



Ludlow  
TOWER

the  
**Parish Magazine**

of LUDLOW ST LAURENCE

The month of  
remembering

Pg5

Let nothing be wasted

Pg17

If only they knew

Pg27

Room without a view

Pg29

NOVEMBER 2024



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It is one of the delights of the English language, especially for school students set the task of writing a poem, that it throws up unexpectedly memorable rhymes. If the ceremonial opening of parliament in 1605 had been scheduled for the spring would we still be marking Guy Fawkes Day 619 years later? Remember, remember the fifth of May, or April, just does not have the same resonance or memorability.

As the writer of our clergy letter this month (p5) points out, November is the month to remember and in this issue of the Ludlow Tower we reflect on the remembrance of the tragedies and sacrifice of war (p11) and we learn about a part of our church building (p29) which lay forgotten for many years, and which remains a mystery to this day. On a lighter note our old friend Uncle Eustance marvels at the long memories of the congregations of the parishes surrounding St James the Least (p38).

Finally we ask you (p17) to remember, remember the 24th of November.

*Lesley Harling (Editor)*  
07309 263730

### **This month's cover:**

**Photograph:** Lesley Harling  
Remembrance

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*Opinions expressed in  
contributed articles in  
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# THE MONTH FOR REMEMBERING

The Hebrew scriptures frequently say things like 'Remember whose you are' and 'Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy'. The ten commandments follow. That means:

- ◇ behave morally and treat others with respect
- ◇ remember you were once aliens in a foreign land so don't oppress aliens in your land
- ◇ be generous to those in need

November is the month for remembering. The first is All Saints Day. Remember with thanksgiving those whose lives by the grace of God have been pointers to the timeless goodness of eternity. All Souls Day follows on the second when we think of those whose memory we treasure, giving thanks for all they have meant to us. We pray that the loving God will forgive any shortcomings and grant them peace.

By contrast the fifth of November has become a day of fun with fireworks and bonfires. But it comes with a caution. It originated in an attempt to blow up our system of government. So we remember the darker side of failing to deal with political differences with respect for the complexity of finding a system all can live with.

A few days later comes the eleventh of November when the country comes to a halt for two minutes at the eleventh hour to remember those who have died in war. Closely associated with that is Remembrance Sunday which is not a glorification of war but a solemn remembering of the sacrifice paid by so many to bring peace to a fractured world. It is also a reminder of the need to reconcile former enemies.



In the church the time between All Saints Day and the first Sunday of Advent - the beginning of a new church year and the first of four Sundays of preparation for Christmas - is known as the Kingdom Season. We reflect with joy on Christ the King and look forward to the time when how he is seen on earth is at

one with his glory in heaven.

So, in November we look back with thanksgiving for all the saints and those whose lives have brought us to where we are. We look forward in trust that the grace of God will continue to work through those who respond to the opportunities they are given. And because God is as he is we are full of hope as we pray for the grace to adjust our lives so that we can play our part in making the world less destructive and more Christlike.

Rev'd David Roberts







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# NEWS FROM ST JOHN'S

Up the path they came, with walkers, sticks and in wheelchairs: the group from one of the Care Homes who attended the second of our Tea Services at St John's. They joined some of our more regular congregation in an afternoon service which is, for those who come, more manageable than a full Eucharistic service in the morning.

The short service, followed by tea and cake, included young parents with their children. Somehow, all fit well together both children and elderlies making their distinct contributions.

During the talk, an interjection came from one in the congregation, a man in his nineties, his voice still strong, 'As someone brought up as a non-conformist, who walked by this church countless times, I never thought I'd ever come into this building and find such beauty and the welcome we've received'.

The silence that seemed to descend on the congregation during the administration of the Sacrament is a wonder - super-natural. What a privilege to be involved.

*Revd Melia Cope, Caroline Culley,  
Sue Thomas*



## A Prayer for the Elderly

*Lord God  
the giver of eternal life  
look with mercy on all whose increasing  
years bring loneliness, distress, or  
weakness:  
give them understanding helpers  
and the willingness to accept help  
and, as their strength diminishes,  
increase their faith and their assurance  
of your love,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

## CONFIRMATION SERVICE



Members of St John's congregation supported Mara Fuller as she was confirmed by Bishop Richard on 29 September at Leominster Priory.





# EXTRA SUNDAY SERVICES THIS MONTH

*First Sunday*

## CHORAL EVENSONG



**3.30pm**  
**In the chancel**  
**Sunday 3 November**

*Third Sunday*

## CHORAL MATINS



**11.30am**  
**In the chancel**  
**Sunday 17 November**

*Fourth Sunday*

## Celtic Prayer

An Evening Liturgy  
St Laurence's Church, Ludlow  
Fourth Sunday of the month



**6pm**



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**Sunday 24 November**

*First Monday*



## OPEN TEA AT ST LAURENCE

First Monday in the month at 3pm.  
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**MONDAY 4 NOVEMBER**

# THE LORD'S PRAYER - A MEDITATION

*The Rt Revd Michael Bourke continues his meditation on the Lord's Prayer.*

This is the second of three reflections on the Lord's Prayer. In the first we focused on God in heaven and the kingdom of God. Today we come down to earth: *Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.*

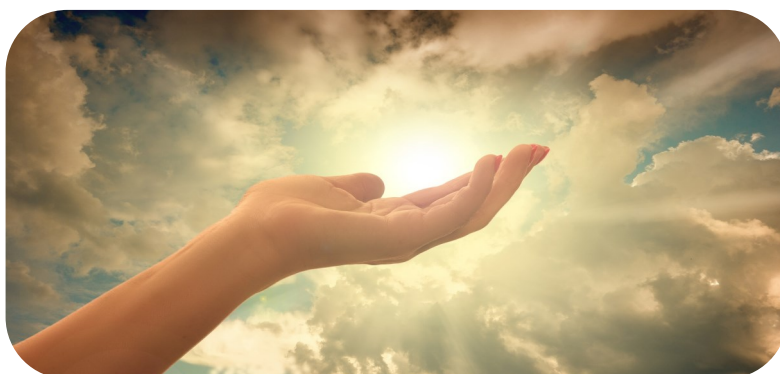
**Earth is not heaven:** This earth is God's good creation. It reflects the beauty and glory of God. It is connected to heaven, and open to heaven. God's will can be done on earth as it is in heaven. But earth is also a place of suffering, failure and death. We must seek to do God's will and make the earth a better place, more like heaven. But beware of worshipping the things of creation – pleasure, wealth, knowledge and earthly glory – as if they were God. The environmental crisis is revealing that the good earth cannot sustain the demands of the ever-expanding human appetite. Created things cannot satisfy our longings because they are not God. *'Lord, thou hast made us for thyself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in thee.'*

**Daily bread:** The prayer *'Give us this day our daily bread'* takes a realistic view of the nature of our life on earth.

