

+ 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 +

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

LUDLOW TEAM MINISTRY

LUDLOW TOWERS

*Ludlow and Ludford
Parishes Magazine*



St. John



St. Giles



St. Laurence

Keeping us all together with the news...

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

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

THE PARISHES' OFFICE

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CLERGY *(Days off are shown in brackets)*

Team Rector Designate:	The Venerable Colin Williams	(Thur)	872001
Rector's Office direct:	(e-mail: rector@stlaurences.org.uk)		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 Eucharist
		3rd Sunday Sung Eucharist
	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 - June 2013

DATE JUNE	EVENT / ACTIVITY (SJL=St John; SLL=St Laurence; SGL=St Giles)
Sat 1	Wedding Dresses & Flowers Exhibition (SLL) 14.00: Guided Tour of St Laurence
Sun 2	1 ST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY 08.00: Holy Communion 09.30: Parish Eucharist 15.30: Evening Prayer (said)
Mon 3	13.30: Conservation Trust (2 College St) 16.30: Junior Choristers Rehearsal (SLL)
Tues 4	14.00: Finance & Standing Committees (2 College St) 18.30: Handbells Practice (SLL Vestry)
Weds 5	10.00: Visit from Wigmore School (SLL) 11.00: Holy Communion (Zion Room, Methodist Church)
Thurs 6	16.00: Simple Service of Psalms & Silent Prayer (SJL) 18.30: Choir Practice (SLL)
Fri 7	09.15: Toddler Group (SJL) 17.30: Compline (SLL)
Sat 8	14.00: Guided Tour of St Laurence Church (SLL)
Sun 9	2nd SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY 08.00: Holy Communion 09.30: Parish Eucharist 11.30: Choral Matins 15.00: Baptism – Evie-May Griffiths (SLL) 15.00: Baptism – Mazie-Jane Beardsmore-Nash (SLL) 16.00: Songs of Praise (SJL)
Mon 10	15.30 Choristers Tea (2 College St) 16.30: Junior Choristers Rehearsal (SLL)

Tues 11	Towers Deadline Mothers' Union Outing <i>(To be confirmed)</i> 18.30: Handbells Practice <i>(SLL Vestry)</i>
Weds 12	Visit from Langwasser group 11.00: Holy Communion <i>(Zion Room, Methodist Church)</i>
Thurs 13	16.00: Simple Service of Psalms & Silent Prayer <i>(SJL)</i> 18.30: Choir Practice <i>(SLL)</i>
Fri 14	09.15: Toddler Group <i>(SJL)</i> 10.45: Wolverhampton Girls School visit <i>(SLL)</i> 17.30: Compline <i>(SLL)</i>
Sat 15	14.00: Guided Tour of St Laurence Church <i>(SLL)</i>
Sun 16	3 rd SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY 08.00: Holy Communion 09.30: Parish Eucharist 15.30: Choral Evensong
Mon 17	16.30: Junior Choristers Rehearsal <i>(SLL)</i>
Tues 18	18.30: Handbells Practice <i>(SLL Vestry)</i>
Weds 19	10.30: St John's Bereavement Coffee Morning <i>(SJL)</i> 11.00: Holy Communion <i>(Zion Room, Methodist Church)</i>
Thurs 20	16.00: Simple Service of Psalms & Silent Prayer <i>(SJL)</i> 18.30: Choir Practice <i>(SLL)</i>
Fri 21	09.15: Toddler Group <i>(SJL)</i> 17.30: Compline <i>(SLL)</i>
Sat 22	14.00: Festival Guided Tour <i>(SLL)</i> 15.30: Organ Recital <i>(SLL)</i> 17.30: Eve of Festival Solemn Choral Evensong with incense
Sun 23	4 th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY 08.00: Holy Communion 09.30: Parish Eucharist 11.00: Sponsored Hymn Sing
Mon 24	12.00: FESTIVAL RECITAL <i>(SLL)</i> 16.30: Junior Choristers Rehearsal <i>(SLL)</i> 19.00: Sally Vickers Book signing & lecture <i>(SLL)</i>
Tues 25	18.30: Handbells Practice <i>(SLL Vestry)</i>

