



Ludlow  
TOWER

SANCTUS

the

# Parish Magazine

of LUDLOW ST LAURENCE

The fickleness of feeling

Pg5

A fond farewell

Pg7

Save Our Flag

Pg9

Washing her feet

Pg11

APRIL 2025

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April is often seen as the ‘real’ start of spring symbolising renewal and re-birth, growth and transformation. The highlight of the Christian year, Easter Sunday, when we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ, most often falls in April. For the people of St Laurence’s and St John’s churches, however, this year’s celebrations will be tinged with sadness. In this issue of the Tower Kelvin takes a look back (p7) at his times as our Rector before he, Ruth and the family move to Ross-on-Wye.

Fortunately Kelvin did not follow the advice of our friend Uncle Eustace (p38) who recommends not inspiring the congregation (p38). He will be greatly missed but he leaves with our thanks and best wishes for the future, We join our eco-worrier remembering the simpler Easter celebrations of our youth (p35) and share a very personal reflection on the symbolism of the washing of feet (p11), a key part of the special Maundy Sunday service which features in our programme of special Easter services (p23).

Happy Easter to you all.

*Lesley Harling (Editor)*

## **This month’s cover:**

**Image:** Lesley Harling  
Altar frontal at St Laurence’s

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

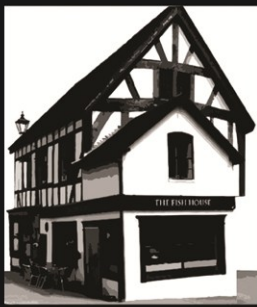
**Printing:** Signworx Hereford  
Moreton-on-Lugg, Herefordshire

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*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.*





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# THE FICKLENESS OF FEELINGS

Easter is our annual reminder of new beginnings and our place in eternity. Jesus' resurrection reminds us that we have a new life awaiting us when we die. As you are most likely aware, Easter Day is my last as Rector of Ludlow. As of 21 April I shall be within a new benefice with new beginnings for my family and ministry. The last few months have been filled with farewells and reminiscing over the last eight plus years while we have been living in Ludlow. Emotions have understandably been a mix of heaviness, knowing I shall miss so many of you, and a sense of excitement about what awaits in my new parishes.

Emotions are good, but can hinder our perspective, especially when reflecting on our current place within our journey of faith. Our feelings are not always reliable or accurate. If we rely just on our feelings, then faith is indeed a fickle thing. We all know too well that at times God can feel close, but also for no understandable reason at other times far away. However, the truth at the heart of the Gospel is that God, through Christ, is ever present, whether or not we experience that closeness within our current emotional state.



Swiss psychiatrist, Carl Jung, said 'Bidden or not bidden, God is present'. Thus, during Holy Week God was present on Good Friday, just as much as on Easter Day. The important thing is not to confuse *our* experiences and emotions with the reality of Easter resurrection.

This leads us to the undeniable point that embracing this reality requires a leap of faith. No logic or experiment will prove the existence of God or convince us of the Easter story. Yet faith knows more. Faith is often going to be challenging and mysterious, but truly life-changing if we are willing to take that leap. Since it is the only truth that offers light and hope in the midst of darkness, and a future that gives our life new purpose even in the face of death, so I commend it to you wholeheartedly.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed,  
Alleluia.

With many thanks for all your support, prayers, and friendship during my time as Rector of Ludlow,

*Kelvin*





**21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

## **We are back with the third Ludlow Piano Festival!**

**And our programme for 2025 is as full of variety as ever!**

We begin with our legendary **'Celebrity Concert'**, we have themed concerts which turn the spotlight on American, Polish and female composers, a rarely-heard piano duet arrangement of **Holst's Planets Suite**, we have **'Desert Island Piano'** with **Sheila Hancock**, Debbie Wiseman plays her own music from **'Wolf Hall'**; we have more **'Jazz in the Afternoon'**, an evening of **'Popular Classics'**, solo recitals from emerging young talent and from two of this country's most cherished pianists: **Joanna MacGregor** and **Peter Donohoe**.

Over five days in May, we hope to bring beautiful music, people from near and far and unforgettable experiences from morning 'til evening to lovely Ludlow.

**Put the dates in your diary, book your tickets and spread the word!**

For further details and ticket information visit our website:

**[www.ludlowpianofestival.com](http://www.ludlowpianofestival.com)**

# A FOND FAREWELL

*As Kelvin prepares to take his final service on Easter Sunday we invited him to look back at his time in Ludlow.*

## **Has life as Rector of Ludlow been as you expected?**

They say that if you want to make God laugh, just tell him your plans ... I had never spent more than three years in one place and I was expecting to do the same, make a bit of a mark and move on. And here we are 8½ years later ...

There have been other surprises – the growth in mission across all social strata, the engagement of local people who see the church as an important part of their community, the arrival of not one but two curates, productive ecumenical partnering, the creation of our not-for-profit Shop at St Laurence and Icon Coffee, the gift to St Laurence's of the HMS Ludlow ship's bell.

## **With challenges along the way?**

It's fair to say that the restoration of the fabric and internal reordering of our two churches were massive jobs and there were some significant financial issues to resolve and relationships to nurture. It was very hard work but having good people alongside made meeting the challenges enjoyable and time and again God's spirit could be seen at work in the team. In so many cases we achieved far more than I thought possible. Stephen Treasure and I had an idea of reorganising the Parish Office but its transformation into a space serving the community, supporting those in need, nurturing small groups exploring their faith and building the kingdom has been beyond our dreams.



## **What about 'works in progress'?**

The work at Stephen House is just getting going and congregations are growing – up 10% since the end of Covid restrictions with new, younger, members drawn from all areas of the community.

## **Any regrets?**

Being the rector of a historically important parish church which welcomes 90,000 visitors a year and requires maintenance more in line with a cathedral than a 'normal' parish church is a huge honour and privilege but it leaves little time for pastoral work in the busy market town it serves. The thing I shall miss most is the people. I have made very good friends here.

## **How about the family?**

Ruth and I have had a wonderful time bringing up the family in Ludlow. Some of the children have already flown the nest but it has always been home, especially for Josh, our youngest who was only 2½ when we arrived and is now nearing the end of primary school. Christmas is always a very special time for us as a family. Perhaps my best memory is opening up the church for morning prayer and seeing the Moravian star floating under the tower crossing in the half light – it was mesmerising. It has been a very special time.



