

+ Holy Trinity, Middleton + St. Michael and All Angels, Onibury + All Saints, Richard's Castle + St. Peter, Stanton Lacy + St. Milburga, Stoke St. Milborough +

St, Laurence, Ludlow + St. John the Evangelist, Ludlow + St Giles, Ludford +

LUDLOW TEAM MINISTRY

# LUDLOW TOWERS

*Ludlow and Ludford  
Parishes Magazine*



St. John



St. Giles



St. Laurence

*Keeping us together with the news...*

*(A donation of 50p would help to cover printing costs)*

+ St. Andrew, Ashford Bowdler + St. Mary Magdalene, Ashford Carbonel, + St. Mary, Bitterley + St. Mary the Virgin, Bronfield + St. Mary, Caynham +

+ St. Paul, Knowbury + The Heath Chapel + All Saints, Culmington + St. Margaret, Clee St Margaret +

## THE PARISHES' OFFICE

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The Office is staffed and phone calls responded to each day, but only open to the public on Mondays and Fridays between 10 am and 12.30 pm.

<b>Parishes' Secretary</b>	Mrs Lesley Draper	872073
<b>Parishes' Administrator</b>	Mrs Susan Baldwin	872073

### CLERGY *(Days off are shown in brackets)*

Team Rector Designate:	The Venerable Colin Williams	(Thur)	872001
<b>Rector's Office direct:</b>	(e-mail: <a href="mailto:rector@stlaurences.org.uk">rector@stlaurences.org.uk</a> )		875907
Team Vicars	Revd Maree Wilson	(Thur)	856731
	Vacancy		
Assistant Priest	Revd Prebendary Ann Barge	(Wed)	877307

### NORMAL SUNDAY SERVICES

St Laurence	8.00 am	Holy Communion BCP
	9.30 am	Parish Communion 2nd Sunday Choral Communion
	11.30 am	2nd and 4th Sunday Choral Matins
	3.30 pm	1st and 3rd Sundays Choral Evensong (No 3rd service on the 5th Sunday of the month)
St John	9.30 am	Holy Communion with Hymns
St Giles	11.15 am	Holy Communion - 1st Sunday Family Service

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## cALEnDAR - APRIL 2013

DATE APRIL	EVENT / ACTIVITY (SJL=St John; SLL=St Laurence; SGL=St Giles)
Mon 1	Parish Office closed this week 19.30: Bell Ringer Practice
Tues 2	11.00: Four Rivers CTAL Service 14.00: Vision Project Team (2 College St) 18.30: Handbells Practice
Weds 3	11.00: Holy Communion (SLL)
Thurs 4	16.00: Simple Service of Psalms & Silent Prayer (SJL)
Fri 5	09.15: Toddler Group (SJL) 17.00: Compline (SLL)
Sat 6	13.00: Wedding – Hodgson/Pellegrini (Richards Castle) 17.00: Evensong with New Abbey Singers (SLL)
Sun 7	Second Sunday of Easter (1 <sup>st</sup> after Easter) 09.30: Eucharist with New Abbey Singers (SLL) <b>09.30: St John's Parish AGM</b> 11.00: SLL Discussion Group 15.00: Baptism – Mason Powell (SJL) 15.30: Choral Evensong with New Abbey Singers (SLL) 18.30: Post-Confirmation Group (2 College St)
Mon 8	10.30: Prayer Fellowship (3 Greenacres) 14.00: Liturgy Planning (2 College St) 16.30: Junior Choristers Rehearsal (SLL) 19.00: Stanton Lacy Parish AGM 19.30: Bell Ringer Practice (SLL)
Tues 9	<b>Submission Deadline for 'The Towers'</b> 14.00: Vision Exec (2 College St) 14.30: Mothers Union Meeting (Ludlow Mascall Centre) 16.00: Finance & Standing Committees (2 College St) 19.00: Stoke St Milborough Parish AGM 18.30: Handbells Practice (SLL Vestry)

Weds 10	11.00: Holy Communion (SLL) 19.00: Onibury Parish AGM
Thurs 11	10.30: Prayer Group (SLL – <b>St Catherine's Chapel</b> ) 16.00: Simple Service of Psalms & Silent Prayer (SJL) 18.30: Choir Practice (SLL) 19.00: Ludlow Deanery Standing Committee (2 College St)
Fri 12	09.15: Toddler Group (SJL) 17.00: Compline (SLL)
Sun 14	Third Sunday of Easter (2 <sup>nd</sup> after Easter) 09.30: Eucharist (SLL) 10.00 – 16.00: Wedding Fayre (Ludlow Castle) 11.00: Choral Matins (SLL) 14.00: Songs of Praise (SJL)
Mon 15	16.30: Jr Choristers Rehearsal (SLL) 19.00: AGM Ashford Carbonel, Ashford Bowler, Richards Castle (Ashford Carbonel Village Hall) 19.30: Bell Ringer Practice (SLL)
Tues 16	18.30: Handbells Practice (SLL Vestry)
Weds 17	<b>10.30: St John's Bereavement Coffee Morning</b> (SJL) 11.00: Holy Communion (SLL)
Thurs 18	16.00: Simple Service of Psalms & Silent Prayer (SJL) 18.30: Choir Practice (SLL)
Fri 19	09.15: Toddler Group (SJL) 17.00: Compline (SLL)
Sat 20	12.00: Baptism – Henry Ridge (SLL)
Sun 21	Fourth Sunday of Easter (3 <sup>rd</sup> after Easter) 09.30: Eucharist (SLL) 11.00: St Laurence Annual Parish Meeting 15.00: Choral Evensong (SLL) 15.00: Baptism – Kianne and Jacob Dixon (SGL)
Mon 22	10.30: Prayer Fellowship (3 Greenacres) 16.30: Junior Choristers Rehearsal (SLL) 14.30: Mothers Union Wave of Prayer (Stoke St Milborough) 19.30: Bell Ringer Practice (SLL)

