



Ludlow
TOWER

the
Parish Magazine

OF LUDLOW ST LAURENCE

What happens now?

Pg7

Hidden in plain sight

Pg25

**Doing nothing is
not an option**

Pg29

**Taking down
Christmas**

Pg35

JANUARY 2025

Weekday lunch for £10*

Choose from any of our hot counter dishes: fish pie, delicious quiche, our daily changing veggie and meat specials.

Book at
billskitchen.uk

* Monday to Thursday.
6 January to 13 February
at Bill's Kitchen, Ludlow.

Not in conjunction with
any other offer





Janus, the Roman god for whom the month of January is named, is the god of beginnings and endings, of transitions, doorways and duality, often depicted as having two faces. At this time of year we are often torn between looking back, be that with fondness or relief, at the past and looking forward, sometimes in excitement, sometimes in trepidation, at the future.

The focus of this, the first issue of the Ludlow Tower in 2025 is fixed firmly on what lies ahead for the diocese (p19), for Ludlow, St Laurence's and the Stephen House project (pp 7 and 9) and for many of us as individuals (pp5 and 13).

We already know that this will be a year of significant change and we are encouraged to consider what we can do to ensure that the change will be for the better not just for ourselves but for the community in which we live (p31), the wider world (p29) and the planet itself (p32).

We wish all our readers a happy New Year, whatever it brings.

Lesley Harling (Editor)
07309 263730

This month's cover:

Photograph: Tony Colmans
Dark Lane, Ludlow in snow

Graphic design: Nicky Luck
Nickyluck@nannolica.co.uk

Printing: Signworx Hereford
Moreton-on-Lugg, Herefordshire

CONTENTS

2025 - our journey goes on	5
What happens now	7
Rotary supports Stephen House	8
Opening doors - feeling blessed!	9
Tea service at St John's	10
Introducing ... Lily Hibbert-Hingston	11
Poets' corner: T S Eliot	13
Supporting the Ludlow Tower	14
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 19 - 25 January 2025	16
From the registers	17
The longest month	17
Forgiveness	17
Sunday services in Ludlow	18
Diocesan Year of Engagement	19
Ludlow Local Listing	20
What's on in January	23
Hidden in plain sight	25
Training a Tanzanian priest	26
PCC news	27
What's special about 1 January?	27
Fighting malnutrition in South Sudan	29
Doing nothing is not an option	31
Blister pack recycling initiative	32
New year, new habits?	33
Where do you put Jesus after Christmas?	35
Children's page	36
Uncle Eustace on the importance of not keeping accurate minutes	37
Parish directory & copy deadline	38

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 Editorial Committee.



Member Editor 2024
Association for Church Editors



THE FISH HOUSE

We receive a fresh delivery daily with a huge variety of raw or smoked fish, shellfish and more.



**Seafood bar
now open Friday &
Saturday**

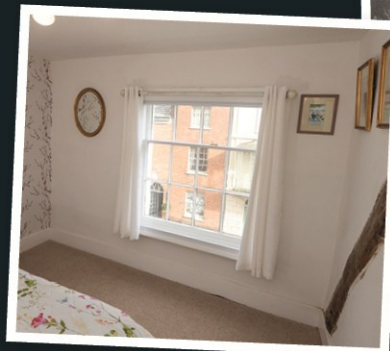
Open Wed & Thur 10am-1pm
Fri & Sat 10am-3.30pm

Bespoke Secondary Glazing Solutions

Ideal for:

- Grade II listed buildings
- Noise reduction
- Thermal efficiency
- Reduced condensation
- Increased security

*Recommended
by Historic England
for use in heritage
and grade II
listed buildings.*



lansecglz.co.uk

01299 544 013 | info@lansecglz.co.uk

Unit 4 Blackmanstitch, Long Bank, Bewdley, Worcs DY12 2QW

2025 - OUR JOURNEY GOES ON

Have you ever noticed how important the concept of a journey is in the Bible? Abraham, that towering figure of faith, seems to spend most of his life journeying - from Ur in Iraq to Syria, and then later to Palestine - a nomadic life. The relationship between God and his covenant people was formed on a great journey - from Egypt through the Sinai desert for 40 years, and to Palestine. Jesus did his work of teaching, healing and training the disciples on journeys round Galilee and ultimately on the journey to Jerusalem.

In the light of all this evidence of God's **mobility**, isn't it interesting that so many people have a picture of God as symbolising 'stability' and 'unchanging values'? There is a lovely prayer at Compline which I have sometimes used which asks that "we who are fatigued by the changes and chances of this fleeting world may repose upon thy eternal changelessness". This is certainly true, but as we all come to the God of ultimate truth and goodness from our chaotic and sinful world, we should be aware that faith in this God must mean **change**, our radical transformation into the individuals God created us to be.

The experience of a journey is an excellent metaphor for this transformation. We begin in one place, where perhaps we have a well-defined role and place in a community, and know many people. We end in another place, where perhaps we have to find a new role, new tasks and new friends - and in this process we are changed too.

We are all just beginning our journey into 2025, which will mean much that is unknown and new to us. Melia and I are soon hoping to journey from Ludlow to a new home near Nottingham, to be near our family there and at Cambridge - so you can see the reason for my theme! We have enjoyed our time here, and it has been lovely to live in such a beautiful town. However, the chance to be grandparents again is even more important!

So, if you believe that God may be calling you to live somewhere else and in a different community, **please don't ignore it**. However challenging it may be, whatever the emotional and practical cost, trust that God's call will be for your good - and the good of many others!

Peter Cope



EXTRA SUNDAY SERVICES THIS MONTH

First Sunday

CHORAL EVENSONG



3.30pm
In the chancel
Sunday 5 January

Third Sunday

CHORAL MATINS



11.30am
In the chancel
Sunday 19 January

Fourth Sunday

Celtic Prayer

An Evening Liturgy

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



6pm



A simple service in a style used
by the Iona Community

Call Caroline on
07557 983940

Sunday 26 January

First Monday



OPEN TEA AT ST LAURENCE

First Monday in the month at 3pm.
All welcome.

MONDAY 6 JANUARY

WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

Kelvin Price has been Rector of Ludlow for more than eight, very busy, years in which much has been achieved so it should perhaps have come as no surprise that he would be open to new challenges. Nevertheless the news that he has been appointed Rector of Ross-on-Wye with Walford and Brampton Abbots was received in November with some dismay, and not just in the churches of the benefice.

It is a testament to all that has been accomplished at St Laurence's and at St John's during Kelvin's time here that his departure will be felt across the town and in the wider community as well. We are grateful that he has delayed that departure until Easter 2025, giving us a few months to adjust to the reality that our team has shrunk from three full-time clergy to none in just 18 months.

We are prevented by law from beginning the formal process of looking for a new Rector until February; normally this would have been April but Kelvin has agreed that we can start earlier to minimise the interregnum. There will still, inevitably, be a period of vacancy during which we are assured of support from the diocese, in particular Archdeacon Fiona, as well as our retired clergy and reader. At the same time we are progressing a bid for funding for an associate minister to work in the local school and the benefice and a new Rector will be appointed as soon as possible, In the meantime it will be business as usual in the benefice.

On behalf of St Laurence's Kelvin has been working recently with the revived Ludlow Town Walls Trust, Hereford diocese and its legal team, Ecclesiastical Insurance and its underwriters DAS, English Heritage, local MPs, Shropshire Council and Ludlow Town Council to break the impasse which has prevented any progress on the repair and restoration of the section of town walls bordering the churchyard to the north of the church which collapsed in 2013. Our immediate aim is to re-engage all parties and support efforts to resolve the issue for the benefit of the whole community.