Victoria Allen



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## SAVE OUR FLAG



PLEASE HELP SAVE  
THE WHITE ENSIGN  
of  
HMS LUDLOW

Find more information in St Laurence's Church

and at

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Search: Ludlow—Save Our Flag

We are grateful for any contribution.  
The 'giving' options currently  
available:

1. BACS – Payable to Ludlow PCC.  
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00016766.

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3. Contribution placed in a yellow  
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# SAVE OUR FLAG

Last month we reported on the condition of our 'Comper Banner' and what is needed to maintain it. In this issue, we consider the White Ensign flag of HMS Ludlow and how we urgently need help to conserve it. In 2016, a conservator described the ensign as being 'in a very poor condition' and estimated a cost of more than £4,000 to save it. We know it will cost even more now but a National Trust conservator recently advised the flag can be saved, provided action is taken soon.

Why should we save the flag you may ask? I suggest it is a matter of honour and of commemoration in this, the eightieth year since the end of WW2... and because it belongs to the town. Originally the ship, a destroyer, was launched in 1917 as the U.S.S. Stockton in America. In 1940, with forty-four other 'Town Class' ships, she was passed to the Royal Navy and renamed HMS Ludlow to mark a connection between our Ludlow and others in the USA.

Our townspeople 'adopted' the ship and sent the crew gifts such as board games, wireless sets and books. The 'ladies of Ludlow' also used their sewing skills to produce the White Ensign flag in silk. It was 'dedicated' at St Laurence's church and then sent to the ship, where it 'sailed' with the crew during Atlantic and North Sea convoy escorts and played a part on D Day. The ensign was never 'government issue' and as such, belongs to the town.



*Rector Kelvin Price, PCC member Eric Griffiths and former MP Philip Dunne under the ensign*

HMS Ludlow was decommissioned in June 1945 and her White Ensign ultimately returned to Ludlow to be 'laid up' in St Laurence's.

In 2016, efforts to conserve the flag attracted donations but not enough; now we have a chance to remedy that to save 'our' White Ensign.

We seek to raise sufficient funds for the work needed from various funding groups and organisations but they will want to know how important it is to the people of Ludlow? And that is where we need your help.



Please contribute what you can to help us save our flag. Thank you.

*Eric Griffiths*

**Follow this link for more detailed information**

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:EU:9c9ef5f8-1fa8-46e0-9edf-d2cac2321b12>

# EXTRA SUNDAY SERVICES THIS MONTH

*First Sunday*

## CHORAL EVENSONG



**3.30pm**  
**In the chancel**  
**Sunday 6 April**

*Fourth Sunday*

## The Living Room



**All-age informal worship**  
Conversation, games, food and a simple sharing of bread and wine

**3.30pm Sunday 27 April**  
**At St John's**

*Third Sunday*

## CHORAL MATINS



**12.15pm**  
**(time change for this month only)**  
**In the chancel**  
**Sunday 20 April**

*Fourth Sunday*

## Celtic Prayer

An Evening Liturgy  
St Laurence's Church, Ludlow



A simple service in a style used  
by the Iona Community

**6.00pm**  
**Sunday 27 April**

# WASHING HER FEET



A snowstorm found me deputising for the carer at a moment's notice. We came to the foot washing ceremony, a novel experience for both. Suddenly I was impacted by the symbolism, recalling how Jesus had taken the servant role by washing the disciples' feet. As I knelt before 95-year-old Mum, all kinds of scenarios flitted through my mind.

These were the feet that had walked her to the altar in her teens to be confirmed; when she made the Christian commitment that lasted all her life; when she asked God to choose her future husband. They were the feet that took her to Dad's workshop to ask for driving lessons. Aged eighteen, they danced for joy on her wedding day. The same feet thundered upstairs in anger when we played around as children rather than sleep; they fetched me back when I ran away from home after a fierce clash of wills.

Those feet accompanied me reluctantly to the airport when I left for Sierra Leone. Months later, they met me when I returned a mess, slamming the door on her festivities. They had laboured on alone when she needed the help I failed to give.

My professional eyes kicked in and noticed the deformities. Forty years of osteoarthritis had taken toll. I kicked into bossy daughter mode to deliver a lecture on 'Suitable Footwear'. She smiled at me. There was no pain. They had been like this for ages. She loved the shoes we had just bought. She would let me know if problems arose.

I finished washing and drying the feet, thoughtful and oh so grateful. How patient she was with me. The feet walked slowly back to her chair and we enjoyed a cuppa together, happy to have shared a brief 'God moment' in a very ordinary day.

*Eileen Padmore*



**9:30 - 5:00  
Mon to Sat**



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# THE FEAR OF FAILURE

We talk a lot about failure. It is something we are super sensitive about. We have all had our failures. I am no exception and struggle most days with a fear of failing family, colleagues, church and God. Fear of failure is the reverse of what the gospel teaches but we are all extremely susceptible. It causes leaders to become risk averse and instinctively protect the institution, sometimes shamefully at the expense of the vulnerable. Farmers have told me that they don't want to be the one that lets the farm go under and church people vow to battle on because 'this mustn't fail on our watch'. The pressure of the ancestors, of tradition, of the sheer hard work of those who have gone before is colossal. Believe me, I do not want to be the Dean of Hereford under whose leadership a millennium of cathedral life goes horribly wrong. When Christ's Church fails, it is particularly heartbreaking, for it implies to others the failure of God.

The shame that accompanies personal and institutional failure scars us and trains us to count the cost, play it safe, and fear the unknown. Yet we know from experience that often failure leads to change and growth. Fear of failure among those called to live by the Spirit in the discomfort of risk leads to a lack of trust in God that literally asphyxiates His ability to create fresh possibilities, the most powerful of which is resurrection.

In the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus sweated over His anticipated cup of suffering, begging the Father to take it from Him.



Image by Gerd Altmann (Pixabay)

In the end, he chose to enter into the tragedy of his crucifixion. The long-awaited Messiah ended his mission in what looked like abject failure. Yet His willingness to trust God and submit to that failure led to the unimaginable expansion of God's kingdom. Even if our model of mission today also seems doomed to failure, we are called to step into it and trust in a fruitful future because that is what God promises and what Jesus did.

