

the
Parish Magazine

of LUDLOW ST LAURENCE

Does it have to
be today?

Pg5

Opening the
oven door

Pg15

Contronyms

Pg29



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March can be an unpredictable month. One minute the sun is shining, the daffodils are dancing and you can believe that spring is really on its way. The next, temperatures plummet, skies darken and winter comes roaring back. Fortunately, the church's calendar is more dependable. Easter may be a 'moveable feast' but once we have reached Ash Wednesday, as we did on 18 February this year, we know that Lent will lead us inexorably towards it, offering some reassurance in an increasingly uncertain world.

In this issue of our parish magazine we learn of a heartening public response to one man's efforts to provide the reassurance of light and heat in the darkest of circumstances (p19) and of the difference the simple act of cooking and eating food together can make to the people's lives (p15) while we ponder on the importance of our choice of words in communicating with others (p5) - and on their relative unimportance in communicating with God (p7).

Lesley Harling (Editor)
07309 263730

This month's cover

Image: Harry Webb
Magnolia bud

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

Printing: Signworx Hereford
Moreton-on-Lugg, Herefordshire

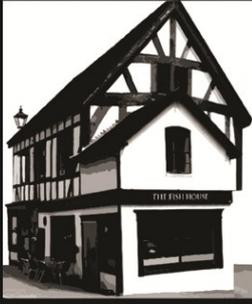
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THE POWER OF WORDS

My search for *le mot juste* for this letter made me aware once again of the wonder and power of words, and our ability to communicate complex and subtle ideas to each other. So much of our personal hardware is dedicated to this task of communication: the mouth and larynx that make speech possible; ears, sensitive to minute changes in air pressure and sound wave frequency; eyes giving us three-dimensional high-resolution moving images; and brains to analyse the stream of data from ears and eyes and make sense of it all in real time. Time and again each day we experience a miracle we take for granted, that a complex thought of one conscious being can be immediately communicated to another. This extraordinary power of subtle communication sets us apart from the rest of the animal kingdom and is a large part of what it means to be made in the image of God. For our God is a communicator; indeed he is called 'The Word'. And every word of God is a word of authority and creative power. 'And God said, Let there be and it was so.'

Our words likewise are invested with power – for good or for evil. To have a tongue is to carry great responsibility. And we have never been more aware of its power for harm than in our current world in which communication is so instantaneous.

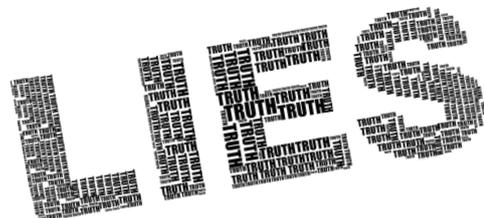
We can all recall at least one instance where careless words have committed someone to a long term of imprisonment and other words that have encouraged distressed people towards suicide.

Yet our words also have the potential for great good and, like the words of God, creativity. We think of words which have inspired millions and steered the course of history. 'We shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds ... we shall never surrender.' 'Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country.' 'I have a dream ...'

It may not be given to us to make an impact on millions of people by our words but we can never anticipate how important our words might be to an individual this very day. Neil Baldwin, whose story was portrayed in the TV film *Marvellous*, said something which once saved the life of a girl about to commit suicide. He simply said, 'Well dear, we've all got to go sometime – but does it have to be today?'

'In the beginning was the Word ... and the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us ... full of Grace and Truth.' God's ultimate communication to his creatures, the man Christ Jesus, shows us all we need to know about God.

John Williams





Volunteer for the Poppy Appeal

Poppy Appeal Organisers are vital in enabling us to support our Armed Forces community through thick and thin – ensuring their unique contribution is never forgotten.

For more information on becoming a part of our incredible volunteer team please see the key information below, or scan the QR code to visit our site.



[rbl.org.uk/poppyvolunteer](https://www.rbl.org.uk/poppyvolunteer)



The Royal British Legion in Shropshire is recruiting for a volunteer Poppy Appeal Organiser in Ludlow.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of the Poppy Appeal, and without these organisers in place poppies aren't available within the communities. All training is provided and out of pocket expenses covered. Support is in place all year round from the Shropshire Poppy Appeal Manager, Jenny Komiatis Jkomiatis@britishlegion.org.uk

If Remembrance and the military have a special place in your heart, or if you are looking to expand your skills in fundraising, volunteer management or record keeping as well as getting out into your community, please head to the RBL website using this link pathway

<https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer/volunteering-roles/poppy-appeal-volunteers/application-form>

WORD FOR WORD OR SENSE FOR SENSE?