Any restoration project on the scale required in this case will require a major fund-raising drive. One approach being pursued involves collaboration with a community in Transylvania,



Sighisoara, Romania

Romania facing similar challenges. During a recent visit Kelvin saw for himself many parallels between Ludlow and Sighisoara, a historic and picturesque fortified hill town where the community and civic and church authorities are working closely together to conserve the built heritage. Links already exist between the two areas. Builders and conservation professionals from Shropshire have been assisting in the conservation of the Saxon Villages World Heritage Site in the area for the past 28 years.

LUDLOW ROTARY SUPPORTS THE WORK OF STEPHEN HOUSE



Thanks to a generous donation from Ludlow Rotary Club, we have been able to purchase some new kitchen equipment and utensils for Stephen House, further enhancing the support we can offer to those in need in our community. Adrian Carter, on behalf of the Rotary, came to visit Stephen House in December and was heartened to hear about the project, the support it can give individuals and the emerging collaboration with other agencies in Ludlow.

The new utensils were given a trial run when a fellowship group met in Stephen House, making a meal to share.

The new kitchenware is likely to be in frequent use in future as the range of activities taking place in Stephen House expands. Ideas already being considered include:

- * Hosting after-school homework clubs
- * Helping clients of the Ludlow Food Bank to learn to make the best use of the contents of their food parcels
- * Running courses such as Alpha where each session begins with a shared meal
- * Teaching cake-making skills

Donations such as this, and the household items they provide, play a vital part in the growth of Stephen House from a building into a welcoming and inviting space for all who need it - helping the people it supports take their rightful place in the community.

Rotary



OPENING DOORS - FEELING BLESSED!

It's been a busy start to my role here at Stephen House. To establish links with other agencies, I've met with the staff and volunteers at Hands Together Ludlow, to see the inspiring work they do in our community and to discuss how we can work together to support those in need. I've also been establishing relationships with Shropshire Council's Rough Sleeper and Housing Support Teams, taking part in their information-sharing group as well as connecting with the community by attending events hosted by our friends at the Rock Spring Centre.

I've connected with the Community Mental Health Team to talk about the support that we can offer at Stephen House, as well as discussing the difficulties people can face with their mental health at this time of year.

We have been able to support some members of our community with home visits, helping and supporting individuals with housing, benefit and utilities issues, as well as facilitating some temporary accommodation for a local man in the cold weather.

As I write, I'm keeping an eye on the lasagne cooking in the oven here at Stephen House, in preparation for our regular informal fellowship group meeting here tonight. It's good to christen the hob and ovens, and to smell

the food cooking. I believe it's another indication that Stephen House is coming to life - a sign of things to come, and the positive effect that Stephen's legacy is having on our community.

I've been humbled by the universal support for both myself and the project, and

I'm looking forward to, with God's grace, continuing and growing the role that Stephen House has in our community – sharing Stephen Treasure's vision of a place for anyone of any age in any situation to find comfort, help and support.

Thank you everyone, for your support and prayers., and a Happy, Blessed and Peaceful Christmas and New Year to everyone!

*Paul Kemp
Lay Pastoral Worker*

Stephen House
Ludlow



The Christening of the hob!

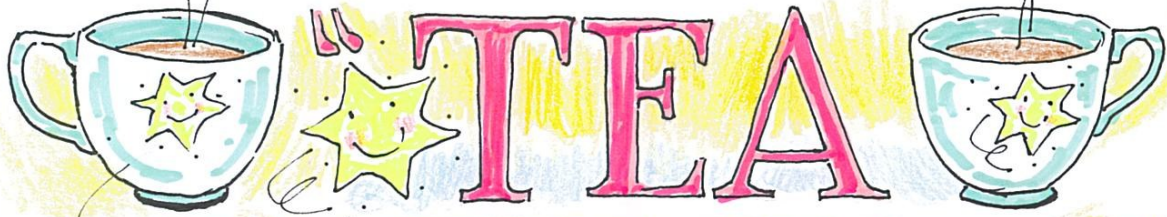


The finished article ...



... With its accompaniments!

ALL WELCOME AT OUR



TEA SERVICE!"

A SHORT SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Praise & Worship



followed by



TEA & CAKE!

at St. John's Church, Gravel Hill.

SUNDAY, 26th JANUARY

2-30p.m.

INTRODUCING ...

Please tell us a bit about yourself.

My name is Lily Hibbert-Hingston. I was born and went to school in rural north Shropshire. After university in Aberdeen I spent several years in London, Philadelphia, Edinburgh, initially working in finance and later, after an MBA, as a consultant.

I wasn't brought up in a church-going family but became a Christian at 17, largely thanks to a Methodist minister who taught me RE for A Level, and joined an evangelical, charismatic church. Wherever I was living I worked in my local church, serving in the office, working with children and young people, and later leading small groups, teaching and serving on the board of trustees.

I was living in Hertfordshire and working in London when I sensed had a strong feeling that it was time to move. I didn't know where so I came 'home' to Shropshire. Now I work part-time as finance manager in our family office while completing the final year of a California-based ministry school course.

My husband Nick had a very different faith journey – from the Vineyard evangelical church and then later to a traditional rural C of E church. He was working in Cumbria when we met, at a Coronation party. A year later, we were married, settled in Shropshire and looking for a church.

What brought you to St Laurence's?

When I was researching churches online I felt God was leading me here, rather to my surprise.

First impressions?

St Laurence's was a long way from my previous church experience. Initially I saw the beautiful building and impressive choral tradition as a

distraction rather than an expression of true worship. I'm humbled to say that over the months I have reflected on my own prejudices in this regard, put aside preference and in doing so finding new freedom and joy in the liturgical style.

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

The angel roof in the chancel.

What is your role at St Laurence's?

I am on the readers' rota and have joined a house group

How do you spend spare time?

Right now, adapting to marriage; especially having two of us in the house. I also enjoy cooking, sewing and spending time with our two dogs (a Basset and a Basset-beagle cross), our cat Rahab and our chickens.

Most memorable holiday experience?

A recent caravan trip to the Brecon Beacons (Bannau Brycheiniog). We are new to camping and loving it.

What might we be surprised to know about you?

I enjoy fishing, especially salmon fishing on the Tay, and I have been teaching Nick to Spey cast. In return he is trying to teach me to shoot.



SWS Antiques

*Antiques
Fine Art
Oriental &
Collectables*

07931 004265

Inst. #sustainabilitywithstyle

swsantiques.com

Sustainability with Style Ltd

*5 The Angel, Broad Street,
Ludlow, Sy8 2PG*

Ludlow Curtain Company

**The Stables, Station Drive,
Ludlow SY8 2PQ**

Tel 01584 875533

ludlowcurtains@hotmail.co.uk

**Here for all your soft furnishing needs,
from curtains and all types of blinds to
cushions, upholstery and curtain
poles.**

Fabrics now available on the roll.



Toenail cutting
Corn & callus removal
Athlete's foot
Foot massage
Home visits available
Diploma Level 4
Registered & fully
insured

Foot Health Practitioner
Angie Lennox
07977 108391 for Appointments



22 Coder Road,
Ludlow Business Park,
Ludlow SY8 1XE

01584 877399

Graphic Design • Colour/B&W Copying • Digital Printing
Business & Personal Stationery • Business Cards • Banners
NCR Sets & Invoice Books • Calendars • Wedding Stationery
Binding Comb & Wire • Laminating • Rubber Stamps

QUALITY PRINTING, SENSIBLY PRICED

printing@theinkspot-ludlow.co.uk
www.theinkspot-ludlow.co.uk



Garden maintenance

Michael Doyle

Plantsman

Over 30 years' experience

07855 930641

doylemj@hotmail.co.uk



The Architecture Studio

Planning Applications

Listed Building Consent

Building Regulations

Alterations & Extensions

Church Inspections

135 Corve Street, Ludlow SY8 2PG

Tel: 01584 877992

Email: info@trevorhewett.co.uk

www.trevorhewett.co.uk

POET'S CORNER: T S ELIOT



'A cold coming we had of it,
Just the worst time of the year
For a journey and such a long journey:
The ways deep and the weather sharp,
The very dead of winter'.