Tues 23	14.30: Mothers Union Committee Meeting (TBA) 18.30: Handbells Practice (SLL Vestry)
Weds 24	11.00: Holy Communion (SLL) 14.30: Mothers Union Wave of Prayer (St Giles)
Thurs 25	14.30: Mothers Union Wave of Prayer (Middleton) 16.00: Simple Service of Psalms & Silent Prayer (SJL) 18.30: Choir Practice (SLL)
Fri 26	09.15: Toddler Group (SJL) 12.30: CTAL Lunch & Discussion (Garden Room, Methodist Church) 17.00: Compline (SLL) 19.30: Baptism Preparation (SJL)
Sat 27	10.00: RSCM Workshop (SLL) <b>10.30: Life &amp; Learning, "Christian Art"</b> (Mascall Centre)
Sun 28	Fifth Sunday of Easter (4 <sup>th</sup> after Easter) 09.30: Eucharist (SLL) 11.00: Choral Matins (SLL) 11.15: St Giles, Ludford Parish AGM (in church) 15.30: Baptism – Darcy Mai Gatehouse (SGL) <b>16.30: Children's Choir from Moor Park</b> (Richards Castle) 18.30: Evensong (Ashford Bowdler)
Mon 29	16.30: Junior Choristers Rehearsal (SLL) 19.00: A.P.C.M. for Caynham, Bitterley, Middleton & Knowbury (Caynham Village Hall) 19.30: Bell Ringer Practice (SLL)
Tues 30	18.30: Handbells Practice (SLL Vestry)

PLEASE LET THE PARISHES OFFICE KNOW OF ALL YOUR FORTHCOMING EVENTS AND SPECIAL OCCASIONS, SO THAT WE CAN ADD THEM TO THE CALENDAR.. SEND TO [office@stlaurences.org.uk](mailto:office@stlaurences.org.uk)

## ANNUAL PARISH MEETINGS - APRIL 2013

St John, Ludlow	Sunday 7 April 9.30 am - <i>St John Church</i>
Ludford	Sunday, 28 April after 11.15am service - <i>St Giles Church</i>
Stanton Lacy	Monday, 8 April 7.00 pm - <i>St Peter Church</i>
Stoke St. Milborough	Tuesday, 9 April 7.00 pm - <i>St Milburgha Church</i>
Onibury	Wednesday, 10 April 7.00pm - <i>St Michael Church</i>
Ashford Carbonell+	Monday, 15 April 7.00 pm - <i>Village Hall</i>
Ashford Bowdler+	Monday, 15 April 7.00 pm - <i>(with Ashford Carbonell)</i>
Richards Castle+	Monday, 15 April 7.00 pm - <i>(with Ashford Carbonell)</i>
Ludlow	Sunday, 21 April 11.00am - <i>St Laurence Church</i>
Knowbury*	Monday, 29 April 7.00 pm - <i>Caynham Church</i>
Caynham*	Monday, 29 April 7.00 pm - <i>Caynham Church</i>
Bitterley/Middleton*	Monday, 29 April 7.00 pm - <i>Caynham Church</i>

\* **Combined AGM's**  
+ **Combined AGM's**



Depend on it, God's work done in God's way  
will never lack God's supply.

*"If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the  
best from the land" - Isaiah 1:19*

## Clergy Letter

As we celebrate this season of Eastertide, we hear once again the readings from the gospels of the sightings of the risen Lord: Jesus appearing to Mary in the garden by the tomb, Jesus in the upper room with his disciples, Jesus on the road to Emmaus, and Jesus appearing to his disciples on the shore of a lake. All these readings lend themselves to personal reflection and meditation, but this year it is the story of the breakfast on the shore that I have found particularly inspiring (*John 21: 1-19*). **In John's Gospel we are told that after the loss of the Lord** some of the disciples returned sadly, to their familiar occupation, fishing. However, it proved to be unrewarding until they saw a figure on the shore waiting for them. On his instruction they cast their nets again and tried one more time. This time they pulled in a huge catch and they recognised the figure on the shore as their Lord. The risen Lord does not appear as a ghostly apparition. He greets them as always, in their familiar surroundings; he shares breakfast with them and talks with them.