Weds 26	11.00: Holy Communion (<i>Zion Room, Methodist Church</i>) 12.00: FESTIVAL RECITAL (SLL) 15.00: Mini-Shakespeare Matinee (<i>time to be confirmed</i>) 19.00: Mini-Shakespeare
Thurs 27	16.00: Service of Psalms & Silent Prayer (SIL) 19.00: Mini-Shakespeare
Fri 28	09.15: Toddler Group (SIL) 12.00: FESTIVAL RECITAL (SLL) 17.30: Compline (SLL)
Sat 29	12.00: Organ Recital (SLL) 14.00: Guided Tour of St Laurence Church (SLL)
Sun 30	5 th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY 08.00: Holy Communion 09.30: Parish Eucharist 10.00: Joint Parish Service Culmington Group (<i>tbc</i>) 10.00: Joint Service – Knowbury-Ashford Group (<i>tbc</i>) 15.00: Baptism – Frankie Kate Woodcok (SGL)

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



Jesus can turn water into wine - but
**He can't turn our whining into
anything...!**

“Do everything without complaining or arguing...”
- *Philippians 2: 14*

Clergy Letter

I am writing this clergy letter in the middle of May. As I write, **there's one word which seems to dominate the headlines. That word is 'Europe' . I of course have form on this issue. I spent five years of my life before I came to Ludlow working as the General Secretary of the Conference of European Churches – an organisation founded in 1959 and dedicated to helping the Churches of Europe find ways of overcoming those conflicts and divisions which for centuries have dogged us; and in particular enabling the Churches of Europe to speak with one voice to and within the European Institutions – notably the European Union and the Council of Europe, based in Strasbourg.**

What with varying degrees of success we tried to impress on all our European brothers and sisters was that it is impossible to understand Europe without appreciating how much our continent has been formed and shaped by its heritage of faith – and not least its heritage of Christian faith. By and large much that is good about mainstream European life and culture – its art, its music, its bias towards democracy, its respect for human rights, – has its roots in the influence of Christian faith. Sadly, too, it has to be acknowledged that it has, especially in our recent history, been the case that where the last two of those have been absent, it has too often been a result of the Church too readily playing a malign role within individual European societies. Be that as it may, the Churches in Europe have been trying to work together in recent years to play their part in enabling Europe to engage with the challenge of former EU President Jacques Delors for our continent to rediscover its Soul - to create a Europe which is open, fair, tolerant and inclusive. In particular, the churches have been lobbying in recent years for fair treatment for those who come to our continent as migrants as well as for the barriers which are set against poor farmers from the Global South selling their products within Europe to be kept as low as possible.

My own contacts with the EU, in relation to which the Conference of European Churches is very much a lobbying body, left me with huge question marks about the democratic deficit within that organisation. When we got things done, it was too often because

we knocked at the right door and/or spoke into the right ear, rather than through our engaging in democratic dialogue. Be that as it may, there is huge potential still for the Churches of Europe to make their voice heard within institutions and bodies which make decisions which affect all Europeans, be they within or outside the EU .

Among other churches, the Church of England is particularly engaged at a European level. In particular there is a Church of England Representative in Brussels who plays his part in the common endeavour of the European Churches to influence European policy for good; and the Church of England is represented too at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, which does so much to make our continent a place within which individual human rights are respected. Whatever the future holds for our political and economic engagement with Europe, policies enacted by the European Institutions will continue to affect our daily lives. Whether as a nation we are in or out of the EU, it will be important for the churches of Great Britain not to disengage from sharing with other European Churches in remaining in dialogue with European policy makers. It is in all our interests that Europe rediscovers its soul.

Colin Williams

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From the bishop

You may have noticed the recent survey that revealed that Britain is becoming a more peaceful place. Research indicates that rates of murder and violent crime have fallen more rapidly in the UK in the past decade than in many other countries in Western Europe. The UK Peace Index, from the Institute for Economics and Peace, found UK homicides per 100,000 people had fallen from 1.99 in 2003, to 1.00 in 2012 with Broadland, Norfolk the most peaceful local council area and Lewisham, London the least. A separate study by Cardiff University suggests the number of people treated in hospital in England and Wales after violent incidents fell by 14% in 2012. The fact that we, as a nation, are less violent set me thinking as to whether this might be simply due to better surveillance and detection or whether we were indeed becoming happier with a greater sense of well being.

