURENCE

By March 2011, the Conservation Trust for St Laurence had pledged £79,440 for a number of conservation and maintenance initiatives and works agreed between 2008 and 2011. These ranged from repairs to the downpipe above the pulpit to stone masonry in the Chancel North and Chancel South clerestories, and included repairs to the Parvis Room ceiling, the reredos, and the first phase of work needed on the monuments.

The Trustees are aware of the need to promote and publicise the Trust, to raise its profile, and attract and include as many individuals and organisations as possible in its activities. The Trust is grateful to its Palmers and supporters, and looks forward to working with existing and new members on a number of exciting projects in the coming months.

Rosemary Wood

FAIRTRADE

St Laurence has been a Fairtrade Church since February 2010, one of over 7000.

Poterion Fairtrade Communion Wine is used in the team churches. Fairtrade tea, coffee and sugar are used for meetings and other products where possible.

St Laurence Shop: a small stock of Traidcraft goods continues to be available. Traidcraft stock is being sourced from The Ludlow Conference Centre, by arrangement with Liz Taylor. There is also a small stock of Fairtrade goods on sale from other suppliers.

CHRISTIAN AID REPORT

The town Christian Aid committee continues to work hard to support the work of Christian Aid overseas.

There were 3 main money raising events during the year.

- Christian Aid week,
- the annual August coffee morning at the Feathers Hotel
- carol singing alongside the street collection on the Saturday before Christmas.

Last year there was also a one off pub type quiz, attended by some people from St Laurence's.

The total raised in **2010 was £11315.00** comparable to the sum raised in 2009.

Christian Aid week this year is from May 16th -22nd.

During the year we hope to raise awareness of the work of Christian Aid across the world, with occasional articles in "The Tower".

Christian Aid is dependent upon and very grateful for all the volunteer hours that are committed to its work, without which it could not continue.

Claire Wilcox

LUDLOW TEAM MINISTRY

TEAM REPORTS

FOR PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS 2011

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; Christian Aid, Prayer Fellowship, 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 Colin Williams, Richard Green, Ann Barge, John Beesley

Readers Stephen Ashford, Roger Hall, Richard Mercer, Averil Norton, John Robson, Eddie Perks (in training)

Local Ministry Team Stephen Ashford, Madelyn Carlyon, Rob Downes, Roger Hall, Susannah Hall

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)

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, Jeffrey Wilcox, John Williams, John Perry

Hereford - Nuremberg Partnership Ludlow and Langwasser, Paul Gerhardt Kirche
Churches Together Around Ludlow

TEAM RECTOR'S REPORT *by the Venerable Colin Williams*

I am delighted to be able to write my first Team Rector's Report for the round of Annual Meetings in 2011.

I think it is fair to say that the Ludlow Team Ministry is in a stage of transition. Transition first of all because of changes in personnel. In October of last year, we bade farewell to James Stewart after 8 years as Team Vicar - with particular responsibility for the Culmington Group of Parishes. James - and Mary - had made a real mark in the northern parishes of the Team and will be much missed. All the parishes of the Team, and not least St. Laurence's, have good cause to be grateful to James for his time as one of the Acting Team Rectors. He will be a hard act to follow

But be followed he will. On Thursday June 16, the Revd. Maree Wilson will be licensed as Team Vicar in succession to James. Maree, coming to us from her work as Assistant Chaplain at Holy Trinity, Geneva in Switzerland, and her husband Ed will settle in Bromfield Vicarage. Maree will also develop chaplaincy provision at Ludlow CE School

Some new staff have already taken up their post since last year's round of Annual Meetings. Susan Goble has taken up her post as Team Administrator and has grappled especially - and remarkably cheerfully - with the complexities of Team Finance.

Meanwhile, I trailed the path from Geneva which Maree will follow and took up my position as Team Rector (Designate) at the end of July. I have enjoyed getting to know the people of the parishes of the Team. As at the date of writing in early March, I have led worship at 15 of the 17 churches and am therefore on track to achieve my aim of having led worship at all 17 by Easter Day.

I come to the Ludlow Team bearing the title of Priest in Charge (Team Rector Designate) Therein lies the other way in which we are still in transition. Our Diocese has - helpfully - used a legal device to place us in a position in which we need to set aside time and energy to look again at what it means to be a Team Ministry. I have increasingly come to the view that the Team will work best if the natural groups within the Team - the two village groups and the three Ludlow Town Churches - develop their own corporate life - whilst still retaining vital contacts with the other parishes of the Team. I plan to share proposals on that with the various PCCs in the weeks following this year's round of Annual Meetings.