The physical resurrection of Jesus on Easter morning is both concrete testimony that God accompanies His people into the very depths and a blueprint for his plan to show that His love is stronger than all our faults, fears and failures. The Resurrection shows His capacity to redeem and make new life even out of death itself.

In these difficult times let us live and die as people who believe in Resurrection not out of naïve optimism but because we have seen the Risen Christ. If God can do that then all bets on personal and institutional failure are off and as Peter Pan observed, 'to die may be an awfully big adventure'.

*The Very Revd Sarah Brown  
Dean of Hereford*

# Arts@St Laurence – April 2025

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



## The Ludlow English Song Weekend

**Buzz!**

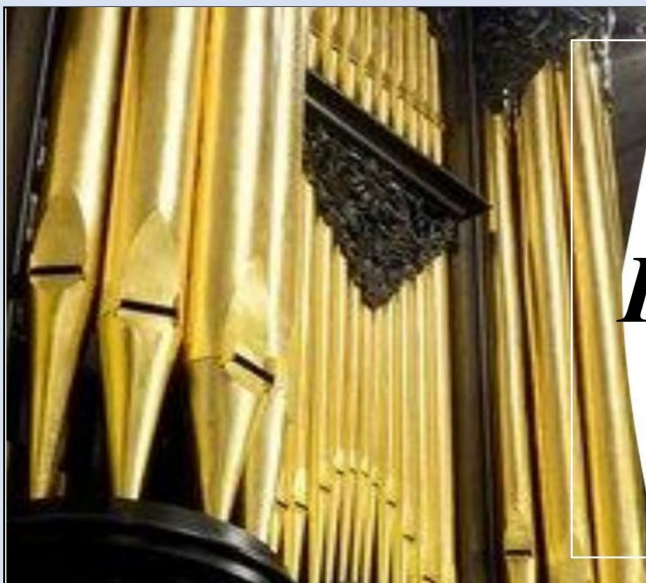
Saturday 12 April 2025

7.30 pm

Lotte Betts-Dean *Mezzo*, Brett Dean *violin*, Ian Burnside *piano*

Tickets available from [www.ludlowassemblyrooms.co.uk](http://www.ludlowassemblyrooms.co.uk)

And coming in early May – our first Organ Recital of 2025



**Organ Recital**

**Saturday 3 May 2025**

**1.00pm**

***Robert Patterson***

St Etheldreda's Church, London

Free Entry: Donations Welcome

## FROM THE REGISTERS



### At St Laurence's Funerals

20 February Wendy Jacks

4 March James Goode  
(Hereford crem)

6 March Philip Devereux  
(Hereford crem)

14 March Richard Bissell

### At St John's Baptism

23 February Harriet Maud Roe

### Funerals

18 February Terrance Allen

28 February Jennifer Rawlings

## PCC NEWS

The PCC held a special confidential meeting on Monday 17 February to discuss legal aspects of the repair and restoration of the collapsed section of the town walls adjacent to the closed churchyard. Ten members attended.

- ◆ Date of next meeting:  
Monday 28 April 2025

Preparations are in hand for the Annual Meetings to be held after the Parish Eucharist service on Sunday 11 May.

- ◆ The Annual Parish Meeting (APM) elects two churchwardens each year
- ◆ The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) receives formal reports on all aspects of church life in the previous calendar year and elects PCC members.



## THE TRUE MEANING OF EASTER

A guide to 12 weird and wonderful facts showing the enduring significance of Easter  
(Bob Lepine, 10Publishing, £3.99)



- ◆ The Easter Bunny was a little late to the party
- ◆ It took an emperor to pin down the date
- ◆ The pagan goddess Eostre makes a brief appearance
- ◆ Eggs really do have significance, chocolate not so much ...
- ◆ Making hot cross buns was once a criminal offence
- ◆ At least 18 laws were broken to condemn Jesus to death
- ◆ The Romans didn't really want to kill Jesus
- ◆ Good Friday was the worst day in all history
- ◆ You can survive crucifixion, but Jesus didn't
- ◆ Dead men do walk
- ◆ Easter is to die for - literally

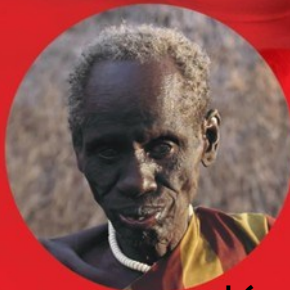


# Lent Lunch

**St Laurence's Church**  
**Friday 21 March**  
**Friday 4 April**  
**12noon - 1.30pm**

**christian  
aid**

We believe in life  
before death



By holding a Lent Lunch for  
Christian Aid you'll be raising  
money for vulnerable people  
like Michael across the world.



# LOSS AND DAMAGE IN ETHIOPIA



However grim the weather here may have been this winter we can be fairly confident that it will get sunnier and warmer fairly soon. In many countries, such as Ethiopia, it is less predictable.

As part of one Christian Aid project volunteers from the Dasenech community in southern Ethiopia created a photographic exhibition 'Loss and Damage in Ethiopia'.



When the community was displaced by flooding in 2023-24 the women took responsibility for

constructing new homes, as was the tradition in their culture. Wood was scarce so they responded to the challenge using grass.

Wood is also vital for fishing and transport. The community makes boats out of logs to use as ferries on the River Omo, a means of travel affected by flooding and drought.



When these children fish it is not an enjoyable holiday activity but a way providing essential food, albeit with the risks associated with snakes and



crocodiles. Perhaps we could all be thinking of these communities when we grumble about our

Tesco delivery or a visit to Aldi.

Ayara Lote 45 and his 12-year-old son Nicholas look after goats, acquired through Christian Aid, a vital lifeline after



they lost most of their livestock through drought or flooding due to climate change.

Tango Akagna's goats not only provide a livelihood but help her, as a woman, to feel a valued part of the community giving them some prestige.



I'm pretty certain that our annual coffee morning in August will look nothing like this photo of 28-year-old Mitin Meslin enjoying a traditional morning drink, Shoforo, traditionally made from coffee husks and drunk early in the morning before the men go out to tend their cattle. The January '25 drought means many no longer have livestock to tend but drinking Shoforo continues.