We ask for basic survival rations, the necessities of life. For today, now; not for the foreseeable future, because we cannot know what tomorrow may bring.

The modern view of the world can make us feel very tiny. Amid the vast dimensions of the universe and the myriad of stars, we are so microscopic. And what possible significance can there be in our brief life measured against the billions of years since the big bang? The Lord's Prayer teaches us that God's view of Creation is quite different. God's attention is focused on each day. What we think and say and do, and what we are here and now, matters as much as the geological ages of evolution. Each day is different, and a single day can make all the difference. *'Give us this day the necessities of this life. And with it give us the spiritual sense to make the best of this unique opportunity, so that your will may be done here on earth – not perhaps, or at some remote time in the future, but here in my life, now, today.'*

Earth is open not only to heaven, but also to the possibilities of evil. Each day also gives us the opportunity to face up to things that have gone wrong here on this earth and begin to put them right. But that takes us into the dangerous zone of the next meditation.





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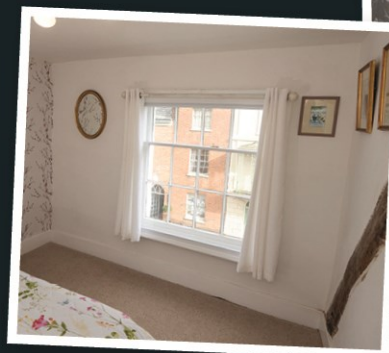
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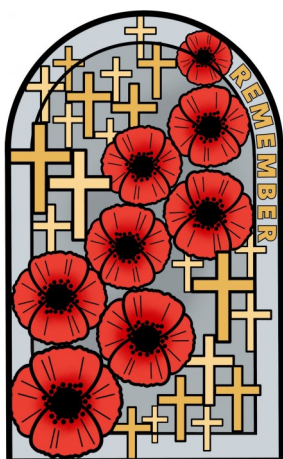
# HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF

A Christian poet once wrote, 'History repeats itself; it has to - no-one listens!'. These are words we do well to remember in our current international climate, with wars in the Middle East and Ukraine. As we remember the great conflicts of the 20th century and the political context that led to those wars there has been some progress, in the west at least. A lot of the warlike rhetoric and posturing, the appeal to patriotism and the sense of our individual identities being tied up with national ones now seems strange and dated.

At the time, these attitudes combined with the arrogance of empire were a toxic combination that led to the horrific conflict with the loss of so many lives. However, elements of these attitudes remain. We always prefer our own tribe. There is an alienation that has opened people to the rise of the far right with its attempt to blame all our ills on immigration. A knowledge of history shows where these things can end up.

Christians are instructed to pray for our political leaders and to live in peace where we can, but one of the things that got the early Christians into trouble was their political subversion. There will always be elements of our culture and politics we want to affirm, but there will be others we want to challenge. Early Christian worship declared that Caesar wasn't Lord; Jesus was. That sort of talk could (and did) get them killed. The personal security that sustained this courage was a conviction that they were first and foremost citizens of heaven. In Jesus they had experienced the power of the other country breaking into their experience. We remember our national tragedies and sacrifice on Remembrance Day. But every Sunday we remember a tragedy and sacrifice that turned into a glorious victory: Christ's death. It points us to the ultimate powerlessness of violence to achieve real change. It subverts the doctrine that might is right. Sadly, it may take a lot of bloodshed for that to come home to Hamas, Hezbollah, the Israeli government and the Russian army.

*Bishop Richard*



## WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

**Sunday 10 November - Remembrance Day**

**10.50am Wreath Laying Service at Peace Memorial**

**11.15am Civic Service at St Laurence's Church**

**Monday 11 November - Armistice Day**

**11.00am Act of Remembrance at Peace Memorial**

**11.00am Service of Remembrance St Leonard's churchyard**



† CHRISTIAN

Renewal

MEETING

With Speaker:

MARK MELLUISH

HEREFORD·DIOCESAN·MISSIONER  
& former leader of NEW WINE

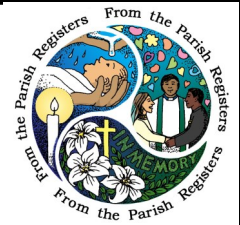
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# FROM THE REGISTERS

## At St Laurence's

### Funerals and Memorial Services

20 September John Garbett  
 1 October Anne Pearman  
 (Ludlow cemetery)  
 4 October Susan Bradley

### Baptisms

22 September Rowan Oliver Woodfield  
 29 September Celina Maria Grace Mann

## At St John's

### Funeral

5 September Rosemary Ann Andow

13 October Albert George Rogers  
 Arlo Poole

# GETTING TO GRIPS WITH THE INTERNET

- ◆ Feeling a little lost using technology?
- ◆ Need help using the internet?
- ◆ Nervous about using a computer?
- ◆ Frustrated about being left behind as everything seems to be online these days?

Getting to grips with the internet means you can keep in touch with friends and family, get up-to-date information and see the latest news, have shopping delivered to your door and better manage your health and finances.

Shropshire Council's Digital Skills Programme has 25 digital hubs offering help to use laptops, mobile phones or tablets. Learning slowly, taking small steps and having the time to practise are keys to success.