Well being, happiness and joy are sadly not always the first things people think about when reflecting on faith and Christian living. All too easily faith is associated only with rules and what not to do. However the ideas of joy, rejoicing and shalom – peaceful well being, are common and predominant in both the Old and New Testaments. As far back as the fourth century BC the philosopher Aristotle set out a scheme of ethics that was constructed around the concept of the good life and well being. His question was this; What does the good life consist of? This general question does not necessarily have a single answer. Some may seek the good life in a way that is self obsessed. Other may do so in a way that is sits loosely to moral values. But is the pursuit of happiness in this way the genuinely best life?

The Bible consistently asks us to hold together the twin aims of our own development and the service of others. Jesus in calling out disciples to follow him had much to say about wise living and the truly blessed or happy life. St Thomas Aquinas developed this kind of thinking. The most deeply satisfying life he suggests is one that encourages us to develop our own character and gifts and at the same time act in ways that help and enable others. This involves **choices and is far more than simply obeying rules although they aren't** absent. True satisfaction is not always about taking the easy way or the trouble free path. What in the end may most enrich us and bless others may not necessarily be easy and as I read recently in a book on Joy: While suffering is inevitable, misery is optional, pain cannot be avoided, but joy can. As with being a disciple it is a matter of choice.

+Alistair

+

Notes From the Rector

The Revd. Brigitte Malik

The Diocese of Hereford has a longstanding relationship with the Evangelical –Lutheran Church of Bavaria. Our own relationship with Langwasser in Nuremberg forms part of that relationship. A tradition has grown in the last years of a pastor from Bavaria being sent on secondment to work for a number of years in the Diocese of Hereford. On the last two occasions, that has involved a pastor

from Bavaria coming to work in Leominster. For the last few months, however, there has been a proposal that a pastor come on secondment to Ludlow. I am happy to report that this has now come to fruition!

In October we shall be joined by the Revd. Brigitte Malik, her husband Christoph and, from time to time, by their three grown up children. Brigitte is aged 55 and has been serving for the last 14 years as Pastor of Bad Reichenhall, a spa town on the German/Austrian border. Christoph is Polish by birth and works freelance as a German-Polish translator – work which he hopes to pursue by Internet from Ludlow.

Brigitte and Christoph will live in St. Giles' Vicarage on Sheet Road – last inhabited by John Beesley. They plan to arrive among us in early October. Brigitte has written: 'I would really very much like to come to the Ludlow Team Ministry and am sure we can share all the gifts God has given us for the benefit of the people living there'.

Do please remember Brigitte and Christoph in your prayers as they prepare what for them will be a significant transition from ministry in their home context to ministry within the Church of England.

....and not to forget our own friends in Langwasser a group from Langwasser, driven by their intrepid coach driver, Pastor Hans-Willi Büttner, will be in Ludlow for a few hours on Wednesday, 12 June. Please contact Juergen Bridstrup for more details.

Churchwardens

Tuesday, 4 June is a significant day in the life of the parishes of the town of Ludlow. It is the day on which Bishop Alistair will admit to **office those who were elected at April's Annual Meetings to serve as Churchwardens in the Ludlow Town Parishes.** This year, we have a clean sweep of new Churchwardens – and so we wish Barbara Foster and Merlin Unwin well in their new responsibilities as Churchwardens for St. Giles and Jane Robinson and Jim Hooper in their responsibilities **as Churchwardens for St. Laurence's. Jane and Jim will of course be supported by the Deputy Churchwardens – Brian Gardner and Maureen Stinton. And Sheila French and Don Craft will continue to serve as Deputy Churchwardens for St. John's. Please do remember them all in your prayers.**

Our thanks are therefore due to all who stand down from their office in June. Pam Farquhar has served several years as Warden at St Giles and has faithfully carried out her duties under difficult personal circumstances – we are all very grateful to Pam for what she has achieved. Charlotte Potter stands down this time as Deputy Warden at **St. Laurence's with our thanks for her hard work and commitment** during her time as Deputy.