And the camels galled, sore-footed, refractory,
Lying down in the melting snow.

There were times we regretted
The summer palaces on slopes, the terraces,
And the silken girls bringing sherbet.

Then the camel men cursing and grumbling
And running away and wanting their liquor and women,
And the night- fires going out, and the lack of shelters,
And the cities hostile and the towns unfriendly
And the villages dirty and charging high prices:
A hard time we had of it.

At the end we preferred to travel all night,
Sleeping in snatches.

With the voices singing in our ears, saying
This was all folly.

Then at dawn we came down to a temperate valley,
Wet, below the snow line, smelling of vegetation;
With a running stream and a watermill beating the darkness,
And three trees on the low sky,
And an old white horse galloped away in the meadow.
Then we came to a tavern with vine-leaves over the lintel,
Six hands at an open door dicing for pieces of silver,
And feet kicking the empty wineskins,
But there was no information, so we continued
And arrived at evening, not a moment too soon
Finding the place; it was (you may say) satisfactory.

Cont on p15

SUPPORTING THE LUDLOW TOWER



We are not talking about support for the majestic 135-foot tower which dominates the Ludlow skyline. Although we do monitor the tower in the context of the breach of

the town wall in the churchyard there is no current concern about the physical stability of the 15th century structure.

The Ludlow Tower magazine may have a much shorter history but its financial stability is at much greater risk. We have always wanted to keep the Ludlow Tower free for anyone who wants to pick it up, as a way of reaching out into the community and engaging with local residents regardless of their beliefs. St Laurence's is here for everybody.

To achieve this we have relied very largely on advertising revenue to fund the printing. In the past this covered costs with some left over to go into church funds at the year end. Times are harder now.

Last year we invited our readers to consider making a financial contribution. We were delighted with the generous response, enough to pay for more than one complete issue, and are very grateful for all your donations. We still reduced the magazine to 40 pages but managed to maintain a print run of 600 copies.

Now there are even more empty shops and those businesses that survive have very limited advertising budgets. So we are inviting you to help again this year, if you can, to avoid further shrinkage or a reversion to printing in black and white.



Could you give £12 a year to support the Ludlow Tower?

That's less than the cost of eight first-class stamps for 12 issues.

Please put contributions, in an envelope marked 'Parish magazine', in the donations box in church, completing the Gift Aid declaration if appropriate.



Cash or cheque payable to 'Ludlow PCC'

BACS CAF BANK, Sort
405240 Acc 00016766
using the reference
'Parish magazine'

To reserve a copy add a note in the envelope including your name and we will hold a copy for you until the 24th of the month.



To receive the magazine by post please increase your donation to £25 and provide a full postal address. This will cover 12 monthly issues.

Thank you.

All this was along time ago, I remember,
And I would do it again, but set down
This set down
This: were we led all that way for
Birth or Death? There was a Birth, certainly,
We had evidence and no doubt. I had seen birth and death
And had thought they were different; this Birth was
Hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death.
We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,
But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation,
With an alien people clutching their gods.
I should be glad of another death.



T S Eliot, American-born British poet, playwright, literary critic and editor, died sixty years ago, on 4 January 1965.

Thomas Stearns Eliot was born in 1888 in St Louis, Missouri, but his family were prominent Unitarians, with roots in Boston. He had a Roman Catholic nanny, of whom he was very fond, and who took him to her church. This may have some bearing on his converting to Anglicanism in 1927, the year he became a British citizen. He was baptised and confirmed secretly in Oxfordshire, saying he hated spectacular conversions.

He described himself as 'classicist in literature, royalist in politics, and Anglo-Catholic in religion'. Later he said he combined 'a Catholic cast of mind, a Calvinist heritage and a Puritanical temperament'.

Eliot married twice but had no children. He married Vivienne Haigh-Wood in 1915 – the year he published his first 'professional' poem, *The Love Song of J Alfred Prufrock*. The marriage was fraught, because Vivienne had mental problems and eventually went into an asylum. They separated in 1933. His second wife was his much younger secretary Esme, whom he married in 1957.

Eliot lived through two world wars but remained optimistic through his Christianity. He wrote *The Waste Land* in 1923 and *The Four Quartets* were published in 1941 after he became British and an Anglican. In 1948 he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature.

He died of emphysema at his home in Kensington, was cremated and is buried at the parish church in East Coker, Somerset – East Coker being where his family may have originated: it was also the title of the second of the *Four Quartets*. He has a plaque in Poets' Corner, Westminster Abbey.

The Journey of the Magi is one of his more straightforward poems, exploring spiritual displacement and the search for meaning in a rapidly changing world.

Do you
believe
this?



Sunday 19 January

Exchange of members of morning congregations
between local churches

Service of Unity at St Peter's Church at 3.00pm

All welcome to short prayer/worship events at CTAL churches in the week

Monday 20 January

Baptist Church, Sandford Road 7am-12noon

Tuesday 21 January

Ludlow Methodist Church 10.30am

Wednesday 22 January

Ludlow Quaker Meeting House, St Mary's Lane

Thursday 23 January

St Laurence's Church, College Street 10.30am

Friday 24 January

Ludlow Elim, Lower Galdeford 10.30am

Saturday 25 January

St John's Church, Gravel Hill 11.00am

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2025

www.ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer



FROM THE REGISTERS



Funerals and Memorial Services

At St Laurence's

28 November Gloria Anne Corfield

4 December Charlotte Owen

20 December Veronica Mold

At St John's

26 November Margaret Rose Beddoe

5 December Edna Spanner



THE LONGEST MONTH?

Thirty days has September
April, June and November.
Unless a leap year is its fate,
February has twenty-eight
But all the rest have three days more,
Excepting January,
Which has six thousand,
One hundred and eighty-four

Brian Bilston

FORGIVENESS

If our greatest need had been information,
God would have sent us an educator.

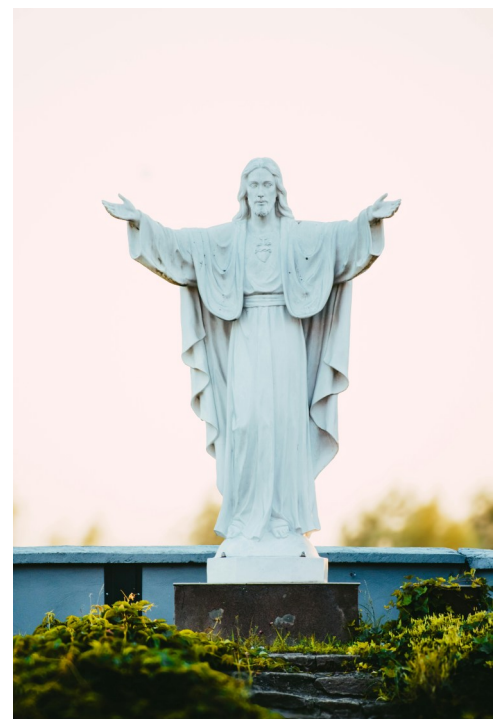
If our greatest need had been money,
God would have sent us an economist.