The programme is delivered by experienced, friendly digital volunteers based in Shropshire Libraries, including Ludlow Library, and local community organisations. Free data and devices are available for those in greatest need.



'I felt left behind and knew I needed to do something to bring myself up to date,' said Peter, who has benefited from the programme. "My digital volunteer was so knowledgeable and patient. His kindness helped me to realise that I knew a lot more than I thought I did. Getting out of the house each week to learn something new gave me a boost and I thoroughly enjoyed my sessions".

For more information visit [www.shropshire.gov.uk/computer-skills-for-all](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/computer-skills-for-all)  
 email [Susie.Hancock@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:Susie.Hancock@shropshire.gov.uk)  
 or telephone 01743 253958.



# Harvest Festival



*Goods and produce  
donated by 40 local  
businesses were  
arranged by the  
St Laurence's flower  
team then passed on to  
Hands Together  
Ludlow and Ludlow  
Food Bank*



# INTRODUCING ...

## **Tell us a bit about yourself.**

I am Emily Chilton. I have lived in Ludlow all my life and have very fond memories of growing up here. There was such a lovely community spirit - everyone knew everyone and looked out for each other. I loved playing in the old cattle market and spending all summer down Linney by the river.

I was at school here and went to college to do business admin, just because that was what my mates were doing. When I was 16 my grandad died and around then I developed anorexia and went into an eating disorder clinic in Stafford. The turnaround came when they told me that I wouldn't be able to have children, which I had always wanted.

When I went back to college my sister Charlotte joined me on the same course. After college I worked at Barclays Banks (which I hated), at Kingfisher Leisurewear (which I also hated) but then at Swifts, the Castle Buttery and Bakers in Tower Street, where I was part of a lovely team and I stayed for ten years, working part time after my daughter Faith was born.

## **First impressions of St Laurence's?**

Memories of carol services. My family is Irish Catholic so I used to go to Mass and Sunday School at St Peter's but I still love Midnight Mass at St Laurence's - coming out into the cold after the service with the church lit up and everyone in good spirits is just magical.

## **What is your role at St Laurence's?**

I work in the Icon Coffee Shop. I was 'head hunted' when it opened. I was working as a cleaner at the time and I

wasn't sure about working with the public but cleaning was quite lonely so I said 'yes' on the spur of the moment. And it's been great working here with such a lovely group of girls.



## **One feature of St Laurence's which is special for you?**

The atmosphere first thing in morning when it's just me in here. It is so peaceful - and the acoustics are amazing

## **How do you spend spare time?**

Being out on my own with my music on my earphones, running or power-walking. And I do love my football. I play for Tenbury Ladies. Faith, who is now 13, plays for them too so it can be tricky when we're playing in different places on a Saturday. I've just started playing golf and I'm really enjoying that too.

## **Which is your most memorable holiday experience?**

My friend Amy's wedding in Benalmadina, especially the inflatable tyre ride the day after the wedding! There were thirty of us and it was Faith's first trip abroad - she was just four.

## **What might we be surprised to know about you?**

I go out running every morning around 5.30am, rain or shine, light or dark.



**Friday 22 November**  
**5.30pm-9.30pm**

With poetry and live music,  
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Entry: free

**Saturday 23 November**  
**10am-5pm**

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**Sunday 24 November**  
**3.30pm-4.30pm**

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ST LAURENCE LUDLOW

# WINTER FESTIVAL AT ST LAURENCE

The Ludlow Winter Festival has established itself as a worthy successor to the Mediaeval Fayre, wiped out by Storm Arwen in 2021. The good people, and businesses, of the town have pulled together, with Ludlow Town Council, to create a new tradition with a strong emphasis on community involvement.

And St Laurence's contribution is central to the festive fun as the church hosts events over three days, aiming to offer something to please everyone.

Here is a taste of what you can enjoy when you join us on

**FRIDAY 22 - SUNDAY 24 NOVEMBER**



## FRIDAY 5.30-9.30



Come and join us for a relaxing evening while waiting for the tractors to arrive.

## SUNDAY 3.30pm



Come and listen to the Choral Diversity community choir singing

## SATURDAY 10.00-5.00

There is so much going on at our Winter Fair that you could spend the whole day at St Laurence's for just £1



### Craft Fair

40 stalls with hundreds of beautiful items  
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### Children's activities

Games Crafts

### Special this year - Ding Dong Bell

Learn about bell ringing  
Visit the tower to see St Laurence's bells close up  
Watch them being rung  
Have a go on the Ambergate miniring  
Listen to the handbell ringers play





# SUNDAY SERVICES IN LUDLOW

## Anglican

### St Laurence, College Street

- 8.15am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10am Parish Eucharist  
For livestream/recording - link at  
<https://stlaurences.org.uk/live-stream>  
11.30am Choral Matins  
3rd Sunday  
3.30pm Choral Evensong  
1st Sunday  
6pm Celtic Prayer - evening liturgy  
4th Sunday  
5th Sun Joint benefice service  
with St John's

#### Contact

office@stlaurences.org.uk  
01584 872073

### St John, Gravel Hill

- 10am 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays  
Holy Communion  
2nd & 4th Sundays  
Morning Worship  
5th Sun Joint benefice service  
with St Laurence's

#### Contact

kelvin.price@stlaurences.org.uk  
07545 438892

### St Giles, Ludford

- 11.15am 1st Sunday  
Family Worship  
2nd & 4th Sundays  
CW Holy Communion  
3rd Sunday  
Lay-led Worship