This project has supported community groups through small grants plus training, enabling participants to start and manage their own businesses, improving their incomes and diversifying their livelihoods despite the many challenges. One of the most significant aspects of the project has been giving those involved a chance to tell their own stories, thus embodying Christian Aid's theme of empowering others rather than doing it for them. It is good to be a part, however small, of such projects and transformations.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

*Claire 07906 894227*

# 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  
3.30pm The Living Room  
3rd Sunday (St John's church)  
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

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dainpritchard@googlemail.com

### Ludlow Methodist Church

10.30am Sunday worship

#### Contact

Ludlowmethodist@outlook.com

### Ludlow Quakers

10.30am Meeting for worship

#### Contact

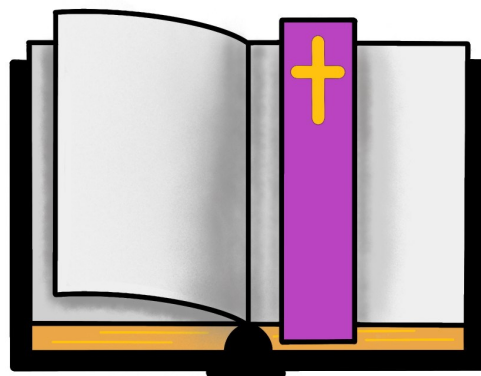
Cynthia Prior 01584 831855

### 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



# THE PREACHING OF THE CROSS

It has been my privilege seven times in the last few years to lead our thoughts in the two hours beginning at noon on Good Friday and I have been asked to do so again this year. For my last contribution to our meditations on the Cross, I am going to look at how various animals can focus our thoughts. For want of a better title, I call it 'Cross Bred Creatures'. Please come and join me, for all or part of that time – you don't have to be there from beginning to end! As always there will be wonderful organ music to aid our prayers.

Andrew Body

*All the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that ever were built, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of mankind on this earth as powerfully as has that one solitary life.*

*James A Francis*

## HOLY WEEK SERVICES



**Sunday 13 April**

- Palm Sunday procession **9.40am**  
(from Buttercross)  
Benefice Choral Eucharist **10.00am**

**Maundy Thursday 17 April**

- Solemn Eucharist **7.00pm**  
(with incense and washing of feet)



**Friday 18 April**

- Procession of Witness **9.30am**  
(from Ludlow Mascall Centre)  
Preaching of the Cross **12noon**  
Liturgy of the Cross **2.00pm**

**Holy Saturday 19 April**

- Easter Vigil (with incense) **8.30pm**



**Sunday 20 April**

- Holy Communion BCP **8.15am**  
Benefice Choral Eucharist **10.00am**  
Choral Matins **12.15pm**

All are very welcome to join us at St Laurence's for any of the services leading up to the most important celebration in the Christian year - the Resurrection of our Lord.

# LUDLOW LOCAL LISTING

## Artwork

### Ludlow Castle Gallery

Quality affordable picture framing and artwork. Fast friendly service. Unusual gifts and cards. You can find us within the walls of Ludlow Castle just before the café/restaurant Chapter 66. Phone **07946191716**.

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## Food

### Myriad Organics

22 Corve Street 01584 872664 [myriad-organics.co.uk](http://myriad-organics.co.uk)

Ludlow's widest range of organic and healthy produce: Fruit & veg, wholefoods, groceries, bread, meat & dairy, vegan & vegetarian, natural cleaning products, bodycare, supplements & cosmetics. Zero-waste options & refills for bodycare & cleaning products.

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# WHAT'S ON AT ST LAURENCE'S



## IN APRIL

### Until Monday 7 April

Ludlow Art Society Spring Exhibition

**Wednesday 2** 6.00pm  
Holy Communion (Common Worship)

**Friday 4** 12-1.30pm  
Lent Lunch

**Sunday 6** 3.30pm  
Choral Evensong

**Monday 7** 3.00pm  
Open Tea

**Wednesday 9** 10.30am  
St Laurence Primary Easter Service

**Thursday 10** 1.30pm  
St Laurence Primary Year 6  
Easter Performance

**Saturday 12** 1.00pm  
Wedding - Jade Priddy & Luke Henson

**Sunday 13**  
Palm Sunday procession 9.40am  
Benefice Eucharist 10.00am  
**Church closed until 3.00pm**

**Thursday 17**  
Solemn Eucharist 7.00pm  
*(with incense and washing of feet)*

**Friday 18**  
Walk of Witness 9.30am  
*From Ludlow Mascall Centre*

Preaching of the Cross 12noon  
Liturgy of the Cross 2.00pm

**Saturday 19**  
Easter Vigil *(with incense)* 8.30pm

**Sunday 20**  
Holy Communion (BCP) 8.15am  
Choral Eucharist 10.00am  
Choral Matins 12.15pm

### Sunday 27

Parish Eucharist 10.00am  
Living Room at St John's 3.30pm  
Celtic Prayer 6.00pm

## MIDWEEK

**Daily prayer**  
Mondays and Fridays 9.30am

**Holy Communion**  
First Wednesday in month 6.00pm

**Contemplation Group**  
Wednesdays 10.30am

**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



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

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

<https://stlaurences.org.uk/google-calendar/>

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# A COLLECTION OF COLLECTIONS

Sometimes I wander out of the shop to find that it's volunteer change-over time, and instead of two volunteers, there are four of them, plus sometimes a small dog ... which leads to the question 'What is the collective noun for a group of volunteers?'. I have asked a few of them this question, with results ranging from ... 'an enthusiasm', 'a flurry' or 'a dazzle' to 'a bevy' or an 'instruction'. Sadly, I can't find an official answer, and I'm pretty certain the Book of St Albans won't have one ...

The Book of St Albans, dated 1486, comprises three essays, on hawking, hunting and heraldry. Not only does this book instruct us in the birds of prey appropriate to different social ranks (a gyrfalcon for a king, a merlin for a lady and a sparrowhawk for a priest) but its appendix contains a long list of 'company terms', or special collective nouns. Some of the more notable are a diligence of messengers, a melody of harpers, a blast of hunters, a subtlety of sergeants, a gaggle of women, and a superfluity of nuns.

If you can't get hold of a copy of the Book of St Albans, *A Murmuration of Starlings* by Steve Palin must be the next



*A Descent of woodpeckers*

best thing! From an army of frogs to a yoke of oxen, this book presents around 50 animals, with wonderfully detailed illustrations. It also has a description of the etymology behind each word, some with roots back to mediaeval times. A total of 420 collective nouns are listed in the glossary.