Most notable of all is that at the beginning of June Ewart Carson



comes to the end of his allotted span as Churchwarden of St Laurence. During his six years in office, Ewart has been an exemplary and hard-working churchwarden, committed to the cause of **St. Laurence's and doing so much, with** the support and forbearance of Fay, to build up the quality and impact of our common life. More important still, Ewart has rightly won the trust and respect of **the people of St. Laurence's. In so many ways we are greatly in Ewart's debt for all** that he has achieved and he will be a very hard act indeed to follow. It is good to know that Ewart will remain on the PCC as a valuable source of guidance and

wisdom and also maintain an active role with the Vision Project and for that we are all very grateful.

Ludlow Festival

You can read elsewhere in this edition of 'The Towers' about what will be happening in St. Laurence's during the course of the Ludlow Festival, beginning at the end of June. There will be a service of Choral Evensong in church at 5.30 pm on Saturday, June 22 to mark the opening of the Festival. All are welcome to attend. Incense will be used during this service.

Eddie Perks

Since 2010, Eddie Perks has been working hard to train to be a Reader. It has been agreed that he will be licensed as Reader at a service in St.

John's at 9.30 am on Sunday, 22 September. Please do remember Eddie in your prayers as he prepares for this important milestone.

Howard Watkins

The death of Howard in April greatly touched all who are part of the **family of St. Laurence's. To many it felt like the ending of an era.**

Tributes to Howard are paid elsewhere in this edition, [page 13] but I gladly add my own appreciation of a remarkable servant of our parish and town. May Howard rest in peace and rise with Christ in glory.

Susan Baldwin will be leaving her job as Administrator in August in order to return to her native Canada. We owe Susan much thanks – **more in next month's 'Towers'.**

Colin Williams

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From the Registers

Baptisms / Services of Thanksgiving

19 April	Mia Drew	St Laurence
20 April	Henry Ridge	St Laurence
28 April	Darcey Gatehouse	St Giles
12 May	Rhylie Hammonds	St Giles
12 May	Riley Stewardson	St John
12 May	Kianne & Jacob Dixon	St Giles

Weddings

21 April	Richard Fisher & Kathleen Leal	St Laurence
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Funerals

20 April	Stella Chatham	St Giles
25 April	Mary Hands	St Laurence
26 April	Lillian Lanman	St John
1 May	Mary Guilbert	St John
8 May	Howard Watkins	St Laurence

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Howard Watkins - A Remembrance

So many tributes to this man of many talents! He really was a phenomenon and used his wonderful caring approach to the thirty years in which he served as Church Warden. It was once observed, **“What would we ever do without Howard”**. Sadly that time has come. But, he leaves us all with a wonderful legacy of his attitude. The Parish Church of St Laurence would have been a different place without Howard. The tributes paid at his funeral were a comfort to those of us who knew him so well. I was very proud to be elected to the office of Church Warden, and Howard was always there to give me guidance and help when I needed it – **I couldn't have** done it without him!! Particularly when very big services were to be organised!

God bless you, Howard. Rest in Peace, you good and faithful servant!

Pat Perry

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NEWS FROM ST JOHN'S



SONGS OF PRAISE
St John's Church, Ludlow
Sunday, 9 June 2013 at 4.00pm

You are invited to join St John's congregation for
'Songs of Praise on a Summer Afternoon'.

Please do come along and help us exercise our
voices in musical worship.

JF

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News from st giles

St Giles had the A.G.M. later than usual this year at the end of April. We are delighted to report that we now have two new churchwardens, highly approved by all the congregation. They are Barbara Foster and Merlin Unwin. We welcome them to their new posts and remember them in our prayers. There were no retirements from the P.C.C. this year but a vacancy to be filled and Christine Ellis volunteered to serve. The church accounts were presented and accepted showing a small balance and therefore solvency but it was pointed out that the stewardship of the church needs to be thoroughly overhauled and to that end there is to be a big drive in the autumn to ask everyone to prayerfully consider their plan of giving in the light of all the increased church expenses. At the moment we have no treasurer, Phil Ross having had to resign through ill health and the treasurer designate has also had to withdraw owing to ill health. Our new churchwarden, Barbara Foster, has very nobly agreed to take on the work for a very short time but we need your prayers and ideas to find another treasurer.