#### Contact

ashfordspa@outlook.com

### Ludlow Baptist Church

10.30am Sunday worship

#### Contact

hello@ludlowbaptistchurch.org.uk

### Ludlow Elim

10.30am Service at Elim

11.30am Online

#### Contact

www.ludlowelim.com 07791 483284  
dainpritchard@googlemail.com

### Ludlow Methodist Church

10.30am Sunday worship

#### Contact

Ludlowmethodist@outlook.com

### Ludlow Quakers

10.30am Meeting for worship

#### Contact

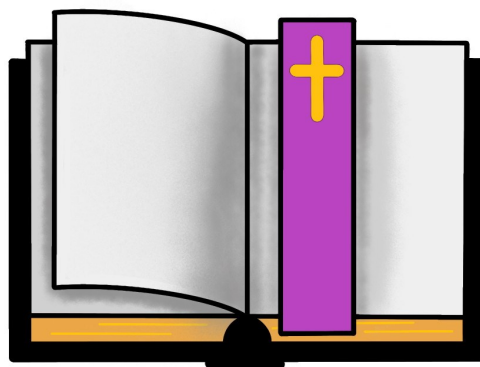
Cynthia Prior 01584 831855

### St Peter's Roman Catholic Church

- Mass 11.00am Sunday  
9.30pm Monday-Friday  
6.00pm Saturday (Sunday Vigil)  
Morning prayer  
9.15am Monday-Friday  
9.45am Saturday

#### Contact

st.peters.ludlow@talktalk.net



# POETS' CORNER: WILLIAM HENRY DAVIES

## LEISURE

What is this life if, full of care,  
We have no time to stand and stare.

No time to stand beneath the boughs  
And stare as long as sheep or cows.

No time to see, when woods we pass,  
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.

No time to see, in broad daylight,  
Streams full of stars like skies at night.

No time to turn at Beauty's glance,  
And watch her feet, how they can dance.

No time to wait till her mouth can  
Enrich that smile her eyes began.

A poor life this if, full of care,  
We have no time to stand and stare.

William Henry Davies  
(1871-1940)



This poem may strike a chord with some of our readers, perhaps bringing back memories of learning it by heart at school. If you have a favourite poem which you would like to share please send it to

[office@stlaurences.org.uk](mailto:office@stlaurences.org.uk)

Born in Newport, Gwent, the son of an iron moulder Davies led an unconventional life before becoming a poet.



He was raised by his paternal grandparents after his father died and his mother remarried, was arrested for stealing handbags at the age of 12 and left school at 14 to be apprenticed to a picture framer but he did not settle. His love of the outdoors and a strong wanderlust led him to spend most of his twenties as a hobo in North America, begging and picking up casual work, until an accident while train-hopping resulted in the amputation of one leg.

Returning to the UK Davies continued to live the life of a down and out, mainly in London. Unfit for physical labour he turned to writing to earn a living, publishing 20 collections of poems as well as the popular prose work *Autobiography of a Supertramp*. Many of his poems reflect themes of hardship and poverty, as well as the search for meaning and beauty in the natural world. They are written in a simple, direct style frequently celebrating the ordinary. Davies became one of the most popular poets of his day and was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Wales. His admirers and friends included George Bernard Shaw, Edward Thomas and Osbert Sitwell.



# LUDLOW LOCAL LISTING

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Ludlow's widest range of organic produce: fruit & veg, wholefoods, groceries, meat & dairy, vegan & vegetarian, natural cleaning products, bodycare & cosmetics. Waste-free shopping options & refills for cleaning products. Local delivery and our popular organic box scheme.

## Gardening

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# LUDLOW

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# WHAT'S ON AT ST LAURENCE'S IN NOVEMBER



## Until Sunday 3 November

Lady Chapel display **10am-5pm**

Ludlow Quilters and Stitchers

**Saturday 2 7.00pm**

Solemn Eucharist for All Souls

**Sunday 3 3.30pm**

Choral Evensong

**Monday 4**

Open Tea **3.00pm**

**Wednesday 6 6.00pm**

Holy Communion (Common Worship)

**Thursday 7 - Sunday 17**

Lady Chapel display for **10am-5pm**

Remembrance

**Friday 8**

Now that's what I call **7.30pm**

Piano - Joe Thomson

**Saturday 9**

Piano concert **7.30pm**

Jeneba Kanneh-Mason

**Sunday 10 - Remembrance Sunday**

No 8.15am service

Holy Communion (BCP) **9.00am**

Peace Memorial service **10.50am**

Civic Remembrance Service **11.15am**

**Tuesday 12**

Intercessory prayer group **10.30am**

Wine tasting **7.30pm**

**Saturday 16 7.30pm**

Ludlow Orchestra concert

**Sunday 17**

Choral Matins **11.30am**

**Sunday 24**

Celtic Prayer **6.00pm**

**Friday 22 5.30-9.30pm**

Beer, pizza, music & poetry

**Saturday 23 10am-5pm**

Craft Fair

**Sunday 24 3.30pm**

Mistletoe Magic Concert



## MIDWEEK

**Daily prayer**

Mondays **9.30am**

**Holy Communion**

First Wednesday in month **6.00pm**

**Tower bells practice**

Mondays **7.30-9.00pm**

**Handbells practice**

Tuesdays **5.30-7.15pm**

**Choir practice**

Thursdays **6.00-8.30pm**

## WEDNESDAYS AT ST JOHN'S

**Daily prayer 9.30am**

**Tea and toast 10.00am**

**Holy Communion 11.30am**

**Prayer Hour 4.00pm**

For the latest news about services  
and events, including any last-  
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[https://  
stlaurences.org.uk/google-calendar/](https://stlaurences.org.uk/google-calendar/)





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Longtime residents of Ludlow often comment on the significant drop in the number of swifts arriving with the May Fair and screaming around town for three months before disappearing from our skies for another year. These very special birds are now on the UK Red List of threatened species and the supply of insects for them and other insectivorous birds and their chicks was a great concern for many across the UK this year.

So it was a welcome, if unexpected, surprise when Peta Sams of the Ludlow Swift Group climbed the tower to check the swift boxes installed in the tower of St Laurence's.



Inspection revealed that four boxes had been used for breeding this year - the most since the first boxes were installed 10 years ago. Several other boxes showed signs of nest building – swifts come back to the same nest site every year but do not breed until they are 3-4 years old so maybe in 2025.