The other major way in which we are in transition became clear at the end of 2010. Difficulties with the Team Accounts have highlighted the fact that up to now there has been no formal supervision of the Team's budgeting and accounting processes. This has rightly been a cause of some concern to representatives of the parishes which make up the Team. In the light of the difficulties which we have experienced this year, I have set up a small group which consists of myself, and the PCC Treasurers of St. Laurence, Ludlow and of Stoke St. Milborough and of Knowbury. The Group will oversee the development of the budget during the course of the year and flag up at an early stage any concerns which become apparent.

Thank you to all who have made me so welcome. Thank you to all who are working to build up the life and witness of the Ludlow Team.

LOCAL MINISTRY TEAM by Fr Richard Green

Last year I reported some significant changes to the way the Local Ministry Team works. First, we changed the name to Local Ministry Group to reflect the fact that we were focussing more on coming together to support one another in our different ministries, rather than seeking to do lots of things together. We also widened the membership of the group to include a wider representation of those engaged in ministry across our parishes. The year since then has been one of reflection and discernment as we have tried to work out what God is calling us to do. Lately we have taken counsel with the diocesan local ministry officer, and with him we have been exploring a model whereby we develop three local ministry groups for our team - one for the town parishes, one for the northern villages, and one for the southern villages. Each group would focus on developing ministry in its own area, while the three groups would still meet together, perhaps once a year for training, prayer, and mutual support. The year ahead will be one in which we hope that this model is further developed, especially after the arrival of Maree Wilson as Team Vicar for the northern group in June.

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 heard from Kathleen Boyland of Clee Hill about the initiative that she and her husband, Norris, have set up. Known as 'Coffee Craft', it seeks to promote evangelism, especially amongst those who would not be reached by more conventional ways. On a glorious June evening we were welcomed at the Cathedral to a service and a tour of the cathedral, followed by a wine reception in the Dean's garden. This year's Deanery Evensong and supper took place in July at St Laurence's. The October meeting featured Caroline Pascoe, the Diocesan Lay Development Officer, talking about Mission Action Planning - helping benefices and parishes to discover 'how is God calling us to live and proclaim the gospel'. Finally, in February the Revd Hilary Morgan gave us a presentation on Vulnerable Adults - how we look after them and the current legislation in place to protect such people.

The Revd Claire Lording (Tenbury Team) has taken over from James Stewart as Rural Dean and Julie Cook (also Tenbury Team) is now the 'official' Deanery Secretary. The cloud looming large on the horizon is the impending retirement of Michael Poyntz as Deanery Treasurer. He has done a fantastic job of steering our Deanery through choppy financial waters and ensured that parishes did their utmost to pay their shares on time. We are getting desperate for a replacement. If you think you are the right person (you do not need to be a financial whiz-kid) please get in touch either with me or with Michael.

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

All parishes in the Team were once more able to pay in full the Parish Share they had committed to at the beginning of 2010. This outcome has assisted the Deanery achieving a further 2% rebate from the Diocese enabling us to move forward on an equalisation account, now at £17k, designed to assist parishes in difficulty. Having these funds also provides the Deanery with the flexibility to make payments to the Diocese on time, even when cash flow difficulties occur or unexpected problems arise during the year. The annual meeting of Treasurers took place on 27 January 2011 and once again the spirit of co-operation and generosity prevailed and the majority agreed to a 1.9% increase. It is, however, noted that this lower percentage of increase has resulted in Clergy stipends being frozen. It is felt this is an unfortunate way to deal with the problem of balancing the budget. Gordon

Powell, the Diocesan Financial Secretary, has informally indicated that should the out-come during the latter part of the year be better than expected, he is hoping that the decision on stipends could be revisited. At the same meeting, a discussion took place regarding the 2010 draft accounts for the Team which present a significant deficit. The Rector, Team Administrator and St Laurence Treasurer are investigating the problem but it is clear the 2011 budget will need to be increased over 2010, with a corresponding increase in the contributions from each parish. In this context it should be noted that there was a decrease in 2009 when the Bitterley Group of parishes joined the team and no increase since then. At the time of writing, a consensus has not yet been reached regarding either a proposal put forth to meet the 2010 shortfall or agreement regarding an increase in contributions.