Concerning the fabric of the church, we are expecting an inspection by the Diocesan Surveyor shortly but to all intents and purposes it appears to be in good order. Several minor jobs need to be done both on the church and garden house and two major projects await work when funds are available.

During the coming year it is hoped to do a lot more work on the Mission Statement and to put it into action as soon as possible if it is not in action already.

Our Prayer Fellowship meets in June on the following dates:
Monday, 3 June and Monday, 17 June - both meetings at 10.30 am. at 3 Greenacres. Everyone is most welcome to join us.

M.Wright

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A Vision for a Re-**ORDERED ST LAURENCE'S**

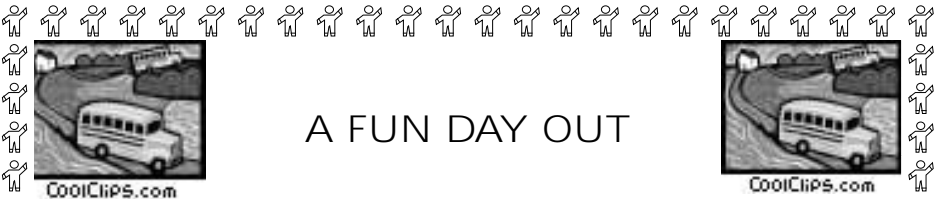
Following extensive consultation and discussion, plans have now been formulated for the re-ordering of the interior of St Laurence's as part

of the Vision Project. There will be a congregational presentation of the proposals in St Laurence's Church at 11.00 am on Sunday, 2 June. Do join us to hear what the future has in store.

A public forum is planned for 7.30 pm on Monday, 1 July when the proposals will be described to the wider Ludlow Community. This will be followed by an exhibition of the plans, enabling further feedback and comment.

Ewart Carson and Shaun Ward

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A FUN DAY OUT

Dear Friends

A request was made at the Annual Parish Meeting for the possibility of a 'day out' to be arranged for sometime in the summer.

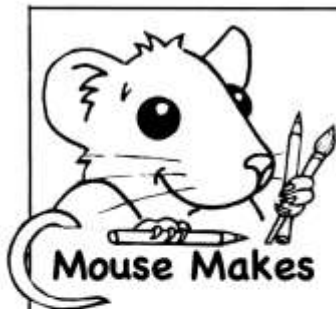
We thought that we would test the water and ask for those who might be interested to get in touch. This trip would cater for those who either cannot drive, or who no longer do so.

It would be a gentle day to drive around and see the countryside and to stop somewhere user-friendly to enjoy a break and some refreshment.

We will keep the costs to a minimum, with no attempt at making it a fund raising activity. We plan to take this outing in either late July or August.

In the first instance, please give Brian a ring on 01584 878719 to register your interest. All good wishes,

Helen Coleman (01584 875113) and Brian Thomas



You may have read the bible story of Daniel in the lions den, but have you ever read the whole book of Daniel?

Take your time and read a little each day and find out about *the vegetables*, *the statue*, *the gold idol*, *the furnace*, *the tree*, *the writing on the wall*, *the lions*, *the four animals*, *the ram and the goat*, and *the man*.

Hidden in the lion's mouth are all these names and words, can you find them?

- DANIEL
- ASPENAZ
- HANANIAH
- MISHAEL
- AZARIAH
- DREAM
- STATUE
- IDOL
- FURNACE
- TREE
- WRITING
- WALL
- DARIUS
- LIONS
- PRAYER
- GOD
- NEBUCHADNEZZAR



Ashpenaz changed the names of Daniel and his friends. Look up *Daniel 1:7* to see what he changed them to.

CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE –what do we do?

Following on from the various Annual Meetings at which we heard about most of the things that are going on in the churches we thought you **might like to know about what the St Laurence's Children's Committee** have been up to.

We meet four to five times a year and have oversight of various things such as:

The non-musical side of work with Junior Choristers including:

- teas for their Monday practices,
- meeting their parents at a couple of events during the year,
- providing some relevant activity during the sermon, creed and prayers on a Sunday morning and
- liaising with Shaun Ward as and when appropriate.