In one box an egg was found away from the site of the nest. Perhaps it was kicked out accidentally or perhaps the parents knew it wasn't viable. Swifts

typically have only two or three chicks in a single brood each year so any recovery in numbers will be a slow process but 2024 can be considered a successful season for St Laurence's swift colony.



## CONSERVATION TRUST FOR ST LAURENCE LUDLOW

Christmas cards sold in aid of the Conservation Trust are available in the Shop at St Laurence's or they can be ordered at £5.75 per pack of 5 plus £1.90 p&p by emailing [info@ludlowpalms.uk](mailto:info@ludlowpalms.uk) or calling/texting Karen Blake on 07887 710140.







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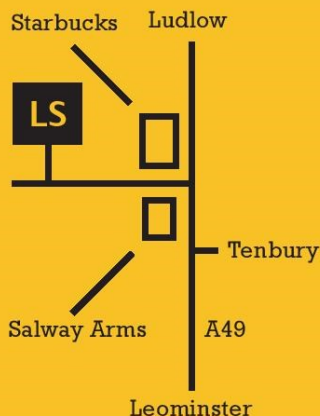


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# IF THEY ONLY KNEW



We take the NHS for granted. We know we can rely on its services when we are seriously ill, following an accident and for the many jobs offered to keep us well. It may take longer to fix a GP appointment, but we will get one.

In many parts of the world, however, that is not the case. Over the past 10 years in Ethiopia Christian Aid has worked to increase access to comprehensive reproductive health services by 30% focusing on the most vulnerable. Part of the ASURE (Access, Service and Utilisation of Reproductive Health) project has been educational, ensuring that teachers, parents and community and faith leaders are fully aware of the reproductive health needs of young people as well as the aims of the project.

Most importantly Christian Aid always works to ensure that innovations and new developments to services are embedded in local communities. We all hope that our donations will be spent wisely to meet the needs of communities, but also that they have had a say in reaching the decisions made for their future. Christian Aid works through community structures such self-help groups, schools and faith groups as well as local authorities.

What was the impact of the project? Local communities reported a significant increase in women consulting health care facilities - more than 50% of the target group accessed family planning. Not only that but Christian Aid acknowledged the importance of challenging cultural gender and sexual



norms which were preventing women from accessing crucial services and women's groups now feel able to participate in public life as well seeking out services

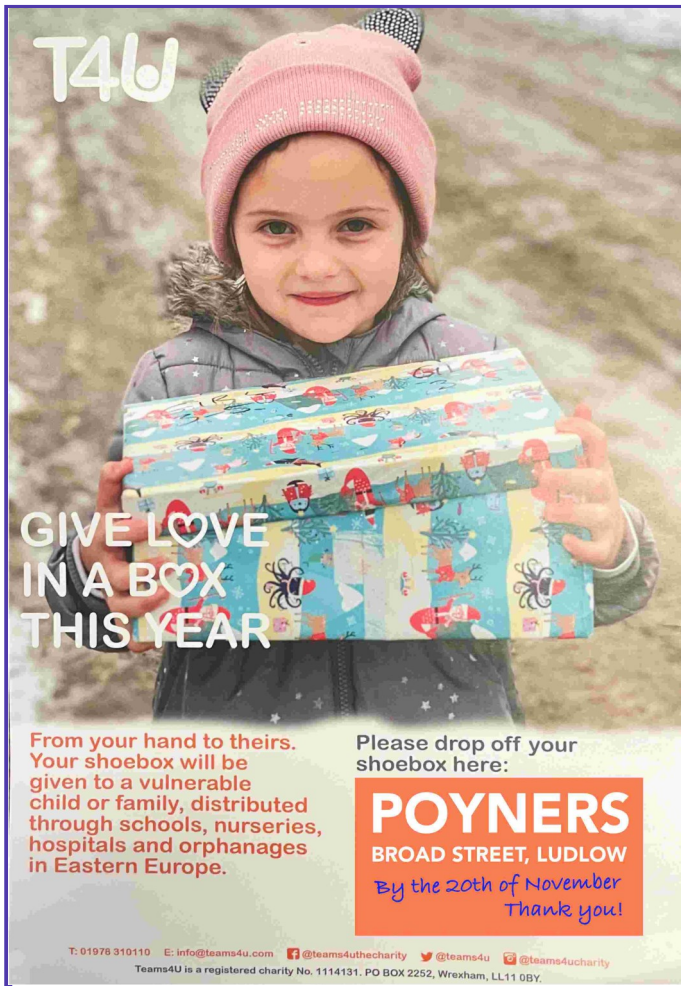
Senait participated in the programme and said, "Family planning has made me healthier. And for all women the solution is right in their hands, if they only knew". Groups also set up saving and loan schemes which women could access to start small businesses.

Christian Aid set up family sessions, where men were encouraged to support women as they learn more about the health services available at the same time as accessing services themselves including testing for STDs and HIV. There was a good response to all the initiatives as groups grew in confidence and became more knowledgeable. Action groups trained in tackling gender-based violence are supporting victims, linking them to legal and medical services.

Developments continue. Let us remember these communities in our prayers and thank God for their hard work as they develop more insights and increase their outreach. And thank God for the work of Christian Aid and local partners offering their ongoing support.

*Claire Wilcox*





**T4U**

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Teams4U is a registered charity No. 1114131. PO BOX 2252, Wrexham, LL11 0BY.

## SHOEBOX APPEAL 2024

Poyners in Broad Street is once again acting as a collection point for T4U's nationwide shoebox appeal to provide Christmas gifts to vulnerable children and families in Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Bosnia and Romania.

Find an empty shoebox, decide who you'd like your box to go to (boy, girl, or family) and fill it with appropriate items. For ideas of what to include and how to pack and label your box pick up a leaflet from Poyners or go online to:

[www.teams4u.com](http://www.teams4u.com)

Please take your completed shoebox to Poyners by:

**Wednesday 20 November**

The 2024 sale of Christmas cards from The Shop at St Laurence will be supporting the following charities



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NSPCC

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Marie Curie Proudly supporting PARKINSON'S UK CHANGE ATTITUDES. FIND A CURE. JOIN US.