As I reflect on this passage, I recall vividly an experience many years ago when my husband, Ed and I learnt to sail at Lyme Regis. One day we set out in our small sailing boat alongside some friends in their boat and we fished for mackerel, as we travelled along the coast. When we had caught enough fish we landed the boats onto a rather deserted shore and there on the pebbly beach we built a fire. Someone had the unenviable task of gutting the fish which he managed to do with a small pen knife. After that we cooked the fish on the fire and ate it with bread. It was an evocative experience and ever since I have been able to imagine what it could have been like for those fisherman, those followers of Jesus.

After his life had been taken they had returned to what they knew best. They returned to the surroundings that they knew well. To start again! After that amazing moment of recognition there would have been a sense of having come full circle having returned to the familiar and yet found that everything had changed and been transformed. A simple breakfast of bread and fish had suddenly become a sacred meal. A broken and disheartened group of people were inspired to go out and tell the good news of their Saviour.



We are reminded that God may seem far away but he is always present for us. Sometimes, like the fishermen disciples, we can also find that we are moving full circle and encountering those same issues which seem impossible to resolve. Jesus Christ casts new light on old problems and a new vision of ourselves and others and sometimes in our local situation, we can unexpectedly find new insights. So as we enjoy this springtime and the Easter season may the risen Lord renew us, and bring us joy and peace, both now and in the coming weeks.

*Revd Maree*

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## From the bishop

It feels to me that it has been a long, cold and wet winter. Not the best for inspiring us to get out and about. However we live in a wonderful part of the world when it comes to exploring new places and visiting old favourites. As Archdeacon and Bishop I have come to love the churches within our diocese. They vary in age, beauty and architectural style. Most have adapted and developed down the centuries. Importantly they continue as places of regular worship. They are also repositories of local history and family memory. There is hardly a place that is without interest.

In recent years, we, as a diocese, have encouraged strong Church Tourism groups in both Shropshire and Herefordshire. Our buildings are places of interest and we wish to develop growing numbers of tourists and pilgrims. Already well published, but once again let me draw attention to the Small Things Big Difference Churches Tourism Conference being held at Leominster Priory on the 25<sup>th</sup> April. There is a wonderful collection of speakers and expertise and this promises to be an excellent day.

Maintaining our buildings is a costly business. In recent years the Historic Churches Trusts have, in partnership with the parishes raised large sums of money and built up substantial funds. Important to that fundraising has been the annual county-by-county organised Ride & Stride. These well managed funds grow and come back to the parishes in grants aiding repairs and maintenance. We wish to

encourage more people to visit churches and for the churches to be available and open. To augment the funds for repairs and restoration, from September 2013 a new event known as the Festival of Churches will run annually in Herefordshire, Shropshire and Worcestershire. It will coincide with the county-by-county organised Ride & Stride. It is hoped that the conference on the 25<sup>th</sup> April will, among other things inspire many churches to be involved in the Festival in September.

Churches are not just about art and architecture. They are about faith. Of course there is a link. Much of our art and architecture was inspired by faith and in turn continues to inspire faith. This month between 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> in St John the Baptist, Bishops Castle a series of workshops, talks and events are taking place entitled Faces of Faith. Now that we are in the Easter season, hopefully with some **better weather and with good things to do and see, let's be** encouraged to get out and make the most of the opportunities.

*+Alistair*

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## Notes From the Rector

### Holy Week and Easter

It seems very strange to be writing in the April edition that Easter Sunday will already be over for many who receive this edition of 'The Towers'. **Many thanks to all who played any part in getting our churches ready for the very special worship** which is part and parcel of our celebration of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ and all who played any part in the worship itself. So much hard work is very much appreciated. Thank you

### Sunday, 7 April

The New Abbey Singers will be visiting us on the first weekend in **April. They will sing Evensong in St. Laurence's on Saturday, April 6** and also help lead our worship at the Parish Eucharist and at Sung Evensong on Sunday, 7 April.

### Annual Meetings

The Annual Meetings of the three Ludlow Anglican Town Churches **all take place in the course of April. St. John's Annual Meeting takes**

place as part and parcel of the 9.30 service on Sunday, 7 April. St. Giles Annual Meeting takes place on the morning of Sunday, 28 April – I am in conversation with St. Giles about whether, following the **example of St. John's, we could incorporate this into the 11.15 service.**

**St. Laurence's Annual Meeting takes place at 11.00 am on Sunday, 21 April.** Here is some background as to what is planned for those meetings:

### *Election of Churchwardens*

**The Churchwardens' Measure 2001 provides that "a person shall be disqualified from being chosen for the office of churchwarden when that person has served as a churchwarden of the same parish for six successive periods of office": Previous Annual Meetings have not opted out of this provision.**

Ewart Carson was first elected Churchwarden at the Annual Meeting in 2007 and has therefore served six successive terms of office. He will therefore not be eligible to stand for election this year. Ewart will, though, remain in office until the Archdeacon admits the new Wardens to office on 4 June and so between now and then we will find ways and occasions to thank Ewart for all that he has achieved as Churchwarden.



### *Election of Deputy Churchwardens*

The Annual Meeting will also again be invited to elect two Deputy Churchwardens, to work together with the Churchwardens.

### *Election of PCC Members*

At least four places will be up for election on the PCC this year. If, though, there are more than four nominations, the Annual Meeting has the option of electing more than that number.