If our greatest need had been technology,
God would have sent us a scientist.

If our greatest need had been pleasure,
God would have sent us an entertainer.

But our greatest need was forgiveness,
So God sent us a Saviour.

Anon



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

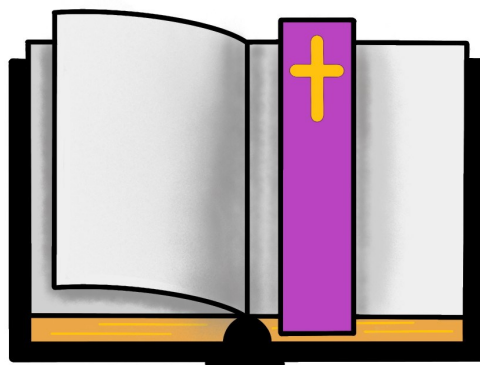
Cynthia Prior 01584 831855

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



A YEAR OF ENGAGEMENT



Dear friends

January marks the beginning of our Diocesan Year of Engagement. Let me explain, in case this conjures up images of mediaeval betrothals with year-long festivities.

Our core values as the Diocese of Hereford are prayerfulness, Christ-likeness, and engagement. In 2023, our Year of Prayer, we explored how to deepen our prayerfulness. In 2024, our Year of Faith, we were given opportunities through teaching events and local gatherings to deepen our confidence in the Bible and our Christian faith and challenge ourselves to tell our own story of faith.

Now, in 2025, we hope and pray that the foundations of those two years will come together in a Year of Engagement, during which we consciously pray for and take opportunities to reach out and engage in mission in our parishes.

For some, the idea of missional work is frankly terrifying. For others, it seems to be an arrogant and outdated way of going about things. It can conjure up images of Victorians in pith helmets, or people standing on street corners with enormous black Bibles haranguing passers-by or knocking on doors asking people if they've been 'washed in the blood of the Lamb'.

Let me reassure you that none of those is what we mean by our Year of Engagement. Our prayer is simply that each parish in the diocese will take time during 2025 prayerfully to reflect on the needs of the community around them

and on the gospel and work out how the

needs of one and the joy of the other could meet – and then to begin to implement that mission. We'll be using the Church of England's Five Marks of Mission as the framework for Engagement in our parishes:

- ◇ To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- ◇ To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
- ◇ To respond to human need by loving service
- ◇ To transform unjust structures of society
- ◇ To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth

Look for announcements in eNews and other communications about Year of Engagement events and sign up or visit our web page

<https://www.hereford.anglican.org/year-of-engagement>

Another recent Church of England vision statement challenged us all to be a simpler, humbler, and bolder church. Our Year of Engagement gives us the collective opportunity to be bolder in our sharing of Jesus Christ and the transformation of lives and communities that comes when His Good News is shared.

Archdeacon Fiona

LUDLOW LOCAL LISTING

Artwork

Ludlow Castle Gallery

Quality affordable picture framing and artwork. Fast friendly service. Unusual gifts and cards. Find us just before the Castle Cafe or contact on 01584 878527

Books & Stationery

Castle Bookshop

5 Castle Street Ludlow

Booksellers and Stationers

Free ordering service

01584 872562 castlebookshop@btconnect.com

Electrical

Ian Mackay

Quick response, local and reliable. No-obligation fixed quotes. Domestic installation and repairs. Landlord & homeowner safety inspections. Condition reports for house sales.

Contact Ian Mackay on 07736 303297 or email ian.gf.mackay@gmail.com

Food

Myriad Organics

22 Corve Street 01584 872665 myriad-organics.co.uk

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

Dan Pritchard Garden Services

Fully insured - reliable - experienced - competitive. Lawn mowing / hedge cutting / tree surgery / pruning / turfing / planting / landscaping. Call Dan on 07779182636. Covers Ludlow and surrounding areas.

Insurance Services

Teme Valley Insurance Brokers

For your Home, Car, Business or Farm quote

Call Mark or Sue on 01584 290055

enquiries@temevalleyinsurance.co.uk

IT Services

Matthew Lenthall IT Services

Computers, phones and all things technical. Support and maintenance.
12a Corve Street, Ludlow 07828 081163 or 01584 877946
matthew@matthewlenthall.co.uk

Picture Framing

Frames by Sebastian

Bespoke picture framing
6a Pepper Lane
Tel: 07815 111554

Wanted

Reynolds of Ludlow furniture

Wanted by local collector and researcher; any condition considered; will collect.
Good prices offered.
Tel: 07967 134116.

Wellbeing

Silver Lantern Counselling www.silverlanterncounselling.co.uk

A confidential space with someone trained to listen and be with you as you explore your experience. Discover how counselling can help. Arrange a free 15-minute initial telephone consultation. Call Julia on 07785 473785. Email: info@silverlanterncounselling.co.uk

If you use the services of any of our advertisers please mention that you found their details in the Ludlow Tower.

ADVERTISING RATES 2024 - 25 (for 12 issues)

Full page - £370

Quarter page - £120

Half page - £225

Eighth page - £70

Classified - £42

Rates for part-year available on request

Contact the Parish Office on 01584 872073 or
office@stlaurences.co.uk

St Leonards Press

PRINT · DESIGN · DIGITAL · COPY

YOUR ONE STOP PRINT & COPY SHOP

CORVE STREET · LUDLOW · SY8 1DL

01584 878283

st.leonards@btconnect.com

MONTHLY PRAYER GROUP



The group meets on the fourth Thursday of the month (apart from December) for half an hour at 10.30am, usually in the Lady Chapel.

We are primarily an intercessory group, praying about requests that people leave, or that members of the group know of. The group is open to all who feel called to this ministry, so do join us, or just come and try it out. To learn more or pass on a prayer request do contact me.

Sandi Burley 01584 873155



**Advertise your
business in our
award-winning
magazine**

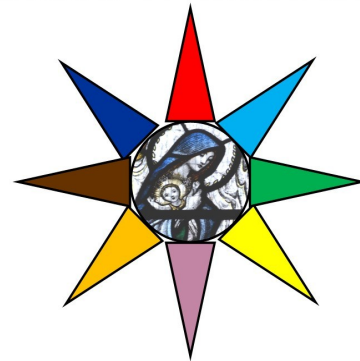
- ◆ See page 21 for rates
- ◆ Contact 01584 872073 or
office@stlaurences.co.uk



ST LAURENCE'S CHURCH



FOLLOW THE STAR



A children's trail suitable for all ages

Pick up your sheet in the Shop and find
all the buildings in our church

Gold coin donation (£1/£2)

10am - 5pm every day

14 December - 6 January



COME AND SEE OUR

- ◆ Mediaeval stained glass
- ◆ Mediaeval misericords
- ◆ View from the Tower
 - ◆ Bells and Carillon
 - ◆ Icon Coffee shop
 - ◆ Snetzler organ
 - ◆ Gift shop

WHAT'S ON AT ST LAURENCE'S IN JANUARY



Wednesday 1	
No 6.00pm Holy Communion	
New Year bell ringing	4.00pm
Sunday 5	
Choral Evensong	3.30pm
Monday 6	
Open Tea	3.00pm
Tuesday 14	
Intercessory Prayer Group	10.30pm
Sunday 19	
Choral Matins	11.30am
Baptism	1.00pm
Sunday 26	
Celtic Prayer	6.00pm
Wednesday 29	
Lucton School Christingle	2.00pm

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

✉ office@stlaurences.org.uk
☎ 01584 872073

**THE PARISH CHURCH OF
ST LAURENCE LUDLOW**
DIOCESE OF HEREFORD, CHURCH OF ENGLAND

[SERVICES & WORSHIP](#)
[CHURCH & OUTREACH](#)
[COMMUNITY EVENTS](#)
[ENHANCE YOUR LUDLOW VISIT](#)
[SUPPORT US](#)
[MEET US](#)