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National Trust

motor neurone disease association

giving nature a home

The Ludlow Palmers Helping to conserve the fabric and treasures of St Laurence's

greenfingers charity



Come and join the **LIVING NATIVITY**

**Street Theatre**  
telling the story of the first Christmas

Carol singing led by **Ludlow Town Band**

**Hot Chocolate & Mince Pies for all**

**Tuesday 10th December - 6pm**  
Start at Peace Memorial, Castle Square, Ludlow  
Ends around 7pm at the Castle  
In severe weather the event will be held in St. Laurence's Church

For any enquiries please email: [ludlowmethodist@outlook.com](mailto:ludlowmethodist@outlook.com)

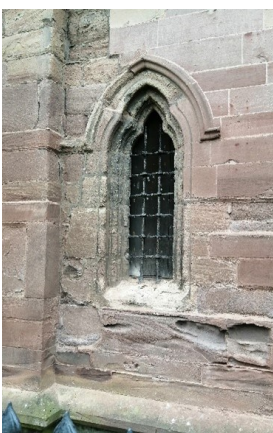
# ROOM WITHOUT A VIEW

In the southeast corner of the sanctuary at St Laurence's is a small L-shaped chamber, accessed through a doorway in the south wall, next to the reredos. For decades, the chamber has been described as a 'sacristy' but its true purpose has remained conjectural for at least 300 years.

Set within the thickness of the wall (4'6") and sitting as it does in the corner, below the East Window and the Commandments Window, the chamber suggests purposeful masonic skill to deliver this space.

In the 15<sup>th</sup> century (1440s) the chancel was extended by one bay and the 14<sup>th</sup> century reredos, moved to where we see it today. In this period the spacious vestry was added to the north side of the chancel and the small chamber included within the wall.

A small window set in the east wall of the chamber is from the 13<sup>th</sup> century. It was salvaged, probably, from elsewhere in the church during reconstruction.



Similar openings in medieval churches, known as *low side windows*, were normally placed in the south wall of the chancel, although variations occur. Known as *lychnoscopes*, their purpose is uncertain,

inviting varied explanation, including confessionals, lepers' squints, alms distribution, scaring demons, lighting incense, lighting an anchoritic chamber and ringing the Sanctus bell etc.

In 1215, Pope Innocent III decreed 'transubstantiation' across the Catholic world, of which Ludlow was then part. Henceforth, Christ would literally be realised

during communion through the bread and wine. Not trusted to receive such precious gifts without spillage, congregations were excluded, whilst only clergy performed the Mass behind screens, delivering communion to the people only at Easter. To signify the 'raising of the Host', a bell would be rung - the *Sanctus bell*. In 1281, Archbishop Peckham said those '*... who have not the leisure to take part daily in the celebration of the Mass ...*' may benefit by a bell sounding from the church.

In 1724, artist William Stukeley suggested the chamber was a store for vestments and other holy treasures.

By 1894, antiquary and clergyman, David Cranage (1866-1957) concluded an occupant could see into the chancel to ring the Sanctus bell at the appropriate moment, a theory supported by a more recent Ludlow historian David Lloyd.

The true purpose of the chamber may never be known with certainty but signifying the raising of the host in medieval England, with the Sanctus bell offers a degree of credibility.



*Eric Griffiths*



# Arts@St Laurence – November 2024

Further information: [Recitals and Concerts – St Laurence \(stlaurences.org.uk\)](http://stlaurences.org.uk)



## Pop-up Piano

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2024  
St Laurence's Church, Ludlow



### Open Piano

10:00AM – 4:00PM  
Free

Come in, grab a coffee and sit back and relax and listen to some superb piano music!

### Now That's What I Call Piano!

with Joe Thompson  
7.30PM – 9.30PM  
£22 (U18 £5)

Joe plays music by Bruno Mars, Queen, Stevie Wonder, Elton John, The Smiths, The Beatles, Alanis Morissette, Burt Bacharach, The Boomtown Rats, Oasis, Billy Joel, Sting... Oh, and someone called Rachmaninov.



Tickets available from

[www.ludlowpianofestival.com](http://www.ludlowpianofestival.com)  
or Ludlow Assembly Rooms Box Office



## Pop-up Piano

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2024  
St Laurence's Church, Ludlow



### Open Piano

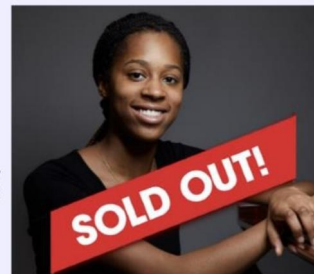
10:00AM – 2:00PM  
Free

Accomplished amateur and semi-professional players demonstrating their skills in 20 minute sets on the Steinway.

### Jeneba Kanneh-Mason in concert

7.30PM – 9.30PM  
£22 (U18 £5)

One of the country's rising stars brings a fascinating programme including music by Chopin, Scriabin, Prokofiev and Scarlatti. Jeneba has performed at The Proms; for one night she comes to Ludlow!

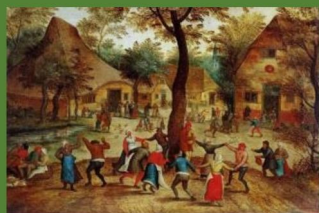


Waiting list for tickets at

[www.ludlowpianofestival.com](http://www.ludlowpianofestival.com)  
or Ludlow Assembly Rooms Box Office

## Ludlow Orchestra

Saturday 16 November 2024  
7:30pm



Leader: Claire Tocknell  
Conductor: Jonathan Lyness

Mozart: Symphony No.35 in D major,  
K385 *Haffner*

Dvořák: Czech Suite in D major, Op.39

Beethoven: Symphony No.2 in D major,  
Op.36

Tickets from Ludlow Assembly Rooms



## Choral Diversity

### Mistletoe Magic

(As part of the Ludlow Winter Festival)

Sunday November 24<sup>th</sup> 3.30pm

Free Entry: Charitable Donations welcome

# LET THERE BE LIGHT

As the days get shorter, and the nights draw in, lighting a candle is one way of adding some light to counteract the darkness of winter. The end of the month brings the start of Advent, when the lighting of candles symbolises Christ, the Light of the world. The four candles of an Advent wreath represent the four Sundays of Advent symbolising hope, peace, joy and love. The Shop at St Laurence also has Advent candles featuring a numbered marker to move each day in the run-up to Christmas.