In addition, too, Elizabeth Nixon has indicated that she wishes to stand down from her membership of Deanery Synod, by virtue of which she

is a member of PCC, and so the Annual Meeting will need to elect the person who will serve out her remaining term.

### *Notification of Meeting*

The official notification of the Annual Meeting will need to be made on Sunday, 7 April. It is at that point that nominations will begin to be sought.

### *Method of Nomination*

Nomination Forms for Churchwarden, Deanery Synod Representative and membership of the PCC will be available as from 7 April. Each nomination form will need to be signed by a nominator and seconder and by the candidate her- or himself. Nomination Forms which have been fully completed in this way will then be displayed in a board at the **back of St. Laurence's**.

### Choristers

Thank you to all who have been working with choristers at St.

**Laurence's so as to provide them with their own alternative Ministry of the Word.** Special mention goes to Sandi Burley, who has been masterminding all this – but others have been working with her too.

**The choristers' report back on what they have been up to has become an important feature of our worship together.**

### **St. Laurence's CE Primary School**

Congratulations to Stephen Matthews, currently serving as Headteacher of Stretton Sugwas CE Academy in Herefordshire, who has been **appointed to serve as Headteacher of St. Laurence's CE Primary School** as from September 2013.

### Wedding Services in Church

Since I was first ordained thirty years ago and in particular since the opening up of the venues at which wedding services may take place, there has been a marked decline in the number of weddings taking place in Church of England churches. In 2013, four wedding services are due **to take place in St. Laurence's (and one in St. John and eight in St. Giles).**

In the last couple of months, two particular strategies are being developed to help us confront this situation. First of all, discussions have

been taking place with Ludlow Castle to see whether we can work together to promote a package which would see an Anglican Marriage Service taking place in St. Laurence followed by a reception etc. in the Castle. Discussions are ongoing about this.

Secondly, we have been blessed by the arrival to retire in Ludlow of the Revd. Andrew Body, nationally recognised as a leading figure in promoting family life and marriage education within the Church of England and with a track record in his major parish in the Guildford Diocese of bucking the trend on decline of numbers of marriage services taking place in church. The clergy of the Team are liaising with him to look at ways in which we can draw on his wisdom and experience in this area.

As a first step to drawing more couples to think of holding their marriage in church, we are to have a stall at the Wedding Fair which is to be held in Ludlow Castle on Sunday, 14 April. Again, we are grateful to Andrew Body for helping us to organise that and for staffing that during the day.

### **Work on St. Laurence's**

As a result of the generosity of many donors, and not least with the help of the Conservation Trust, funding has now been secured to enable work to begin to conserve, restore and renew the roofs to the **Lady Chapel and to St. John's Chapel, as well as work on the pinnacles.** This will involve a great deal of scaffolding surrounding St. Laurence throughout the summer. Work is scheduled to commence in the week beginning 8 April. Whilst the work is going on, it will create a degree of noise and dust. Thank you to all users of St. Laurence for their understanding that in the coming months all will not normally be as peaceful inside church as we normally like. We are looking particularly at ways in which those who attend the 11.00 am service of Holy Communion on Wednesdays can continue to have a quiet enjoyment of that service despite the ongoing works.

### May Fair Dodgems Service

This will take place as always at 11.00 am on the Sunday of the May Fair – Sunday, 5 May - do join us for this service

*Colin Williams*

# From the Registers

## Baptisms / Services of Thanksgiving

24 February	Jack & Alexis Smith	St Laurence
24 February	Brendon & Maisie Barker	St Laurence
10 March	Chelsea Spriggs	St Laurence
18 March	Amelia Friswell	St Giles

## Weddings / Blessings

None to Report

## Funerals / Thanksgiving Services

16 February	William Morgan	St Giles
19 February	Ian Schofield	St Laurence
22 February	Neville Glaze	St John
22 February	Ron Green	St Laurence
5 March	Frank Saunders	Ludlow Cemetery Chapel
9 March	David Griffiths	St John
18 March	Betty Collett	St John

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### Ian Schofield - **A Heartfelt "Thank You"**

I would like to thank everyone for their kind messages of sympathy **following Ian's death.** They have been a great comfort to me at this sad time.

*Pat Schofield*

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## **NEWS FROM ST JOHN'S**

At the time of writing, two of the five Lenten Addresses with Compline have been held on consecutive Wednesday evenings with

each presenter reflecting upon a parable of their own choice. The presentation in both sessions so far has been inspiring and we anticipate further spiritual enrichment in the other sessions to come.

The services of psalms and prayers conducted by Anna Branston at 4.00pm on Thursdays continue to introduce a sanctuary for quiet reflection during the week and people usually take the opportunity afterwards to discuss wide-ranging issues.

Many thanks to those who have donated so generously to the hymn book request. Don Millington is now able to purchase on behalf of **the church, 50 'Hymns Old and New – New Anglican Edition'** together with several music versions.

The choir meets weekly for practice and has prepared anthems for Passion Sunday, Easter and Pentecost. As usual we cordially welcome the friends from the parish who augment us on special occasions.