**Welcome to
St Laurence's**

About Us

**For the latest news about services and events,
including any last-minute changes go to**

**[https://
stlaurences.org.uk/google-calendar/](https://stlaurences.org.uk/google-calendar/)**

A.T. Lloyd

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

Electrical engineer and contractors for all electrical aspects



T 01694 781532
M 07966 511929/8
E info@atlloyd.co.uk

Bushmoor House
Bushmoor
Craven Arms
Shropshire SY7 8DW

PCB

SOLICITORS

Quality legal advice from friendly people

- Agriculture
- Commercial Property
- Residential Property
- Company & Corporate Law
- Dispute Resolution, Debt Recovery & Personal Injury
- Divorce, Family & Childcare
- Court Of Protection
- Lasting Powers Of Attorney
- Wills Trusts & Probate
- Criminal Law

Suite 8, 54 Broad Street, Ludlow, SY8 1GP

01584 878456 | www.pcblaw.co.uk

SHREWSBURY | TELFORD | CHURCH STRETTON | KNIGHTON
LUDLOW | CLUN | WELSHPOOL | BISHOPS CASTLE



Pest Control

Moles, Squirrels, Rats, Mice
Wasps, Ants, Moths, Fleas,
Bed bugs, Biting & Crawling insects.



Chris Sansom
01694 722709

mobile 07891 638662
cs-pestcontrol.co.uk

HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT



Inside St Laurence's, the north transept, St Margaret's Chapel, all but disappeared from view when the Snetzler organ was installed there 160 years ago. Like the south transept, this

chapel is one of the oldest parts of the church.

Said to represent a returning prosperity, after the Black Death of 1349, the chapel was built in the late 14th century (1370ish) towards the end of the Decorated period of architecture as the Perpendicular style was taking hold. The walls were raised to their present height about 100 years later. Thus, examples of both styles are evident.

In mediaeval England, Margaret was a popular saint, one of three virgin martyrs invoked as 'Holy Helpers' in Europe during the plague. It was, perhaps, not lost on those dedicating the chapel, that Margaret's patronages include protection against diabolical infestations.

The east and west window mullions were replaced in 1936 but the old glass was retained. Its age is unclear but there may be a clue as, in 1559, glass was being installed in the north window of the chapel. The roof and screen are Perpendicular, of the same period and style, as a window, high up on the west wall. An altar once existed beneath the east window, evidenced by two inset aumbries and a piscina. Antiquary, David Cranage, found little merit in the piscina, describing it as indicative of 'the

approach of the Perpendicular style' but having 'poor mouldings'. I humbly disagree. The foliate corner spandrels and the cusps within, are still crisp and sharp. Considering they are some 600 years old and now form part of a 'utility cupboard', I regard them as fine indeed.



Outside, a large impression of an arrow, stuck in the gable end, indicates how the chapel was once used by the Guild of Fletchers. The arrow has attracted several 'romantic' stories for its presence but Robin Hood did not actually shoot it there ...

Anomalies exist in the outer architecture. The south transept was built in the early 14th century but is supported by 'diagonal buttresses', more common after the 14th century. St Margaret's is supported by 'angled buttresses', more common from the 13th century. Thus, it seems, the newer chapel is supported by the older style of buttress. You do not have to be a nerd to find that intriguing.

St. Margaret's chapel is a fine example of medieval building and houses a wonderful Snetzler organ. We are very privileged at St Laurence's and should cherish all of our treasures.

Eric Griffiths

TRAINING A TANZANIAN PRIEST

As part of its partnership with four dioceses along the Indian Ocean coast of Tanzania - Tanga, Dar es Salaam, Masasi and Newala - the Diocese of Hereford sponsors students training for ordination. The church in Tanzania is growing rapidly. In 1985, when the diocese of Mara was established, there were 12 parishes, a number which had risen to 30 by 1994 and 143 by 2010. It is a constant struggle to train enough clergy to serve in these parishes. Tanzania's communications are not adequate for distance learning so students have to attend a theological college, which is very expensive, so the financial assistance provided by Hereford's Train-a-Priest Fund is invaluable.

The Ludlow Deanery aims to raise £1000 each year to support a named student and was pleased to receive a letter recently from Douglas Ngoleka of Newala Diocese introducing himself as the latest student at St Mark's College in Dard-es-Salaam to benefit from our sponsorship.



Douglas Sebastian
Ludlow Deane



The chapel of St Mark's College,
Dar-es-salaam

How you can help

Donations to support Douglas can be made at any time:

- ◆ In cash - in a Gift Aid envelope, marked *TrainaPriest* and placed in the donations box
- ◆ By cheque - payable to Ludlow PCC, in a Gift Aid envelope marked *TrainaPriest* and placed in the donations box
- ◆ By BACS - CAF BANK Sort Code: 405240, Account No: 00016766, using the reference 'TrainaPriest'

PCC NEWS

Summary of PCC meeting held on Monday 4 November 2024

13 members of the PCC attended

- ◆ **Resolutions:** to apply to trim three overgrown yews in St Leonard's churchyard; to reserve space in Garden of Rest for two non-residents of parish; to nominate one Local Pastoral Visitor; to approve Anna Chaplain role description
- ◆ **Finance:** approved draft 2025 budget
- ◆ **Outward Giving:** charities for 2024: local - Hands Together Ludlow (25%); national - Macmillan Cancer Research and Brain Tumour Charity; (25% each) international – Médecins sans Frontières (MSF) (25%)
- ◆ **Policies:** reviewed and adopted Health and Safety
- ◆ **Discussions:** Stage 2 application to diocesan Total Return Fund for funding for second stipendiary clergy person (to be submitted February 2025); safeguarding – Level 2 achieved
- ◆ **Committee Reports:** from Arts@StLaurences, Fabric, Pastoral and Winter Festival working group
- ◆ **Date of next meeting:** Monday 20 January 2025

A copy of the two latest confirmed PCC minutes is available on the noticeboard at the back of the church. All confirmed minutes can be viewed in the parish office.



WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT 1 JANUARY?



I am never quite sure why we celebrate New Year. It is too soon after Christmas, although it is a good way to finish up the cooking sherry you opened in September, those orange flavoured soft-centred chocolates nobody wants, and the last mince pies. I think we would do better to go back to having New Year in March, like they did centuries ago.

The Babylonians began their New Year on 23 March. For them, it was a logical choice, as with the arrival of Spring, crops were being planted, and a new cycle of life was beginning.

For centuries the Romans agreed with them, but they chose 1 March for New Year. It was the Romans who brought in the idea of making resolutions at New Year, mostly along the lines of acting more noble, and doing good to others.

Then in 46BC Julius Caesar changed the Roman Empire's calendar. His new Julian calendar realigned the year to the sun, and also began on 1 January. Caesar wanted to honour Janus, the two-faced god who looks backwards into the old year and forward into the new. There is no astronomical or agricultural significance to 1 January, it was just a random date selected by Caesar.



LUDLOW FIREWOOD

~ Est 2019 ~

Suppliers of Premium Grade Ready
to Burn Firewood, Beautifully Crated
and Delivered to Your Door

Perfect for woodburners and
outdoor heating during your stay
in our lovely town!

**Kiln dried firewood supplied in nets.
We also sell kindling,
natural firelighters and lava rocks!**

Please see our website for details.