Advent calendars help to brighten up the December days and lead us towards the 25th of December. We are in debt to the Germans for the modern Advent calendar. In the early 19th Century, German Protestants marked each day of Advent by burning candles, or by using tally marks of chalk on the door or wall to count down the days of December. People then started hanging up devotional images each day. Little fir trees served as advent trees, with a small star or flag being added every day. Some parents made 'Christmas clocks', with a round face divided into 12 or 24 segments, each segment adorned with a bible verse or a line from a hymn, The clock hands could be moved one step each day of Advent.



All of these customs came together in the first commercial printed 'Christmas clock' produced in Hamburg in 1902. By 1904 a Christmas calendar 'In the Land of the Christ Child' was published as an insert in the *Stuttgarter Zeitung* newspaper, based on an idea by Gerhard Lang. Lang spent time developing new versions of the Advent calendars - one in Braille, another with windows to open and, inspired by an Advent gift from his mother when he was a child, one with space for chocolates!



Here in the Shop at St Laurence, we have a wide range of Advent calendar designs from a German company, as well as small cardboard nativity sets. We even have tiny Advent calendars and Advent cards that you can easily pop in the post. All sorts of designs are available as calendars, from religious images of the Holy Family, festive scenes and animals to Father Christmas himself! And don't forget the Advent candles – 'let there be light!'.





ST LAURENCE'S CHURCH, LUDLOW



## CHURCH BUILDINGS



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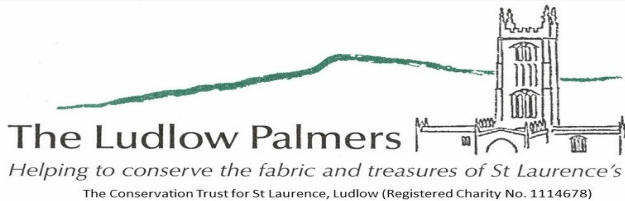
**Pick up your sheet in the Shop  
and start hunting.**

**Gold coin donation (£1/£2)**

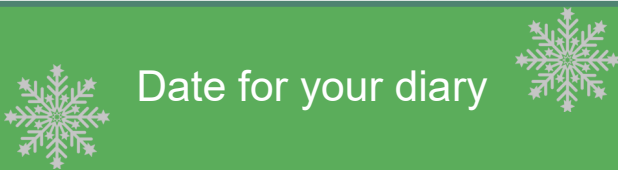
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26 October - 3 November**



**Exhibition of quilts for  
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St Laurence's Church  
21 October - 3 November**



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The Conservation Trust for St Laurence, Ludlow (Registered Charity No. 1114678)



**Date for your diary**

## *Evening Christmas Party*

**In St Laurence's Church**

**Wednesday 11th December**

**6pm - 8pm**

**Drinks, canapés and music**



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# LET NOTHING BE WASTED

## NOTES FROM AN ECO-WORRIER

I was reading in John's gospel recently about the feeding of the 5,000. It's a passage I am familiar with, but as often happens with passages in the Bible something different draws my attention each time I read it. This time it was the instruction to the disciples to gather what was left over, followed by the sentence, 'Let nothing be wasted'. This struck a chord in my eco-worrier's heart and took me back to family meals of my childhood.

When I was young my family sometimes ate out in a nice restaurant to celebrate special occasions. These events were rare enough to still be clear in my memory. The food was lovely and excitement levels were high, but the thing that stands out most is my mother's mantra 'We've paid for it, so you'll eat it!' We were 'encouraged' to empty our plate of every last morsel. Even now it breaks my heart if I cannot clean my plate when someone has given me a meal, no matter how full I am.



But more important than not wasting money, or not valuing someone's hard work in preparing a meal, is the principle of not wasting the earth's resources. We are so blessed in this country by having a plentiful supply of excellent and varied food. Even with the rise in prices we are still so much better off than other parts of the world. But do we squander this blessing?

When the children lived at home, we cooked enough food for all of our family and any waifs and strays who might be around at mealtimes. Once they had left home it took us some time to adjust to cooking for just the two of us. My husband particularly has problems getting the quantity of rice correct. In his student days he used an entire box of pudding rice to make a dessert for four people. They ate that pudding for days, just adding more milk each time. He has never repeated that, but it's easy to get carried away and forget that the more food we waste, the more resources we waste and the less we are caring for others and God's creation.

'Let nothing be wasted' is a good phrase to keep in our minds when shopping, cooking and eating.

*Hilary Walters*

## TOP TIPS FOR AVOIDING FOOD WASTE

Plan meals ahead.

Make a shopping list - and stick to it when shopping.

Freeze your left-overs.

Measure portions.

Check the temperature in your fridge.

Freeze fruit and veg if you can't use all of it in time.



# Pest Control

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# A SCOTTISH ODYSSEY



It all started in the pub. St Laurence's, Ludlow with its imposing tower looking out over the south Shropshire countryside has a fine ring of ten bells and an enthusiastic band of bellringers.



After one quarter peal the conversation turned from ringing on ten bells to ringing on twelve – a significant step in terms of the technical skill required and you may have to travel some distance to do so. We could have gone to Kidderminster, Shrewsbury or Worcester but somehow we ended up in the Scottish Highlands, so hardly local to Shropshire!

At the end of August a group of ringers who regularly ring at Ludlow headed north to the most northerly ring of 12 in the world, located at the Tulloch Ringing Centre, near Fort William. The Ludlow band has changed somewhat in the last few years with several ringers moving into the area. So, in addition to ringing, this was an opportunity for the group to socialise and get to know each other better.