*A Kindle of kittens*



*A Labour of moles*

Some have a gloriously positive feel, like an exultation of skylarks; some are a bit strange like a smuck of jellyfish; some are simply

illogical,

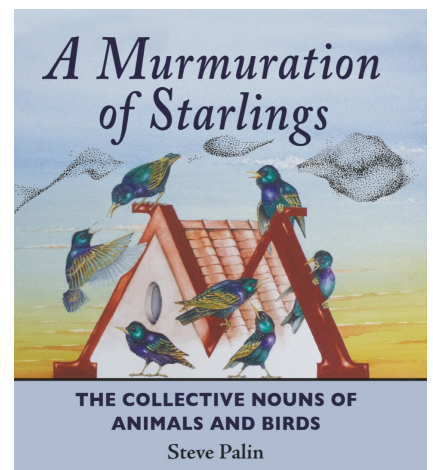
like a mute of hounds. But all are fascinating.

This really is the perfect gift for anyone, regardless of their age: great for nature lovers or even the pub quiz or crossword enthusiast.



*A Pod of whales*

*Can YOU think of a suitable collective noun for a group of volunteers? Suggestions 'on a postcard' to The Shop at St Laurence. The best suggestion, as chosen by the judges, wins a copy of the book.*





# OPEN TEA AT ST LAURENCE

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

**MONDAY 7 APRIL**

ALL WELCOME TO OUR  
**TEA SERVICE!**

A SHORT SERVICE OF  
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Praise & Worship



at St. John's Church, Gravel Hill

**SUNDAY, 13<sup>th</sup> APRIL**  
2-30pm



## CHILDREN'S EASTER EGG TRAIL



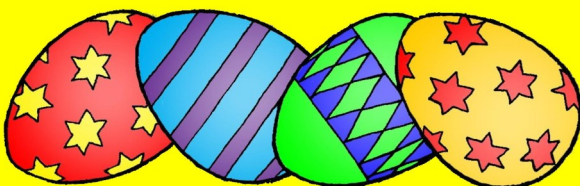
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**Were you married in  
St. Laurence's Church?**

# Wedding Dresses EXHIBITION



We are looking for local Brides who would allow us to display their wedding dress in the above exhibition.

The exhibition generates great interest with locals and visitors alike, more especially so if your wedding was held in our Parish Church.

Contact Margaret Edwards at Poyner's Shop at the top of Broad Street for details of the exhibition.

**St Laurence's Church**  
**30 June until 12 July**

THE PARISH CHURCH OF  
ST LAURENCE LUDLOW

EXHIBITION ORGANISED BY  
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# MORE CLEARLY, DEARLY AND NEARLY

Have you ever wondered where the prayer ... *'May I know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, and follow thee more nearly, day by day'* comes from? Richard of Chichester, a bishop in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, is credited with writing it.

He began life as Richard de Wych of Droitwich, the son of a yeoman farmer. But Richard was a studious boy, and after helping his father on the farm for several years, refused an advantageous offer of marriage, and instead made his way to Oxford, and later to Paris and Bologna to study canon law.

In 1235 he returned to Oxford, and was soon appointed Chancellor, where he supported Edmund, Archbishop of Canterbury, in his struggles against King Henry III's misuse of Church funds.

Richard became a priest and was in due course made a bishop himself. He was greatly loved. He was charitable and accessible, both stern and merciful to sinners, extraordinarily generous to those stricken by famine, and a brilliant legislator of his diocese. He decreed that the sacraments were to be administered without payment, Mass celebrated in dignified conditions, the clergy to be chaste, to practise residence, and to wear clerical dress. The laity was obliged to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days, and to know by heart the Hail Mary as well as the Lord's Prayer and the Creed.

Richard was also prominent in preaching the Crusade, which he saw as a call to reopen the Holy Land to pilgrims, not as a political expedition. He died at Dover on 3 April 1253 and was canonised a



saint in 1262. In art, Richard of Chichester is often shown with a chalice at his feet, in memory of his having once dropped the chalice at Mass!

Richard may be best known as the author of the well-loved prayer, now set as a hymn, which runs in full in English:

*Thanks be to thee, my Lord Jesus Christ for all the benefits thou hast given me, for all the pains and insults which thou hast borne for me. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly and follow thee more nearly, day by day.*

In fact the prayer, reputedly recited by Richard on his deathbed, was written down in Latin at the time. This transcription appears in the vast account of the lives of the saints the *Acta Sanctorum* in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The first English translation containing that memorable rhyming triplet 'clearly, dearly, nearly' was probably penned by Cecil Headlam, an English first-class cricketer and cricket historian in the early years of the twentieth century.

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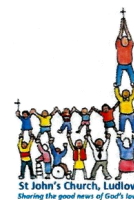


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# NEWS FROM ST JOHN'S



On 15 February, St John's hosted the Edge Chamber Concert Choir who performed 'A Little Jazz Mass' celebrating some very special birthdays - Bob Chilcott 70, John Rutter 80, Arvo Part 90. A wonderful musical evening was enjoyed by over 100 people.

## OPENING DOORS - TO THE LIGHT

A few years ago, I did some work on my family tree. I discovered that 'Kemp' was a name given to a knight or warrior, particularly jousting champions. I also learnt that the Kemp family motto is *Lucem Spero* – 'I hope for the light.'

I've been struck, particularly recently, with how this is the perfect motto for me. (Though maybe not the name definition!) I experience light in many forms in my work, from the joy of the conversation around the table at our house group, to the growing number of visitors to Stephen House. Some examples as I write: one person needing support with their housing, another a cuppa and a chat about the joys of Faith.



Oh, and not forgetting the myriad shades of soul warming sunlight, streaming through the different windows of St. Laurence's throughout the day.

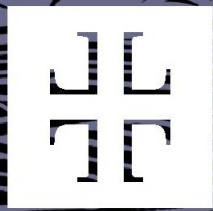
All are examples of the way God's light continually shines on both us and Stephen House. With God's good grace let's continue to hope for that light to keep shining, so we can shine it into the darker corners of our

lives, enabling us to see more clearly god's plan for us.

God Bless.