**f /ludlowfirewood @ /ludlowfirewood
@ ludlowfirewood@gmail.com**

Plot 1, Station Yard, Station Road
Woofferton, Ludlow, Shropshire
SY8 4AW

07949 318 014

WWW.LUDLOWFIREWOOD.COM



LUDLOW SALVAGE

~ Est 2017 ~

Supplying reclaimed materials
for your homes and projects

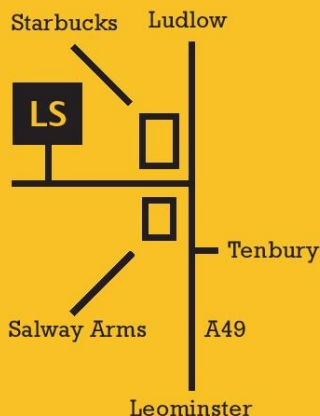


f /ludlowsalvage @ /ludlowsalvage

E ludlowsalvage@gmail.com

Plot 1, Station Yard, Station Road
Woofferton, Ludlow, Shropshire
SY8 4AW

07805 312 168



FIGHTING MALNUTRITION IN SOUTH SUDAN

I prepared for writing this by making a cup of coffee. When I let the milk boil over, annoyance at having to clear up the mess came before thinking about the waste of milk or the privilege of being able to drink coffee. This led me to think about the famine afflicting millions in parts of South Sudan, along with an ever-present fear of further genocide. In our weekly intercessions we pray for those suffering in Gaza, Ukraine and South Sudan. The first two are in the headlines daily so we know something about them - but South Sudan?

Since gaining independence in 2011 South Sudan has been beset by political unrest and violence. It has some of the highest malnutrition rates in sub-Saharan Africa, limiting the physical and cognitive growth of babies and children and often causing chronic disease in adult life. Christian Aid's work in the country aims to empower individuals, institutions and market systems involved with access to nutrition - including mothers, farmers and key community stakeholders.

With just a little start-up money, Rebecca planted seeds for maize, sorghum, cowpeas and groundnuts, as well as the essential axe, rake and hosepipe. With training in nutrition she learned to give her four-year old son a wider variety of food and not to give to groundnuts her two-year old daughter. She understands the need to plant a range of crops to expand their nutritional intake and she hopes to become totally self-sufficient by selling crops at the local market.

"I am happy. I have good health now, as you can see. All the crops give me a balanced diet - I have vitamins and protein. Before the project, I

would not know which types of food were healthy. Now I know we need different types of food to be healthy."

A key focus of the project was changing the culture around nutrition and all the activities were designed with the communities to ensure participation and ownership. Christian Aid has supported 60 teachers and 600 schoolchildren to change attitudes to diet and new school vegetable gardens foster the acquisition of farming skills. The importance of diet and health is better understood. More children are born in health care facilities as traditional birth attendants become aware of 'red flags' and more women are now breastfeeding, knowing the benefits it brings, as long as they eat appropriately. Access to clean, safe water has improved.

Given the political situation in the country these can only be shafts of light. We should pray for peace, doing what we can to express our love of and support for the millions of oppressed people and to help give them some autonomy in their lives. Thank you for your continued support, throughout last year. Look out for details of the Lent lunches next month.



Rebecca with her crops

Claire 07906 894027



Alexandra House Diamond Life Healthcare

Fully trained carers provide high-quality
personalised care

We provide

Domiciliary Care 24-hour Live-in Care Domestic Care



We are always looking for reliable caring staff

Please ring and speak to our friendly team

01584 872233

Email - diamondlife@btconnect.com

Website - www.diamondlifehealthcare.co.uk

DOING NOTHING IS NOT AN OPTION

Shropshire is one of the most beautiful counties in England, from the Teme Valley and the hills in the south to the rolling landscapes in the north of the county. The farms that make up and manage this beautiful pastoral scene are run by farmers and their families who are in one of the most stressful and isolated of occupations with one of the highest levels of suicide in the UK.

Many of the farms are multigenerational family businesses with up to three generations working together on the farm with all the ups and downs of family businesses plus the added complication of living on top of each other. They have to endure not just the vagaries of the weather, but also continually changing government regulations and the dominance of supermarket-controlled prices.

Some 30 years ago, in a year when suicide incidents peaked in Shropshire, Shropshire Rural Support was set up to support farmers, their families and people living and working in our rural community at times of need. The enquiries we receive cover both business issues and personal matters such as bereavement, loneliness, domestic abuse, family fallouts, succession and divorce. Our role is to ensure the caller is signposted to a safe

place where they can access the help that they need to address their particular need, though sometimes it is a case of our just being there to listen.

We are a self-funding charity run largely by volunteers, most of whom have a farming background and understand the issues of running a farm. Supported by two part-time coordinators, the volunteers operate a 24/7/365 support service via a free phone helpline that ensures that whatever the time of day people can readily access our confidential service. For those, particularly the younger generation, who prefer to text message rather than talking on a phone, we have recently launched a free confidential 24/7/365 text messaging helpline.



Shropshire Rural Support

Confidential Support for the Rural Community

We are here to help

- Free & confidential
- Someone who has time to listen
- Information about other sources of help
- Access to a network of knowledgeable volunteers

Call our free confidential helpline
0300 123 2825
shropshireruralsupport.org.uk



Doing nothing is not an option. If you know of someone you are worried about, please encourage them to get in touch by

ringing the confidential free phone number **0300 123 2825** or texting **SRS to 85258**.

There is also a wealth of information on: **www.shropshireruralsupport.org.uk**

BLISTER PACKS

Ludlow Cancer Support Group has launched an initiative to recycle the blister packs in which numerous tablets and pills are packaged. Although effective in protecting medications, blister packs are made from multiple materials, making recycling exceptionally challenging. Most blister packs end up in landfill or incinerators, releasing dangerous toxins.

Professional waste management companies will collect blister packs and completely recycle all the toxic waste but it is an expensive service. Ludlow Cancer Support Group has already bought and recycled its first waste container and has sponsorship in place for more. But offers to save blister packs are pouring in from individuals and local organisations, and more recycling boxes are urgently needed.

The price of each box, which includes a recycled liner, collection from Ludlow and 100% recycling of the waste, ranges from £72 to £108 depending on size, but donations may be for as little or as much as you wish.

You can take your empty blister packs to

- ◆ St Laurence's Church
- ◆ Portcullis Surgery
- ◆ The Wool Shop, Broad Street
- ◆ Ludlow Cancer Support Group meetings at St Peter's Church, Henley Road (10.15am - 1.00pm on the second and fourth Fridays of each month)
- ◆ The Merchant House, 62 Lower Corve Street



Payment can be made by:

- ◆ BACS: Ludlow Cancer Support Group, Lloyds Bank, Sort Code: 30-6593, Acc No 21099668 or
- ◆ Cheque: payable to Ludlow Cancer Support Group and sent to LCSG, The Merchant House, 62 Lower Corve Street, Ludlow, SY8 1DU

For more information phone 01584 875438 or email rosemary.wood3@gmail.com

St Laurence's is supporting the LCSG initiative by sponsoring a recycling box to be placed in the church porch.

If you would like to contribute to the cost please put your donation in one of the church donation boxes in an envelope marked 'Blister pack', using a Gift Aid envelope if appropriate.

Just seven donations of £10, with Gift Aid, will purchase a 90-litre recycling box.

NEW YEAR, NEW HABITS?

NOTES FROM AN ECO-WORRIER

Welcome to the new year. Do you have plans for a new and improved you? I think we all would like to at least tweak our habits and lifestyles, but if you are anything like me, you would probably find it easier to start from a position of knowledge. This is the perfect opportunity to review some of our past habits and behaviours, then see how we can improve them. Of course as an eco-worrier I feel a review of my 'green' habits is the place to begin.