There are two rings of bells at Tulloch, one of 12 bells and one of 8, alongside a simulator bell. All the bells are very easy and pleasant to ring, and much lighter than St Laurence's. The heaviest (tenor) in the 12-bell ring weighs 7cwt (355kg) while the 8-bell tenor weighs 3 cwt (152kg). For comparison the tenor back in Ludlow weighs 17 cwt (863kg).

The programme for the week comprised practice sessions (for all abilities), quarter peal attempts and focus practices. Some made use of the simulator to practise methods and striking and, of

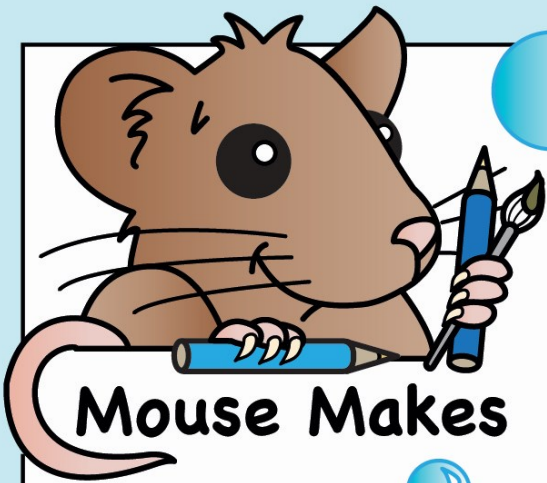
course, there were handbells. Trips to ring at Inverness Cathedral and the majestic 10 bells at Inveraray were also arranged, enabling us to ring on different bells and experience the stunning Highlands scenery. Some of the more intrepid ventured further east of Inverness to ring on the Forres mini ring, narrowly avoiding a close encounter with a deer on the road back afterwards.

We scored 12 quarter peals in the week – and lost a few more. The highlight was undoubtedly the quarter peal of Little Bob Maximus, which for a band that does not ring on 12 bells, was an excellent piece of ringing – a performance to be very proud of.

The week was a resounding success. It was particularly pleasing to see people develop their skills as well as seeing the group gel – with banter aplenty and the occasional dram of the amber nectar – as the week progressed. We now need to think about how we take our ringing forward – but a trip back to the Highlands is very much on the cards!

*Paul Wells and Neil Pirie*





# Mouse Makes

## "DO AS I HAVE DONE FOR YOU."

The disciples had met with Jesus in an upper room to share a meal together, but there were no servants to wash their dusty feet. Jesus got up from the table, took off his outer clothing, wrapped a towel around his waist and began to wash the disciples' feet just like a servant would do.



Then Jesus said:

*"Do you understand what I have done for you? Now that I, your Lord and Teacher have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example, that you should do as I have done for you."*



### READ

the story in  
**John 13:1-17**

By washing his disciples' feet, Jesus showed that as God's people we are never too important to serve and care for others.

S C L O T H I N G S  
 N U N D E R S T A N D T  
 G S W I P E T E R E W R  
 W D A U A S E R V A N T A E H M  
 A O R P S C L E A N X O T X O A  
 I U M P H I J E S U S W E A T S  
 S F E E T P A S S O V E R M H T  
 T E N R B L E S S E D L L P E E  
 K E T X T E A C H E R O O L R R  
 B A S I N S C R I P T U R E S P  
 C D A N M E A L O V E D E W  
 C H O S E N F S  
 F E A S T

JESUS  
 DISCIPLES  
 PASSOVER  
 FEAST • SUPPER • MEAL

PETER  
 SCRIPTURES  
 LORD • TEACHER  
 SERVANT • MASTER

GARMENTS • CLOTHING • TOWEL • WAIST • WATER • BASIN • WASH • FEET • WIPE  
 CLEAN • UNDERSTAND • OTHERS • EXAMPLE • DO • LOVED • CHOSEN • BLESSED

# ON WHY THE COFE SHOULD NEVER COMBINE PARISHES

The Rectory  
St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren,

I suppose it had to come - parish mergers are now firmly on the agenda.

I always wondered what the first Earl of Stowe was trying to prove, building a church here in 1347 to accommodate 800 people when the total population has never exceeded 250. In the short term, which in this village is measured in centuries, it seems to have been to house the tombs of his 13 successors. I now realise it was to make uniting with adjoining parishes in the 21<sup>st</sup> century more difficult. Clearly the first Earl had formidable foresight. None of our neighbouring churches seems too keen to share their reserves to help maintain our cathedral-sized building.

The threat to close St Herve the Bard has, inevitably, caused outrage – not so much from its regular congregation of three, but from all those in the village who would never attend. People do so *like* to have a church not to go to.

The church of St Bregowine, built by a wealthy parishioner in the 19<sup>th</sup> century because she did not like the high church practices of the parish church of St Iwig, is refusing to re-unite, even though the two churches stand only 100 yards apart, in a village with a diameter of 300 yards. If only they could get over the trauma of seeing the incumbent putting water in the wine on Easter Day in 1894.

Although it must be conceded that the Bregowinians were equally affronted that when the daughter church opened in 1895, they found that the Iwigers had provided no brass troughs at the end of the pews for umbrellas. That they have subsequently refused to install them has only compounded the offence.

Meanwhile St Plegmund is in discussions with the Church of South India as a way of avoiding uniting with anyone. I will be interested to see what travel expenses the new incumbent claims. It will be difficult to tell when the present incumbent resigns. He has not been seen at a clerical meeting for the last 30 years. Some suspect he is mythical, that a bloodless coup took place in the 1980s and that the church is now entirely run by the Mothers' Union.

The church of St Maximus of Constantinople in our nearest town has rather grandly offered to take all of our churches under its wing, but as a parishioner has commented: how could we possibly consider joining with a parish that fought on the other side at the Battle of Bosworth in 1485.

In the meantime, we will serenely carry on, as we seem to have done for the past six centuries; parish mergers and reductions in numbers of clergy seem to be of less interest than debating the suggestion that we change the brand of coffee served after services.

Your loving uncle,

*Eustace*



# PARISH DIRECTORY

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