*Paul Kemp  
Lay Pastoral Worker*



# The Ludlow English Song Weekend

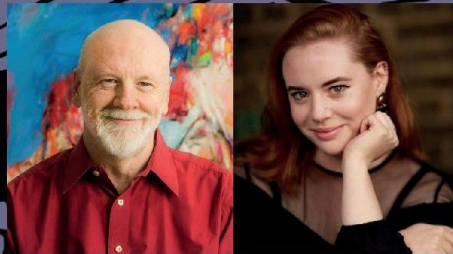
## Friday 11th – Sunday 13th April 2025

Ludlow's festival of song returns,  
with three days of concerts and events  
featuring the very best classical artists  
from the UK and around the world.



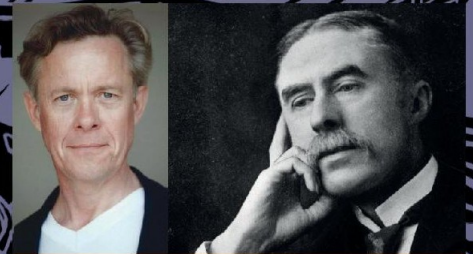
### Friday 11th April 2025

Baritone Andrew Hamilton opens the festival with 'Heart's Haven', an Italian-flavoured recital with Iain Burnside at the piano. Plus lute songs from the courts of James VI and I.



### Saturday 12th April 2025

Follow the course of true love in 'A Lovers' Tiff', then hear visionary mezzo Lotte Betts-Dean perform with her father Brett Dean in 'Buzz!'. Plus very special guest Dame Janet Baker.



### Sunday 13th April 2025

The festival closes with a unique portrait of poet A.E. Housman in songs and letters: Iain Burnside and 3 wonderful singers joined by actor Alex Jennings (*The Queen, The Lady in the Van*).

# POETS' CORNER: MALCOLM GUTE

## Easter Dawn

He blesses every love which weeps and grieves  
And now he blesses hers who stood and wept  
And would not be consoled, or leave her love's  
Last touching place, but watched as low light crept  
Up from the east. A sound behind her stirs  
A scatter of bright birdsong through the air.  
She turns, but cannot focus through her tears,  
Or recognise the Gardener standing there.  
She hardly hears his gentle question 'Why,  
Why are you weeping?', or sees the play of light  
That brightens as she chokes out her reply  
'They took my love away, my day is night'  
And then she hears her name, she hears Love say  
The Word that turns her night, and ours, to Day.



After teaching for a few years in a secondary school and gaining a PhD at Durham University he was ordained into the Church of England, serving as a curate on Huntingdon's Oxmoor estate.

Gute was chaplain to Girton College for 20 years and teaches at the Cambridge Theological Federation with a special interest in 'the interface between theology and the arts' and in Coleridge, C S Lewis and J R R Tolkien.

Gute sings and plays guitar in the band Mystery Train and writes a weekly Poet's Corner in the Church Times.

Ayodeji Malcolm Gute was born in Ibadan, Nigeria where his father was a Methodist lay preacher, in 1957. The family moved to Canada when he was ten but Gute was educated at Haberdashers' Aske's boarding school in Hertfordshire and Cambridge University, where he read English, and has lived here ever since.

He describes himself as "a poet, priest, rock and roller, in any order you like, really. I'm the same person in all three".

Gute's work, much of it written in traditional forms using rhyme and metre, has been characterised as modern-day metaphysical poems and psalms. His *Sounding the Seasons* series of sonnets follows the lectionary through the Christian year. Gute contrasts his own work in which he aims to be 'profound without ceasing to be beautiful with modern poetry which he sees as difficult and jagged, 'almost deliberately trying to put the reader off'.

# DISCOVERING SOME HIDDEN GEMS IN HEREFORDSHIRE

A guided tour by bus taking in:

- \* All Saints, Brockhampton
- \* St Tysilios, Sellack
- \* lunch at Wythall Vineyard

Then on to Ross-on-Wye to:

- \* learn about 'The Man of Ross', John Kyrle (1637-1724)
- \* visit St Mary's Church

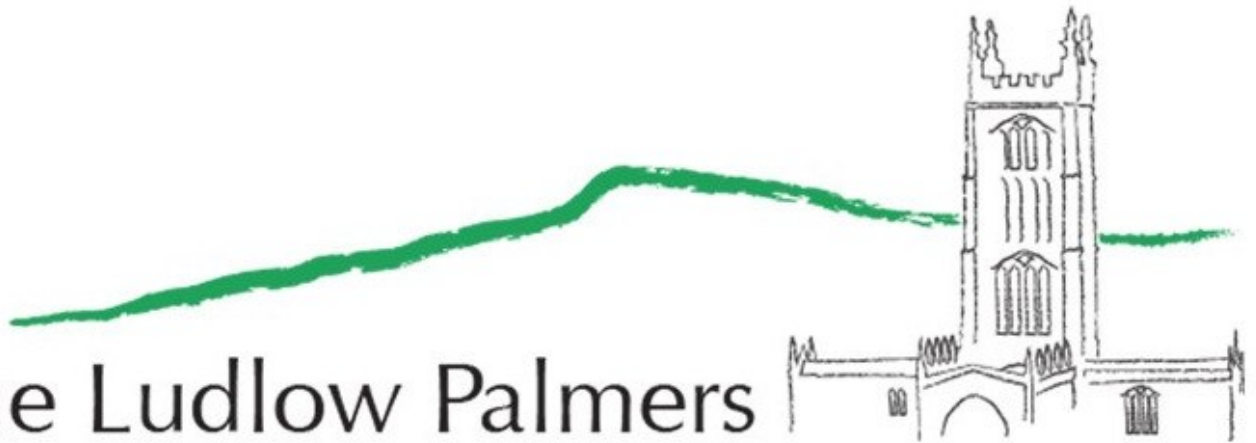
## Ludlow Palmers Church Crawl

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May

**£55 all-inclusive**

(early booking encouraged)

Contact: Roy Thwaites  
([allthwaites@gmail.com](mailto:allthwaites@gmail.com))



## The Ludlow Palmers

*Helping to conserve the fabric and treasures of St Laurence's*

## The Living Room

**Sunday  
27 April  
3.30pm  
St John's  
church**



**Food  
Fun  
Fellowship  
and a  
simple  
sharing of  
bread and  
wine**

All-age informal worship



# OUR LINKS WITH GERMANY

Do you know how many links we have with Germany?