**The Parents and Toddlers' Group** continues in great strength with often large numbers coming to St John's on Friday mornings. The dedication of Sue Thomas, Sandi Burley and Bron Priday in setting this up and obviously enthusing children and parents, is quite amazing.

Five of the twelve embroideries for the altar kneelers are now completed and look splendid. Barbara Atkin, who is driving the project is looking into the prospect and the cost of having them made up professionally.

By the time of publication, the de-**cluttering of St John's** will have taken place and we shall be looking at ways in which the interior might be used more creatively.

As with last year, on Palm Sunday **St John's will have a banner** procession to join up with that from St Giles for the service at St Laurence.

Other events in the near future include:

**St John's Annual Meeting** – 7 April,  
Songs of Praise – 14 April at 4.00pm,  
Memorial Concert for Dr James McFarlane, CBE on 27 April  
given by Ludlow and Craven Arms Male Voice Choirs.

The Spring Lunch on 12 May at 12.30 at **Carla and Peter Phelps'**.

*J. and S. French*

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## SONGS OF PRAISE

St John's Church on Sunday 14 April 2013 at 4.00pm

You are invited to join St John's congregation for 'Songs of Praise', when we plan to dedicate our new supplementary hymn books, and use them to help exercise our voices in musical worship.

Please do come along

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## News from st giles

As I write this at the beginning of March already the days are lengthening and becoming warmer and we are looking forward to some lovely Spring days in April. Easter will have brought us new life and fresh beginnings and this month we look forward to our A.G.M. to be held on Sunday, 28 April **after the morning service in St Giles'** church. We have to elect 2 new churchwardens this year and also another treasurer. Your prayers are asked that the right people may come forward to offer their services for these key jobs in the church.

It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of Peter Turner at the beginning of March. Both Peter and Carol have helped St Giles in many ways while they lived in Ludlow and we missed them a lot when they moved to Cleobury Mortimer. Peter had been ill for some time. We would like to extend our deep sympathy and prayers to Carol.

Our Prayer Fellowship is currently studying the Ten Commandments during the Bible Study before our prayer time and we have all been shocked to think of how far short we have fallen from the standards originally required of us. It is a sobering thought to examine each commandment in some detail and to apply it honestly to our own



lives. A very good Lenten project! Our meetings in April are on Monday, 8 April and Monday, 22 April - both at 3 Greenacres. Anyone is very welcome to join us.

Barbara Foster has started a sort of Rogues Gallery of the members of St Giles on the church notice board and asks all members of the congregation to bring along a photo of themselves to add to it if you have not already done so.

We had a lovely Mothering Sunday service conducted by Revd Philip Jepps. It was a bitterly cold morning but there was a warm welcome inside and many loving greetings which more than compensated. Philip told us about several different kinds of mothers, the happy mothers, sad mothers who have lost their children or been parted from them, unkind and hurtful mothers who do not love their children and all those women who would dearly love children but, for whatever reason, cannot have them. We remembered especially the mother of Moses and the mother of Jesus. At the end of the service little bunches of spring flowers were given to most of the congregation. It had been a lovely beginning to a special day.

*M. Wright*

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## LIFE and LEARNING @ LUDLOW

Christian Art 1850 - 1950

Life & Learning is the name of our adult education programme which seeks to broaden understanding and initiate debate on theology, social issues and the arts. The final event of the current programme takes the form of a Saturday Study Day and will be held at the Ludlow Mascall Centre on 28 April from 10.30am until 3.30pm. The topic for the day is Christian Art 1850 – 1950 and to lead the day we shall be welcoming The Revd Iain Lane from Hertfordshire.

Iain served as Education Canon at St Albans Cathedral from 2000 to 2008, and as Director of the St Albans Christian Study Centre from 2000 to 2005. He has a major interest in Christian art, and is currently engaged on research in the area of doctrine and philosophy.

**Writing about the day, Iain explains “Paintings of overtly Christian**

themes and subjects seem to disappear from the art books after about 1850, and yet this was among the richest periods for Christian art. From the pre-Raphaelites to Matisse, from the Tissot Bible to Georges Rouault, from the Ateliers d'Art Sacré to the Harlem Renaissance, through almost all the '-isms' and around the globe there are treasures to be found. This study day aims to introduce some of the riches and encourage further exploration."

The charge for the day, including tea and coffee, is £10. Attendees are invited to bring a sandwich lunch.

In order to help our planning, those intending to come are asked to register in advance. The detailed programme, with the registration form, can be picked up at the Welcome Desk or downloaded from the website: [www.stlaurences.org.uk/lifeandlearning](http://www.stlaurences.org.uk/lifeandlearning). Copies of the programme can also be ordered by emailing: [lifeandlearning@stlaurences.org.uk](mailto:lifeandlearning@stlaurences.org.uk) or by phoning: 01584 872073.

**Life & Learning @ Ludlow events, developed by St Laurence's, are open** to all people from the town and beyond, regardless of religious affiliation.

*Barry Forrester*

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## P.C.C. - Costly New Bank Charges

We have received notification from our bank, Charities Aid Foundation Bank (CAF-Bank), of new charges for customers with transactions exceeding either £100k cash or 600 cheques deposited per annum. In 2012 we exceeded the threshold for cash deposited and paid-in 406 cheques. This means we can expect monthly bank charges of £91.91 *per month* effective 1<sup>st</sup> May.