The Children's Corner:

- keeping it tidy but usable, (especially after it has been packed away for a concert etc),
- providing and maintaining the equipment, posters and display board.

Occasional activities including;

The Christingle, the 'Dodgems' service, and CTAL initiatives such as 'Experiencing Easter'.

Sandi Burley on behalf of the committee

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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, please contact the Parish Office. Thank you... *Ed.*

News from Elizabeth Nixon

Wave of Prayer

Although there were only a few of our members able to join in these services we are grateful for the hospitality we received at Stoke St Milborough and Middleton for our short services. It was lovely that in both churches we were joined by members of the church congregation and we were able to share what it means to be linked by prayer to MU Diocese across the world.



'AWAY FROM IT ALL'

We are grateful to all our members who worked hard to raise funds for holidays for those in need of a break. We are also grateful to all those who supported us. We raised almost £400 in spite of very inclement weather and had a happy social occasion in the process.

Thank you to all involved in any way.

COMING EVENTS IN JUNE

Corporate Communion

While building work is being carried out, in St Laurence's, services will be held in the Zion Chapel, Ludlow Methodist Church, Broad Street at 11.00 am. The next service is on Wednesday 5th June.

MU Diocesan Council

Meets in St Peter's Hall, Ludlow on Monday, 10th June at 10.00 am.

MU Members Outing to Pershore 11th June

We will be greeted by members of the Pershore MU who have arranged refreshments, a talk and a tour of the Abbey.

We are hoping that Bishop Michael and Rosemary Hooper will be joining us for lunch.

MU Committee meets at 2.30 pm Tuesday, 25 June at Barbara's home.

KNOWBURY GROUP 5TH SUNDAY SERVICE
MU Members from the Ludlow Team Branch continue to visit churches around our Team and will be joining the service on Sunday, 30 June. Any member who needs a lift can contact Shirley Lloyd who will arrange one for you.

Elizabeth Nixon

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Sponsored Hymn sing

11.00 am on Sunday, 23 June

After the morning services, the congregations and friends of St **Laurence's will gather to sing 25 hymns in quick succession, about 45 minutes of music making.** This is an opportunity for everyone to **take part and enjoy raising much needed funds for St Laurence's.** If you would like to take part, collect a sponsorship form from church and ask your family, friends and neighbours to support you. Anyone can take part, young or old, musical or non-musical. Suggestions of hymns can be made to Shaun Ward before the day. **75 people raising £20 each will total £1500, so let's see if we can raise the roof!**

Shaun Ward

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P.C.C. - Costly New Bank Charges

We have received notification from our bank of new charges for customers with transactions exceeding either £100k cash or 600 cheques deposited per annum. This means we can expect monthly bank charges of £91.91 *per month* from 1st May.

We are exploring other options, but in the meantime we would appreciate you spreading the word that donations given through standing orders and/or electronic transfers are much preferred as there is a direct monetary benefit. Thank you!

Susan Baldwin

Guided tours of the church

While we all know that large numbers come to our church (over 55,000 visitors in 2012), we can often forget the impact the building makes on our visitors. With its stunning and impressive architecture and its exceptional mediaeval woodwork and stained glass, it is little surprise that **St Laurence's is often called the 'Cathedral of the Marches'**.

The church's volunteer stewards already offer a warm welcome to all who come and also staff the church shop. However a small group of us has been considering what more we can do to help our visitors appreciate the building and its purpose today as a place of worship.

Starting in May and throughout the summer months, we are offering guided tours to help visitors make the most of their visit. Apart from those days when the church is in use for other events, a volunteer Guide will be available at 2pm every Saturday to offer an introduction to the history of the building, sight of the **main items of interest and an explanation of the Church's** ministry, both past and present. Guided tours will start at the Church Porch and take about 45 minutes.

A team of volunteer Guides has been assembled to get this new initiative off the ground, but there is room for more. In addition to the free Saturday guided tours, we hope that we may also be able to respond to requests for booked tours at other times.

Anyone who would like to know more about this exciting new initiative is invited to have a word with Barry Forrester on 01584 878872.