First off, is the partnership between our diocese of Hereford and the Evangelical Lutheran Church's diocese of Nuremberg which featured in last month's Ludlow Tower. For more information look out for more readable paper copies of the leaflet in church!

Closer to home, for many years there has been a link between churches in Ludlow and Nuremberg, centring on St Laurence's and the Evangelical Lutheran Paul-Gerhardt-Church (PGK) in Langwasser, a suburb of Nuremberg. There is more information on that on St Laurence's website: you can find it by logging on working your way through 'Church & Mission' to 'Outreach' then click on the 'more information' button.



*Kelvin with Jörg in Langwasser in 2018*

Thirdly, and not to be underestimated, there are the links between individuals. This month we are hoping to welcome two old friends from PGK, Jörg Gunsenheimer and Albrecht Röttger. Jörg was the minister at PGK until he retired in autumn 2023. Revd Kelvin Price attended Jörg's final service in PGK and it will be delightful if Jörg can return the compliment by attending Kelvin's last service on Easter Day in St Laurence's.

# THE GENIUS OF MARIE TUSSAUD

In this month in 1850 Marie Tussaud, a French artist known for her wax sculptures, died, some 15 years after founding Madame Tussauds wax museum in London.

Born Anna Maria Grosholtz, Marie learned wax modelling in Paris from Philippe Curtius, who left her two wax museums. Imprisoned as a royalist during the French Revolution, she was given the job of making death masks from heads freshly removed from their bodies by the guillotine.

Her subsequent marriage to François Tussaud was not a success and she moved to England, touring for over 30 years with her collection of wax models until she found it a permanent home in London, where it became extremely popular. Charles Dickens described it as 'an institution'.

The modern day exhibition, has sites in cities across four continents. The waxwork figures depict prominent people from many fields, including three Popes, Martin Luther King and Billy Graham. But it has not been without controversy: in 2004 a Nativity scene using 'celebrities' – including David and Victoria Beckham as Joseph and Mary, Graham Norton as a shepherd and Kylie Minogue as an angel – drew much criticism and was removed after it was damaged in an attack.

Wax figures of gods were used in funeral rites in ancient Egypt; the Greeks and Romans also used them in religious ceremonies.



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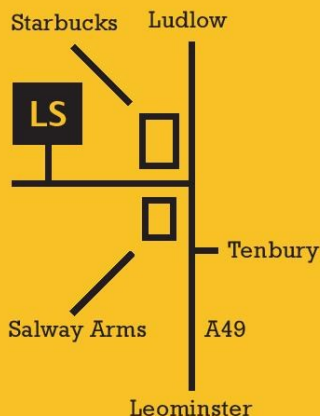


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# ECO EASTERS OF OLD

## NOTES FROM AN ECO-WORRIER

When I was a child, Easter Sundays were special days. In my memory they were always sunny and followed a set routine. We would go to a family service at our church, wearing our new clothes purchased specially for the season, take the long way home so that we could see the lambs in the field, then return in time for our roast lunch. Pudding would be our Easter eggs. The rest of the day would be spent in a haze of chocolate. As I got older the new outfits ceased to be part of the day and the eggs got fewer until they disappeared altogether when I developed diabetes. However, when my own children were old enough to appreciate them, Easter eggs again became part of the celebration, along with home-made chocolate crispy cakes and mini eggs.

These days it seems that Easter celebrations, like other seasons of the year, are becoming rather more commercialised and no home is ready for Easter if it has not been fully decorated with chickens, wreaths, eggs and bunnies. Whilst I love the idea of going all out to celebrate Christ's resurrection, I've never gone overboard with the home décor. I crocheted some chicks for my grandchildren one year, but they didn't last beyond their first bounce on the trampoline! I have some small wooden eggs which I often forget to hang up and discover sometime round about mid-summer in a drawer. The reason why I mention these things is because I started writing this piece

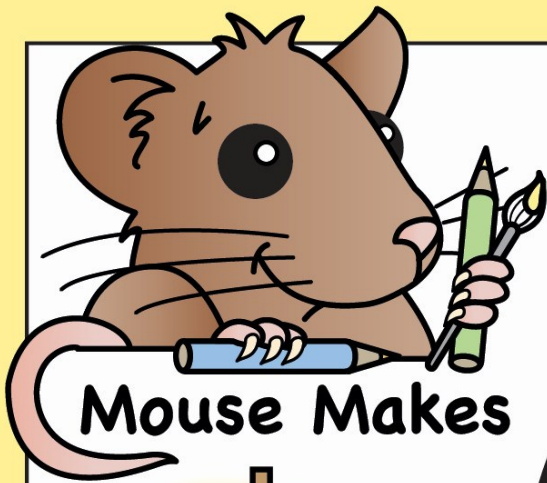
thinking that I would be encouraging people to check the source and eco-credentials of the chocolate in any eggs, along with their packaging – is it recyclable. And I would like to nudge people to think of these things. But I realise that there are many more eco-hazards to Easter. Do we need other decorations? If we do are they ecologically sound or are we just helping to increase landfill? There are lots of ways we can build memories for our friends and families without acquiring more 'stuff'. Easter egg hunts are always fun, and the eggs don't need to be plastic. Decorating blown eggs is a tricky, but rewarding, craft. Going to see lambs playing in a field is a great way to celebrate new life. And there is always egg rolling.

Easter is a fantastic time of year, so significant to Christians and a wonderful turning of the seasons. Please keep your celebrations green and eco-friendly.

*Hilary Walters*



The only Easter Egg with an Easter story book in the box. † Fairtrade chocolate † palm oil-free † plastic-free † supports charitable projects. Order at [www.realeasteregg.co.uk](http://www.realeasteregg.co.uk)



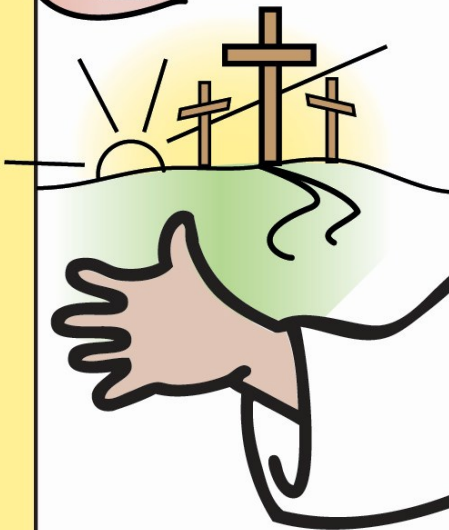
# Mouse Makes

On the cross Jesus opened wide his arms for us.  
Jesus put an end to death by dying for us,  
and showed us the resurrection to  
come by His raising to new life!