We are exploring other options, both with CAF-Bank and other institutions, but in the meantime we would appreciate you all spreading the word that donations given through standing orders and/or electronic bank transfers are much preferred. Not only does it reduce our administrative burden but, as demonstrated by the new rates, there is a direct monetary benefit. Thank you!

*Susan Baldwin*

**Mouse Makes**

**What is your most valuable treasure?**  
The bible tells us that the most valuable thing you can ever have is something that can **NEVER** be lost, broken or stolen.  
The most **valuable** thing you can have is to be **friends with God** through Jesus.

*Read: Matthew 6:19-21*

Keep my words, treasure up my commands  
*Prov 7:1*

Do not store up treasures on earth  
*Matt 6:19*

Your **HEART** will be where your riches are  
*Matt 6:21*

In **Christ** are hidden all the **treasures** of wisdom and understanding  
*Col 2:3*

Be **RICH** in good deeds  
*1 Tim 6:18*

Be **generous** givers  
*1 Tim 6:18*

Cut out these coins. Cut out the treasure box and fold along the dotted lines. Glue the coins inside the box

Apr 13 © deborahnicoble @parishgump.co.uk

## **THANK YOU'S:**

To Dr Jane Robinson who gave us a fascinating talk about her work in retirement. **Jane's wealth of experience of Nursing,, Research and Lecturing;** and her Academic Qualifications eventually led her to editing the *International Nursing Review*.

Jane believes that journals should help educate nurses worldwide and is **often most valuable when led 'from the bottom up'**. **Articles cover** topics such as: Professional Practice in treating HIV/AIDS; Malaria; Primary Health Care; Safe Water: Regulation & Credentialling in Continuing Education; Codes of Ethics; Human Resources including Health & Safety for Nurses, Remuneration, Careers and International Trade in health professionals from poor to affluent countries such as UK.

Most moving of all were stories submitted by people who have experienced devastating hardships such as:

- The Iranian woman with breast cancer who not only has to deal with psychological stresses as well as physical problems, but also cultural issues such as a spouses reaction to physical defects.
- The Jewish Ethiopian immigrant pupils in Israel who have difficulty mastering language and mathematics and are therefore socially disadvantaged, making access to higher education very difficult without tremendous faculty support.
- Nepalese pregnant women who have no ante-natal care, 80% of whom have births at home with only 11% having a birthing attendant present, who traditionally has only 12 days training.
- Adolescents near Pretoria, South Africa who have been orphaned by the death of parents from Aids, who need to be loved and needed, **and wish to study and work hard to honour their parents' memories.**

Thank you Jane for a thought-provoking talk.

Thanks also for all donations given on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March in memory **of our own mothers in order to 'Make A Mother's Day'** by supporting **the Mothers' Union in their work with Mothers who live in difficult** circumstances throughout the world. We sent over £125.

TEDDIES - We have received a letter from West Mercia Local Policing

Team thanking our Branch for donating Teddies which we knitted for them to use when interviewing children who may have been abused. *If any members of our congregations have any spare double knitting wool, especially beige, for knitting heads, hands and feet, or bright colours for knitting trousers, tops and scarves, we would receive them gratefully.*

SHROPSHIRE MAGAZINE - Following her visit to our February meeting **'A Meditation for Lent'**, we are grateful to Shirley Tart for writing a sensitive, informative and encouraging article about the work of our Branch and the Mothers' Union for the March issue of the Magazine.

#### COMING EVENTS IN APRIL

Corporate Communion in **St John's Chapel, St Laurence's** at 11.00 am on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April.

April 9<sup>th</sup> **'We each have something special'**

Our members are each asked to bring something which has special memories, or is of special significance to them, to show and talk about. It should be a fascinating afternoon.

Wave of Prayer between 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> April

We hope that all our Team Churches will include a prayer for the **Mothers' Union in their Intercessions on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April.**

*Short Services will take place throughout the Team as follows:*

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> Stoke St Milborough, Culmington Group at 2.30

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> Committee Meeting 2.30 pm

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> St Giles, Ludlow Group at 2.30 pm

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> Middleton, Ashford Group at 2.30 pm

All are invited to join any of our short services in Team churches.

#### ADVANCE NOTICE

On Tuesday, 14 May we will be holding a Fundraising Event for **'Away From It All'** - MU support for those who need a break, whether they be families, single parents or carers. All people needing a break are referred by doctors, social workers or clergy.

This will be at the Ludlow Mascall Centre at 2.30 pm.

Holidays are organised in this Diocese by our MU Committee and we are grateful to Pat Pardoe for all the work she does in this field, visiting those in need and encouraging our Branches to raise money to fund holidays.

*Elizabeth Nixon*

## A PARKING PLEA

I feel sure that those in our congregation, who feel the new Sunday parking charges are unjust would feel differently were they to understand why they have been introduced. These charges are the result of approximately two and a half years of negotiations, during which time there have been public meetings. I realize it is not always possible to attend these meetings and naturally people have been influenced by snippets they have heard.