I came across an environmental lifestyle survey that was produced by a church in Tring a few years ago and I would like to share a selection of questions to consider. The responses suggested were: Yes, No, Sometimes:

I walk or cycle to events

I try to reduce my car use when possible

I limit my waste by adhering to the principles of reduce, re-use, recycle

I seek to purchase Fairtrade goods where possible

My home electricity is renewable

I have reviewed and made changes to my diet to be healthier and more sustainable

I seek to purchase ethically where possible

I use the LOAF principle (Locally grown, Organic, Animal-friendly, Fairtrade) when buying food

I consider where I put my money by using ethical banking

These are just a few of the possible issues which we can consider when reviewing our eco lifestyles. Like all good reviews and resolutions it would be great to share your findings with others and bring some accountability into our lives. If you would like to be part of the process you can pick up a copy of this questionnaire in the church and fill it in anonymously. We'll share the results in a future issue of the Tower.

Let's continue to work together to look after God's creation and the people who live in it.

I wish you all a happy, and eco-friendly New Year.

Hilary Walters



St Laurence's is proud to have won a bronze Eco Church award.

A P SALE

Building & Renovation Ltd



Carpentry • Stonework
Roofing • Brickwork
• Dampproofing
• Timber Treatments

17 Blashfield Road, Ludlow,
Shropshire SY8 1UE
T: 01584 879677
M: 07816 570132
E: andrewsale@outlook.com
www.andrewsale.co.uk

MAN AND VAN TRANSPORT



Single items Sheds, garages
Full loads & barns cleared
House removals Fully insured
Waste removal Waste licence

Local and long distance

07940 031 580

Based in Ludlow

LOCAL MAN

wishes to buy
Antiques, Bric à brac,
Collectables
and
Deceaseds' Effects

Please call
01584 892128 07508 809710

Skip Hire, Waste Management & Recycling

Tenbury Wells, Ludlow, Leominster, Craven Arms and

www.ludlowskiphire.com

Mixed Waste

Garden Waste

Builders Waste

**LUDLOW
SKIP HIRE**

Stone & Soil

Farm Plastic

Wood & Plasterboard

01584 877847

Mini - 16 cu.yd Skips

Transfer Station, Weeping Cross Lane, Ludlow SY8 1JH
ludlowskiphire@aol.com



Victoria Allen



Funeral Services

An Independent Family Business

Pre- Paid Funeral Plans

Home Visits Always Available

24 Hour Service

01584 879035

141A Vintage & Retro Collectables Centre

Open Mon, Wed, Thur, Fri, Sat
10am - 5pm
Closed Tues & Sun

141A Corve Street, Ludlow
SY82PG 01584 877 572

f /141A

@@godsellmark



FOR AN APPOINTMENT CONTACT:

07990 104453

caroline.ISH@outlook.com

SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Neuro Vascular Assessment
- Diabetic Foot Health Checks
- Nail Cut & File
- Treatment of Corns and Calluses
- Verruca and Fungal Management

TRAINED BY SMAE INSTITUTE. REGISTERED & INSURED BY
THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF FOOT HEALTH PROFESSIONALS



WHERE DO YOU PUT JESUS AFTER CHRISTMAS?

The question of when to take down, and indeed put up, your Christmas decorations can be a contentious issue. It is not only the supermarkets that have the lights on and the baubles dangling in November whilst traditionalists wait until Christmas Eve, knowing that 25 December is the first day of Christmas.

Then by the time the shops re-open on Boxing Day Christmas is already a thing of the past. The decorations have disappeared often to be replaced by Easter eggs, and the first discarded trees appear in the recycling bins (provided of course the household has paid for its green bin).

Many households wait until January to put the decorations away for next year. Epiphany on 6 January, marking the arrival of the magi at the stable in Bethlehem on the twelfth day of Christmas, is a popular day to take them down. In many churches, however, the crib scene is left up until Candlemas, which is set as 2 February each year, marking the middle of winter, halfway between the shortest day and the spring equinox. So from that date onwards the days begin to get longer and the nights shorter.

It's the day when we celebrate Mary and Joseph taking their baby, Jesus, to the Temple. The custom was set down in Leviticus chapter 12, where the parents

presented the child to the Lord, and received a blessing from the priests. It was a picture of the sacrifice of the first-born son, giving him to the Lord.

As you take down your decorations, think about where you will store them ready for use next Christmas – and how carefully you will put them away.



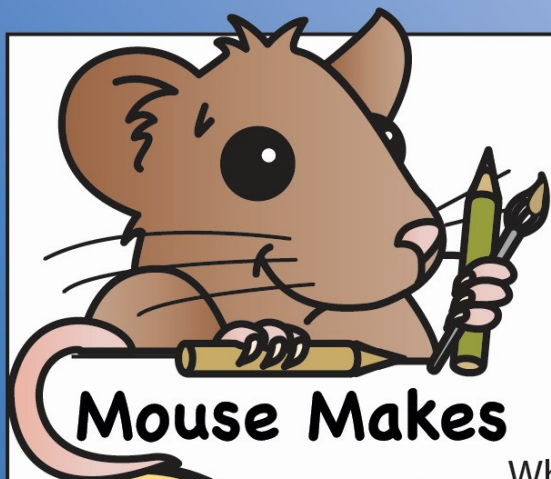
Will the string of lights be a tangled mess of knots when you take them out of their wrappings or will you be able to hang them straight on the tree? One of the biggest concerns is where to put the figure of baby Jesus. It's usually so small in a crib set that it is easily lost and then the crib set rather loses its meaning!

Have a think about where you put Jesus after Christmas. Not the figure but the 'real' person. He's easily left in a virtual crib as a baby in our minds, just like the wooden or plastic figure in our attics or under the stairs. If we keep Him as that lovely sweet-smelling cute baby we miss out on His teaching and miracles; we will fail to understand and engage with His massive love and compassion for each of us on the cross – and most importantly His resurrection. Death is not the end.

Not for Him.

Not for us.

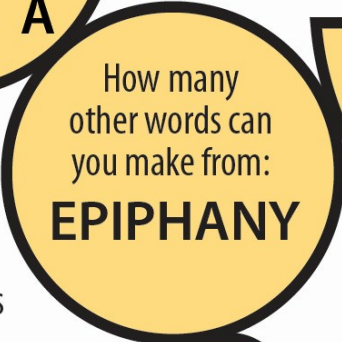
And not for our loved ones.



After Jesus was born in Bethlehem, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem looking for the child born to be king of the Jews. They had seen his star and had come to worship him. King Herod was troubled so met with the wise men to tell them to let him know when they found him.