# Jesus is risen!

The angel said:  
"Jesus ...is not here, for He  
has risen, just as He said."  
*Matthew 28:6*



# Jesus is here

Jesus said:  
"Where two or three  
come together  
in my name I am  
there with them."  
*Matthew 18:20*



**READ** the story of  
the resurrection in:  
**Matthew 28:1-10**  
**Mark 16:1-19**  
**Luke 24:1-49**  
**John 20:1-29**  
**and 21:1-14**

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



# Jesus will come again!

Jesus said:  
"I will come back  
and take you to  
myself so that you  
will be where I am."  
*John 14:3*



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# ON WHY YOU SHOULD NEVER ENCOURAGE THE CONGREGATION

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

The Rectory  
St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren,

There are times when I indulge you too much. Why ever I let you run your course 'Taking Responsibility for your Church' among our congregation, I am now unable to understand. I had hopes that it might encourage a few more people to volunteer for the flower rota, or to give occasional help mowing the churchyard. I even had a vague fantasy that someone might turn detective and discover who had been eating the chocolate biscuits between Sundays, condemning the rest of us to munch on Rich Tea after Services.

Unfortunately, your course turned out to be inspirational, and it has fired up our members to take on all sorts of new initiatives. Enthusiasm in a congregation can be a very dangerous thing, especially if people start making decisions on their own.

Those who formed a welcoming group are admittedly well-meaning – although it was more than a little traumatic for those coming through the door the next Sunday to be greeted with frenzied handshakes, big toothy smiles, and even hymnbooks. That is unheard of in this church – we always ignore people and leave them to find hymnbooks – if they can.

Naturally, all those offering to take the prayers, produce new Orders of Service and even to give the occasional sermon have been booked on the appropriate training courses. By the time they have been completed, I can only hope they will have gone off the idea.

But it was the group which decided to 'beautify' the church that has proved the most tiresome. Hanging the Christmas tree lights round the altar made it look as if I was standing behind a fairground stall, waiting to invite people to throw hoops round teddy bears – although I would have rather enjoyed making winners sit for the rest of the Service holding a polythene bag containing a goldfish.

Our pulpit has also been given a makeover, with the various panels painted in contrasting colours. I am sure the sixteenth-century Flemish woodcarvers would be delighted with the result, although the next time any mediaeval historians come to view it, I shall take the day off – probably travelling abroad.

My dear Darren, your course took the stopper out of the bottle. Would you please run another to put it back?

Your loving uncle,

*Eustace*



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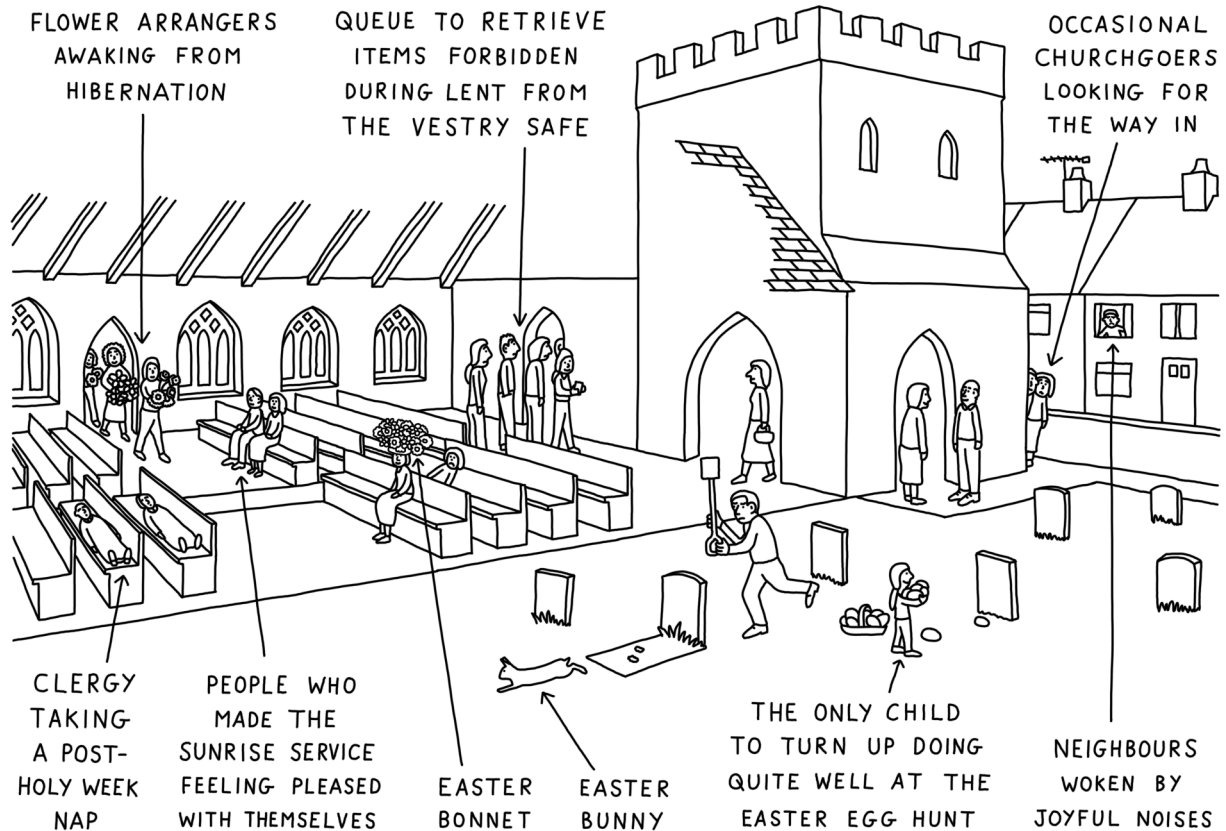
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We are happy to receive contributions and suggestions for inclusion in the magazine. Please limit items to **no more than 400 words**, except by prior

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