Residents in the town centre have been virtually marooned in their homes on Sundays. Alternatively, residents have run the real risk of being marooned in their cars, if they took them out as on their return any spaces would have been occupied by tourists visiting for the best part of the day. Desperate with the situation, some residents undertook a survey and found that on Sundays in particular, the car park was virtually empty while the streets were full, visitors taking the shrewd and economic choice. Were the tourist Christians, who understood the situation and were welcomed to the town with signs asking 'What would Jesus do?', I feel sure that they would have used the car parks. I ask, how would you feel if you had not the freedom to visit a friend - perhaps a friend in hospital - because you dare not move your car?

The Town Centre Residents' Association were asked to take up the cause and they worked extremely hard negotiating with the Council in order to find as satisfactory a solution as possible, which would safeguard our valued tradespeople as well as residents. The new regime may seem unfair to some churchgoers, but then the old way seemed extremely unfair to local residents!

I do hope this helps you to understand the situation and the continuous anxiety suffered by residents in the past.

*Juliet Diamond, Mill Street*

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## Experience Easter

On 14<sup>th</sup> March approximately 125 school children (years 5 and 6) **came to St Laurence's in groups to hear about the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus.** This was part of a regular event organised by **'Churches Together'** to which all the Primary schools in and around Ludlow are invited.

The school groups all started at the Ludlow Mascall Centre where **they were welcomed and had the 'Experience' explained. They heard about Palm Sunday and about Jesus washing the disciples' feet.** They then walked up to the Methodist Church where they heard about The Last Supper and The Garden of Gethsemane. Lastly they walked up to **St. Laurence's for the final part of the story about the Crucifixion and the Resurrection.**

There were five groups booked in but owing to a miscommunication about time two of them arrived together causing a flurry of activity, but they were all accommodated.

Each group chose one child to have their feet washed, but every child had half a hot-cross bun and a drink after hearing about the Last Supper, and received an Easter comic and a mini egg to take away with them.

**Running this 'Experience' requires a lot of man-power and nearly every church that is part of 'Churches Together' had representatives involved in it.**

It was a tiring but worthwhile day for us all.

*Sandi Burley*

### Pew Sheet and Flower Donations

Thanks to all who contributed in the past year to sponsor the Pew Service sheets and church flowers.

If you would like to sponsor the pew service sheets or church flowers for a certain date to commemorate a special person or event, a sign-up sheet is posted on the notice board at the back of the church.

Alternatively, please contact the Parish Office. Thank you

## Ludlow under Pressure

You may have picked it up from my piece in last month's edition but perhaps worth a more prominent notice that there will be a further open meeting as a follow up to Ludlow under Pressure and to report on developments. Venue The Methodist Church Broad st at 7.30 pm on Thursday 18 April.

It is hoped that our local MP and the Leader of Shropshire Council will be present.

*Michael Day*

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## LUDLOW TREFOIL GUILD.

Were you once a brownie or girl guide? - if so, why not join the Trefoil Guild. You can join at 18 and there is no upper age limit. We meet informally from 2.00pm to 4.00pm on the fourth Wednesday of the month at the Upper Fee Community Room, Ludlow.

For more details contact either Mrs. Maureen Stinton on 01584 873445 or Mrs. Pamela White on 01584 879276.

MS

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## Beazleys in Haiti

The Beazleys are out in Haiti for a month working with a charity there ([forhaitiwithlove.org](http://forhaitiwithlove.org)) in Cap Haitien, and visiting the UNA's supported charity ([Pazapa.org](http://Pazapa.org)) in Jacmel. They will be bringing back lots of photos and a report on progress in both charities. When they return they will make presentations during Haiti support evenings both in Ludlow and also in Church Stretton on conditions in Haiti in general and on the two charities.

They are keen to encourage as much support as possible, not just for their supported charity, but for Pazapa as well and for Haiti in general. They hope to be able to report on their trip to all their friends here in Ludlow and to the Church Stretton people who



support Pazapa, and would be very grateful if CTAL, especially the **Methodist Church, St Laurence's and Living Waters, would support** them in doing this. They would very much value your and the church's continued prayers.

*Editor*

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## The Link Scheme of pastoral care.

On Monday, 25th February, we had a Links meeting, partly social and partly to discuss the present situation and consider possible improvements. It is very difficult to analyse clinically the needs of people for pastoral care, partly because this is often not recognised by people themselves. When someone is ill or recovering from an operation it is much easier to show care; offering help, brightening up the day by cards or flowers or visiting to wile away the frustration or tedium felt by the sufferer.

When someone is in another kind of trouble; rift in a relationship, anger, depression, doubt of oneself or even of the church, it is not so easy. However, the Link hopes that a certain degree of friendship or special warmth will have evolved to enable that person in trouble to be able to speak about it so that they can unburden their feelings to someone who really listens. I read somewhere that "pastoral care is to do with good relating and that the language of such relating must include the language of feeling". This means listening with empathy, sensitivity and respect. It does not mean a bright statement that all is going to be all right or include a long list of remedies which may leave the person in trouble feeling inadequate and misunderstood. One cannot experience exactly what the other person is going through but we should try to appreciate the feelings aroused by the experiences of which we are being told.