**“Sometimes, word for word,
sometimes, sense for sense.”**

Alfred the Great, *Preface to the Anglo-Saxon version of St Gregory’s ‘Pastoral Care’*

My daughter Kath recently sent me this picture. It shows a pegboard, the kind of board full of holes, onto which you can place letters to spell out messages for different purposes: a menu-display in a restaurant; notices posted in a church; memos at home; instructions in a school classroom; a welcome in a hotel lobby. There are large pegboards and small ones, outdoor ones and indoor ones, black-and-white ones and coloured ones. But they all do the same job.

My daughter’s image, as you’ll see, was of a black pegboard full of white letters. At the top lefthand corner were the words DEAR JESUS and at the bottom righthand corner was the word AMEN. And in between, covering the whole of the rest of the board, was a jumble of letters, dozens of them, never straight, upside down, overlapping, sideways on, and there weren’t two letters together that made any sense.

It reminded me of the story of an old farmer whose cart grinds to a halt because the rim of one of the wooden wheels has split. The local vicar happens along and suggests that prayer might help, to calm the farmer down, or to manifest some deliverance. The old man starts to pray first, “Dear God,” he says, “A b c d e f g h i ...” and when he’s gone all the way through the alphabet, he starts again, “A b c ...”. The vicar stops him, and remonstrates, “This is no prayer, my man. What on earth are you doing?” “Oh,” the farmer replies, “I ain’t got no clever prayers like you, vicar. But God knows what I wants. So I gives God the letters, and he puts them together in the prayers that make sense.”

Sometimes, my prayers are like that, like a farmer’s a b c, or Kath’s pegboard. I start, and I end. And in between, I have no idea what to say or do. So I stay with my jumbled letters and thoughts, in between my “Dear God” and my “Amen”. It’s enough for me to know that my God will make sense of the rest. Word for word, or sense for sense? Does it matter?

A Prayer for Today

*Dear God, w j x p c f y m b q z g r p k a l c
x n u m ... Amen*

© Tom Gordon

Tom Gordon is a member of the Iona Community, a former Church of Scotland parish minister and hospice chaplain, now retired, who writes a daily blog:

Reflections and Hymns at <https://swallowsnestnet.wordpress.com/>



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INTRODUCING ...

Please tell us a bit about yourself.

My name is Tessa Francis. I have lived in Shropshire, in or around Bridgnorth, all my life, apart from university. My parents and younger brother are all still in Bridgnorth and I have never wanted to live anywhere else.

I studied music at Bristol University for three years. The original plan was to focus on composition with an idea of writing music for film and television but I did a first-year module on mediaeval music and just fell in love with it. I always liked history, especially the Tudors, and ended up writing my dissertation on the mediaeval manuscript of Barking Abbey nunnery, arguing that women were responsible for most of the music written at the time. When I graduated I moved back to Bridgnorth and completed a masters in marketing and management at Birmingham University. I worked in marketing and business administration for a while but stopped full-time work when I had my first child, a boy who is now four, soon followed by his sister who is two and a half. Later I started working part-time from home in the evenings and at the weekend.

What brought you to Ludlow?

Actually it was probably St Laurence's! My husband works in Hereford in cybersecurity and wanted to move closer for a shorter commute. We always thought it would be Church Stretton but when a friend of mine moved to Ludlow we came to visit, walked round the church and knew it had to be here.



What was your first impression?

It seemed very grand but with so much history attached - and my little boy adores the children's area.

So what do you do at the church?

I have just started working in the parish office as accounts assistant, taking over from Grace. There is a lot to learn – it is certainly more complex than a straightforward company—but I am really enjoying it.

How do you spend your spare time?

Spare time?! I have two under-fives, two jobs and a new home so I don't have much of that. I love walking but it's not easy to get away.

What might we surprised to know about you?

I don't think there's anything very surprising about me but my mother was struck by lightning while peak-bagging – and lived to tell the tale.

THIRD SUNDAY SERVICES IN JANUARY

First Sunday

THE LIVING ROOM



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

3.30pm at St John's
1 March

First Sunday

CHORAL EVENSONG



3.30pm
In St Laurence's chancel
1 March

Third Sunday

CHORAL MATINS



11.30am
In the chancel
15 March

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
22 March

NEWS FROM THE PCC



There is no summary this month because the PCC did not meet in January but that does not mean we were not busy. St Laurence's PCC (Parochial Church Council) comes together every 5-6 weeks for formal meetings but much of its work takes place between meetings, through a number of committees, including Finance, Fabric, Liturgy, Pastoral Care and Arts@StLaurence, with working groups set up for individual events.