Barry Forrester



Ludlow under Pressure

A well-supported meeting on 18 April gave the opportunity to update people on what action has followed publication of the report in November. Four groups of CTAL members and others working in the community have given attention to the particular areas of need **highlighted in “Ludlow under Pressure”**. **Of particular concern is the impact of recent cuts to benefits and services on the more vulnerable.** There can be no doubt that any reduction in welfare places a disproportionate burden on them.

We are now better informed about the services available within Ludlow and the opportunities there are for church members to offer their support. But apart from volunteering and giving practical help through schemes like the Food Bank and the Foyer there is an important role for the Church in campaigning to protect those suffering hardship. Some would prefer the Church to confine itself to the former and to what they would regard as 'religious' activity and not trespass into 'political' territory. Indeed there was some misgiving that this public meeting was held near to the council elections. Some local politicians felt they might be compromised by attending. Yet surely we are to engage with those who hold political power and address the causes of poverty as well as poverty itself.

So a reminder that the report sprang from a concern within CTAL that Christians should respond positively to the concept of the Big Society though the emphasis on localism and volunteering had rather more appeal than the vaguer ideal. It prompted us to see what contribution the churches might make in the challenging times ahead - how to show their relevance. We believe that the Church carries a message of profound hope that in a turbulent and threatening world mankind, with God's help, has the capacity to help create a more just and compassionate society. We are committed to bringing about God's kingdom on earth. We pray for it often enough. That social mission continues Christ's work of attending to the needs of the marginalised.

It is bound to express a bias to the poor and direct its resources to the relief of suffering. But it also has a prophetic role in looking beyond the more immediate problems to what is eternal and

enduring. Faith embraces moral values which give society a sense of direction and coherence.

But engaging with social issues does draw the Church into political debate and controversy. We should make no apology for that. Politics is about how society manages itself and orders its priorities in the interests of its members. That is all too important to be left to professional politicians alone who are in any case our representatives and servants. The Church is right to challenge injustice and speak out with courage.

Too often in history the Church has compromised its authority by aligning itself rather comfortably with the established order to protect its own narrow interests. Church bodies may have to reposition themselves if they are to reach out beyond the limits of the congregation and show what they have to offer the world.

But although it should support social action and contribute to welfare services the Church is not primarily a social work agency and should not try to replicate schemes better provided by professional organisations or well established voluntary enterprises. Christians may give service in many fields but the impressive commitment we have seen in the process of preparing the report tells us that the Church can claim no monopoly of care.

Michael Day

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PARKINSON'S^{UK} CHANGE ATTITUDES. FIND A CURE. JOIN US.

Are you affected by Parkinson's? - Living with someone with Parkinson's?
Caring for someone with Parkinsons?

Come along and join us at the Ludlow Parkinson's Support Group!

When & Where do we meet? (No need to book, just turn up):

Main Hall, Ludlow Mascall Centre,
Lower Galdeford, Ludlow, SY8 1RZ

Every 2nd Thursday of each month at 1:30pm.

Parking and refreshments are available

Regional Contact is: Jackie Conn – Branch & Volunteer Support
Officer - 0844 225 3644 - jconn@parkinsons.org.uk

Being Green

Checking out at the supermarket, the young cashier suggested to an older woman that she should reuse her grocery bags because plastic bags aren't good for the environment.

The woman apologized and said, "We didn't have this green thing back in my early days." The checkout clerk responded, "That's our **problem today, your generation didn't care enough to save the environment** for future generations."

She was right -- our generation didn't have the green thing in its day. Back then, we returned milk bottles, pop bottles and beer bottles to the shop. The shop sent them back to the plant to be washed and sterilized and refilled, so they could use the same bottles again - they really were truly recycled.

We didn't have the green thing back in our day. Shops wrapped goods in paper and string or paper bags that we reused for numerous things: most memorable was making book covers for our schoolbooks to ensure that public property, (the books provided for us) was not defaced by our scribbles. Then we were able to personalise our books on the paper covers.

Sad that we didn't do the green thing back then. We walked or **cycled to school or work, and didn't expect our parents to run a taxi service!** We walked up stairs, because we didn't have an escalator in **every building. We walked to the grocer's and didn't get the car out** every time we had to go a block or two.