The Link starts from the basis that the church is the family of God and that the people she is caring for are friends and are worthy of respect and consideration. It is, after all, an attempt to follow through the basic commandment "love one another". This is not easy and the Link is very often afraid they may have got it wrong,

but the basic premise is that there is a really caring friendship involved.

All that the Links do is not of course shouted to the roof tops or gossiped about in corners but treated with total confidentiality. It is therefore difficult for others in the congregation to appreciate the amount of pastoral care that is going on but I hope that the people who have met the kind of caring friendship mentioned above do appreciate it. Also I hope that the others will be ready to accept it if they are ever in the same position. If there are any questions arising from this article or if anyone feels they too might like to become a Link, please do not hesitate to contact me or any other Link.

*Jen Pollard*

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## Christian Aid

Christian Aid Week 2013 – 13 to 18 May – Please note in your diary. House to house collectors will be contacted by their area organisers sometime before then. The preparatory evening is **on 1 May at Wesley's. Last year the town's collection raised £8618.**

Summer coffee morning – is held at the Feathers (who generously donate the coffee and biscuits and do not charge for the room). This is always an enjoyable event and includes a bric a brac stall, cake stall, a raffle etc. Last year this raised £319; we **do not yet have a date for this year's coffee morning.**

Christian Aid raised approximately £12000 in Ludlow in 2012. Christian Aid looks to us to support them so that they can continue their work. The meeting on 1 May will give details of the sorts of projects our gifts support, as well as the innovations that the money and skills that Christian Aid takes to countries across the world can bring about.

Please continue to work for and to support Christian Aid: If you would like to volunteer to work for Christian Aid in any of the above events please contact me:

*Claire Wilcox - tel: 877199 - e-mail: [clairewilcox@yahoo.com](mailto:clairewilcox@yahoo.com)*

## LUDLOW Food BANK

Please continue to remember those who depend on the Rockspring Food Bank at times of crisis. Thank you to all who have contributed **food items to the basket in St Laurence's** - please continue to give as the need is increasing. Food parcels are not handed out to just anyone indiscriminately, so you can be assured that those receiving your gifts are families in real need. These life-saving gifts are very much appreciated.

As many of you know, the Baptist Church co-coordinates and carries out the day-to-day work of distribution. Jon Edwards, the Baptist minister, has now moved north – church members will be working hard to ensure the distribution of food parcels goes on. There is however a need for volunteers from other churches to help meet the increasing demand and to increase the number of days the Bank is open each week.

Please help if you can—if you think you might be able to help even if only occasionally or for more information please contact Ruth Davies on 07896 706189.

*Editor*

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## A perfect Vicar for Ludlow?

Perfect Vicars preach exactly 10 minutes. They roundly condemn sin, but never hurt anyone's feelings. They work from 8 a.m. until midnight, and are also the church handyman.

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Perfect Vicars always have time for church meetings and all of its committees, never missing the meeting of any church group. They are always busy evangelising the unchurched. They spends hours preparing couples for their weddings, hours preparing parents for their baby's baptism, and hours visiting the bereaved, but their life is dedicated to solitude, prayer and meditation.

*[Guidelines for the selection Committee!!..Ed.]*

## FORTHCOMING

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Further information from the Rector, Colin Williams

### **C. T. A. L. ...OUTREACH SUPPER & TALK**

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Further details David Roberts - 01584 878568.

### **FACES OF FAITH EXHIBITION**

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Thank you to all our contributors.  
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Material arriving after the preferred date cannot be guaranteed to be included. Material arriving after the final date will definitely NOT be included until the following month:

Issue	Preferred Date	Final Date
May	9 April	16 April
June	7 May	14 May
July/August	11 June	18 June
September	6 August	13 August

Please send articles by email to [office@stlaurences.org.uk](mailto:office@stlaurences.org.uk)  
Please send information about events and subjects that you would like to appear in the magazine. We ask contributors to limit their articles to:

No more than two A5 pages or 650 words (*Gill Sans 12pt*)

There may be special circumstances when more space is required but we ask that you please check with the Editorial Committee and request larger space at least three weeks ahead of the submission date to **determine if sufficient space will be available in that month's issue.**

## Towers Editorial Committee

The present members of the Towers editorial committee are:

Susan Baldwin - Parishes Office	872073
Diana Thomas - Tallis House, Overton	878719
John Burley - 'Burleys', 72 Dahn Drive, Ludlow	873155

## EDITOR'S NOTE

*Opinions expressed in contributed articles in this magazine are those of the contributor and do not necessarily represent the position or opinions of the PCC or the Editorial Committee.*

Diocesan News Service for Magazine Editors.  
Copy in writing for May issue by 1 April to:  
*Anni Holden, Communications Officer,  
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Towers Editorial Com.	Susan Baldwin / Diana Thomas / John Burley	872073 / 873155

Hello! - Can you read me? – over!

The Editorial Committee are always pleased to get your feedback and comments on the magazine, so we can try to do better!

Please contact Susan Baldwin at the office on 872073 with your thoughts and comments. Thank you!!



# LARGE PRINT

Copies in large print are available from Susan Baldwin at the Parishes Office – 01584 872073.