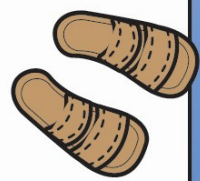
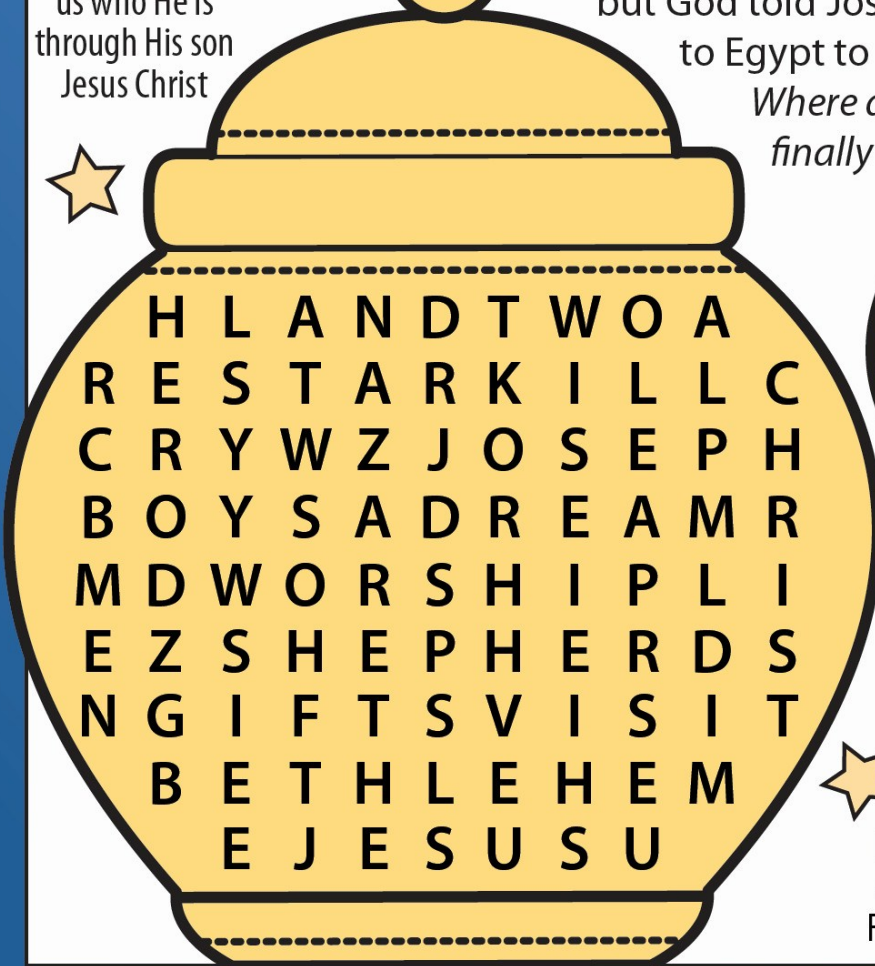
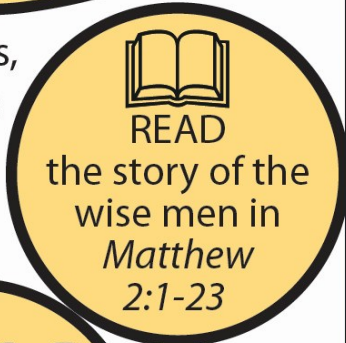


When they saw the star rest over where Jesus was they rejoiced and gave him three special gifts. God warned the wise men in a dream not to go back to Herod so they went home by another way.



EPIPHANY is the Greek word for **MANIFEST** which means 'to show'. God shows us who He is through His son Jesus Christ

Herod wanted to destroy Jesus, but God told Joseph to flee to Egypt to be safe. *Where did Jesus finally grow up?*



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

ON THE IMPORTANCE OF NOT KEEPING ACCURATE MINUTES

The Revd Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace'

The Rectory
St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren,

Since you were the one to ask this parishioner of yours to act as PCC secretary, you have no reason to complain about the minutes of meetings she produces. You should never let anyone act as a secretary unless they cannot speak English or are hard of hearing, and preferably, both. The more significant the committee and the more contentious the issues being debated, the more you should nobly put yourself forward both to chair the meeting and take the minutes. In most cases, that will spare the other members that awkward moment when you ask for a volunteer, and they all feel the sudden need to stare at their feet.

If you act as secretary, then you can be certain that accounts of what took place will only be what you had wanted to happen and that the decisions taken will be what you had already decided before discussions started. Any inconvenient observations from other committee members can be omitted entirely.

Admittedly, the more observant may notice that your accounts of the meeting may not wholly agree with their recollections, but the skill of being a secretary is not to produce the minutes of the previous meeting until the day before the next one. This will mean that



the great majority will have long forgotten what actually *did* happen two months previously, and that many will not have had the time to read them anyway and will avoid having to admit that fact by passing them.

Only the deeply committed will want to pursue apparent discrepancies. In that case, confess to the meeting that your hand-written notes were accidentally left on a bus and so you can no longer check the accuracy of what you have written. Further challenges will rally the rest of the committee to your side, and soon someone will suggest you proceed to the next item on the agenda. Since you are also the chairman, you naturally bow to their request.

Just in the way that church rotas bear no resemblance to the people who actually turn up to do the jobs, minutes of meetings need not bear too much resemblance to what actually happened, especially if what did happen is inconvenient for you.

After all, democracy is all very well - provided a benign dictator is in overall control.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



PARISH DIRECTORY

Ludlow St Laurence Parish Office

Stephen House, 2 College Street, Ludlow, Shropshire. SY8 1AN

e-mail: office@stlaurences.org.uk website: www.stlaurences.org.uk

For appointments call 01584 872073

Rector: Revd Preb Kelvin Price 07799 243867

Lay Pastoral Worker: Paul Kemp 07785 254568

Ludlow St Laurence

Parish Office	01584 872073
Office Administrator	Nicky Luck
Finance & Strategy Director	Peter Nield
Gift Aid Secretary	Michael Hunt
Social Media & Press	Kate Garrett-Nield
Director of Music	Michael Oakley
Custodian	Matthew Lenthall
Conservation Trust Chair	Sebastian Bowen

PCC

Churchwardens	Liz Gardner	319332
	Lesley Harling	07309 263730
Assistant	Michael Davies	07970 434822
Churchwardens	Dick Franks	892019
Electoral Roll Officer	Dick Franks	892019
Safeguarding Officer	Dick Franks	892019
PCC Secretary	Lesley Harling	318309
Bible Reading Fellowship	Penelope Bridstrup	876992
Flowers	Sue Thornley	872292
Monthly Prayer Group	Sandi Burley	873155
Tower Captain	Richard Bracher	811514
Ludlow Tower editor	Lesley Harling	

Find this and previous issues of the Ludlow Tower on line at www.stlaurences.org.uk



Ludlow St John

Parish Office	Nicky Luck	872073
Churchwarden	Mike Beazley	873570
Treasurer	Mike Beazley	873570
PCC Secretary	Mike Beazley	873570
Electoral Roll	Sue Thomas	0792990671

Ashfords Benefice

Rector	Revd Lynn Money	
Parish Office	Jemma Saer	831203

Bromfield Benefice

Rector	Revd Justin Parker	
Parish Office	Martin Scott	07395 413004



COPY DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE

TUESDAY 31 DECEMBER

There is no guarantee that material submitted will be included.

Please send articles by email to office@stlaurences.org.uk

We are happy to receive contributions and suggestions for inclusion in the magazine. Please limit items to **no more than 400 words**, except by prior agreement with the editor.

Gather is a cowork,
creative and multi-use
space in Ludlow,
the heart of the Welsh
Marches.

We offer workshops,
events, collaborations,
contemporary culture.

Facilities

- Desk Space
- Meeting Room
- Photo Studio
- A3 Printer
- Scanner
- Risograph Printer
- Community Kiln
- Pottery Wheel
- Bike Racks
- Kitchen
- Pro Wifi
- Member Portal
- 30% off all workshops and clubs, talks are free



For 3 months full time access
or £20 one-off day pass

Service to Both Seller and Buyer.



With an experienced team, we offer an exceptional service to our clients, combining traditional values with modern technology. We cover all of Shropshire, Staffordshire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire, the Welsh Marches and surrounding counties, specialising in residential, agricultural and development sales and lettings.

1-2 King Street, Ludlow SY8 1AQ.

sales@balfours.co.uk
lettings@balfours.co.uk
01584 707100

www.balfours.co.uk

Balfours
PROPERTY PROFESSIONALS