Back then, we washed the baby's nappies because we didn't have the throwaway kind. We dried clothes on a line, not in an energy-gobbling machine -- wind and solar power really did dry our clothes back in those days. Children got hand-me-down clothes from their brothers or sisters, not always brand-new fashion clothing.

Back then, we had one small TV, or a radio, in the house -- not a TV in every room. In the kitchen, we blended and stirred by hand because we didn't have electric machines. When we packed a fragile item to send by post, we used crumpled newspaper to cushion it,

not Styrofoam or plastic bubble wrap. Back then, we used a push mower to mow the lawn – not petrol or electric. We exercised by working so we didn't need to go to a health club to run on treadmills that operate on electricity.

But she's right; we didn't have the green thing back then. We refilled our pens with ink instead of buying a new pen, and we replaced the razor blades in a razor instead of throwing the whole razor away. Back then, we had one electrical outlet in a room, not an entire bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances.

But isn't it sad the current generation laments how wasteful we old folk were just because we didn't have the green thing back then?

Origin unknown.

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Christian Aid

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.

A huge thank you to all who helped with the Christian Aid Street collections this year - **we will inform the result in next month's issue of the "Towers"**.

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 events please contact me:

Claire Wilcox - tel: 877199 - e-mail: clairewilcox@yahoo.com

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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-ordinates 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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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.

FORTHCOMING

A Week of Accompanied Prayer

22 - 28 September 2013

Following the success of last year's Week of Accompanied Prayer we plan to offer a week in September on an ecumenical basis.

Further enquiries from Pat Helm 318169 or Helen Blyth 875041.

Further details and booking forms will be available in July.

Helen Blyth

PLEASE COME TO TEA ON SUNDAY JUNE 16th

Barbara Atkin invites you to a "Claridges" style
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Diocesan News Service for Magazine Editors.

Copy in writing for July issue by 1 June 2013 to:

*Anni Holden, Communications Officer,
The Palace, Hereford HR4 9BL*

Thank you to all our contributors.
COPY FOR THE JULY / AUGUST TOWERS TO THE
OFFICE BY 11 JUNE 2013 PLEASE

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
July/August	11 June	18 June
September	6 August	13 August
October	3 September*	10 September*
	(**early dates due to Editor's holiday!)	
November	8 October	15 October
December / January 2014	5 November	12 November

Please send articles by email to 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*)

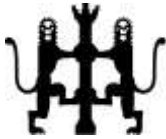
There may be special circumstances when more space is required but we ask that you please check with the Editorial Committee and request larger space at least two weeks ahead of the submission date to **determine if sufficient space will be available in that month's issue.**

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

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	Vacant	
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	Mrs Charlotte Potter, St Leonard's House, Upper Linney	878770
PCC Secretary	Mrs Val Hardwick, Culmington	861658
Electoral Roll	Mrs Claire Wilcox, 4 Lower Broad Street	877199

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Sacristan / Servers Sec.	Mrs Antonia O'Kennedy, 17 Friars Garden	877309
Stewarding	Mrs Pam Latchford, 3 Poyner Rd	874990
St Laurence Shop	Mrs Di Corston, 13 Whitbatch Close	873778
Tower Captain	Tony Greatrex, Church House, Bell Lane, Orleton	01568 780764
Tower Floodlighting	Forms at St Laurence Shop	
Treasurer	Mr Mike Beazley, Old Gate House, Ludlow	873570
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	Mr Don Craft, White Gates, St Julian Ave	874323
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Secretary	Mr John French, 4, Coach House Fields, Livesey Rd	876142
Organist SJL/SGL	Mr Colin Reeves	875608

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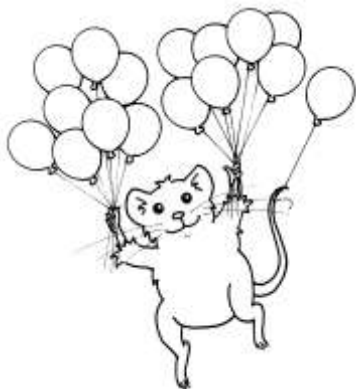
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M.U. Leader	Mrs Barbara Penson, 31, Henley Orchards, Ludlow	875956
Towers Editorial Com.	Susan Baldwin / Diana Thomas / John Burley	872073 / 873155

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.