MOTHERS' UNION by Shelagh Jenkyns (Branch Leader)

We have met regularly once a month at the Diocesan Conference Centre and we are extremely grateful to the staff there for their kindness to us. Highlights of our year have been the M.U. Diocesan Festival at Cardington last year when we managed to fill the church with M.U. members and an assortment of banners. It was a beautiful day and a lovely service followed by a magnificent shared lunch. Our outing in July was to Abergavenny where the beautiful tapestry of the town was much admired. We have been entertained, educated, moved and inspired by an interesting selection of speakers and we are deeply grateful to our own clergy for the care they show to us and for taking our opening and closing services and the carols and readings in December. We raised £230.00 for AFIA Away from it all (holidays for needy folk) at our November meeting and continue to share in the local, national and worldwide concerns. Our next project is to host a tea party for the ladies of some of the smaller parishes north of Ludlow, to tell them about what we do and enjoy each other's company. We offer a warm welcome to any of the ladies of our many parishes; we meet on the second Tuesday of every month, usually at the Diocesan Centre.

PRAYER FELLOWSHIP REPORT by Margaret Wright

Our Prayer Fellowship has been meeting every 2 weeks throughout most of the year. We have also studied all the Minor Prophets and learned much. Currently we have 10 members of the Fellowship and average 7 per meeting. In May we started a branch of the Fellowship specifically to learn and practice the way of Christian healing. We meet every 2 weeks and have been studying Jim Glennon's book "Your Healing is within You" and again we have all learned much. There are 6 of us in this group. Everyone is always welcome to join either or both of these groups. Details from 873125.

CHURCHES TOGETHER AROUND LUDLOW by Preb David Roberts

The most significant change this last year has been that The Revd Dr Neil Richardson has assumed the role of Moderator, Pamela Thompson's period of office having come to an end.

Otherwise CTAL has continued to stimulate and co-ordinate joint activity among Christians in and around Ludlow. At Christmas, Good Friday and Easter there has been worship and witness in public places; Wesley's has continued to enable Christians to serve the refreshment needs of the community; The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity provided an opportunity for Christians to get to know each other's' traditions better as did united services during the year; Otherwise a flavour of what CTAL supported or initiated can be gauged from the following - support for Fair Trade; regular services at Four Rivers Nursing Home; A Quiet Day at Hennor; Lent Groups in each other's' homes; Support for Christian Aid especially in Christian Aid Week and from the monthly lunches where speakers have included the MP; Acts2 where Christians led worship in schools; The Outreach Group; The Ecology Group; The Prayer Wheel initiative; The New Initiatives Fund to stimulate further involvement at home and abroad; The Forum where speakers on important world issues were invited (including Rebecca Williams on teaching English in Pakistan).

Not everyone has been involved in everything. That would be impossible. But the above list gives an indication of the range of concerns that the Christians of Ludlow had and where they wanted to be involved. Some ideas are inspired by enthusiasts who gather support from the wider Christian community and others were floated and investigated but await on-going work - for example involvement in Cafe Church. Also Back to Church Sunday. CTAL works on the basis that ideas can be thought about and implemented when the opportunity is right.

Of significance this year has been the fact that the churches of Ludlow representing different Christian traditions each with its own particular emphasis have been more evenly represented showing that unity among Christians, which does not mean uniformity but mutual affirmation, is important. However, it is regrettable that much of what happens under the CTAL banner appeals only to a limited few and many are unaware and therefore, to their detriment, uninvolved.

CTAL has been involved in Churches Together in Shropshire and The South Shropshire Interfaith Forum

Plans for the coming year include a Water for Life exhibition during the Festival at the Methodist Church; an input into the Year of the Bible; A Forum on Ludlow and the Cuts and Ludlow and the Big Society and plans for celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee

CHRISTIAN AID REPORT by Claire Wilcox

The town Christian Aid committee continues to work hard to support the work of Christian Aid overseas.

There were 3 main money raising events during the year.

- Christian Aid week,
- the annual August coffee morning at the Feathers Hotel
- Carol singing alongside the street collection on the Saturday before Christmas.

Last year there was also a one off pub type quiz, attended by some people from St Laurence's.

The total raised in **2010 was £11315.00** comparable to the sum raised in 2009.

Christian Aid week this year is from May 16th -22nd.

During the year we hope to raise awareness of the work of Christian Aid across the world, with occasional articles in "The Tower".

Christian Aid is dependent upon and very grateful for all the volunteer hours that are committed to its work, without which it could not continue.