The PCC has a key role to play in a vacancy, not merely 'keeping things ticking over' but making sure that our new Rector, once appointed, finds a thriving and vibrant church.

Staffing

In recent months we have recruited two new members of staff. Anna Dunne and Tessa Francis (see p9) are our new finance team, having taken over from Peter Nield and Grace Wilkins who are retiring after many years of committed service.

In nine years as Finance Manager, much of it while 'double-hatting' as Director of Operations and/or Director of Strategy Peter has guided St Laurence's from the brink of financial disaster to a position of stability with reserves rising steadily year on year. Achieving this, ably supported by Grace, while managing the finances for the Stephen House project is no mean feat, and one for which we are most grateful.

Fabric

The masons from McMillan and Holder are making steady progress on the project, funded by the Conservation Trust (Ludlow Palmers) to 'defrass' the external stonework.

The Lady Chapel windows damaged earlier this year by vandals have been repaired with metal grilles fitted for protection against any repetition.

Eric Griffith is leading the process of finding a new church architect to conduct the Quinquennial Inspection, due this year.

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BE ON THE PCC?

- ◇ A desire to contribute to the life of the church
- ◇ A willingness to play an active part in supporting its mission, its people and its church building
- ◇ Membership of the church electoral roll
- ◇ Nomination by two other members of the roll

There will be several vacancies on the PCC at the May Annual Parochial Church Meeting. If you would like to know more about what is entailed, speak to Lesley (churchwarden) or any PCC member.



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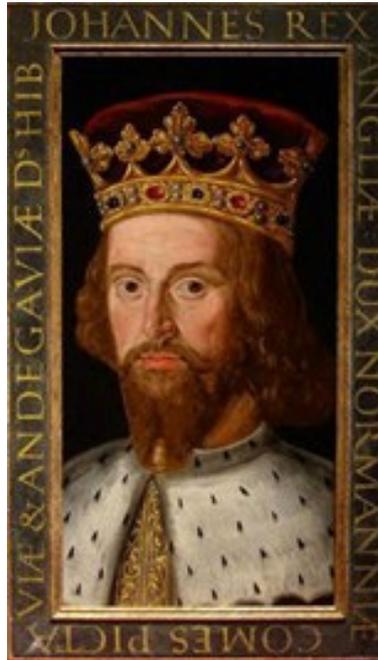
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INTERDICT – THE ORIGINAL BREAK WITH ROME

As the ‘rebuilding’ of St Laurence’s church began in 1199, Richard I, King of England, (who hardly set foot in the country) died in France. The crown passed to the last of Henry II’s sons, John ‘Lackland’, so known because he was never expected to inherit much at all. King John is often reviled, with some suggesting cruelty, lechery and treachery were some of his better characteristics.



King John

Defeated in France in 1204 and under threat of invasion, John concentrated on raising revenue to renew his army. It was no easy task but excommunication by Pope Innocent III in 1209, may have helped. In 1206 John rejected the Pope’s consecration of Stephen Langton as Archbishop of Canterbury, claiming that his approval was required. When the Pope’s entreaties for a change of heart failed he demanded John’s unconditional surrender. It was a ‘cold war’.

On 23 March 1208, the Pope imposed an interdict on England, denying people access to communion, burials in consecrated ground, church weddings and baptisms, confession, last rites and much more; even the ringing of church bells was forbidden. King John’s reported response was ‘to slit the noses and tear out the eyes of all Italians and papal clerks in England’, which perhaps explains why a good many, including the

Bishop of Hereford, fled to the continent.

Vacant church property was seized and the king ‘enjoyed the revenues unspent’. In parishes ‘four legal men’, often local yokels, were tasked with these seizures. Ultimately, each of them came under threat of excommunication. The clergy’s ‘womenfolk’ (who were not supposed to exist since clergymen were meant to be celibate) provided another source of income for

the king who seized them demanding a ransom for their release.

The king’s ‘war’ was with the Pope, not the people or the faith. He did not abandon Christianity despite his personal excommunication. Some records suggest he was charitable to the poor. Details are scant but it is likely the people sided with their king.

During this period Ludlow castle was directly controlled by the crown and religious life was as much affected here as anywhere else, although the chantry system may have provided some mitigation.

Eventually, John capitulated and on 2 July 1214, the interdict was lifted. The effects were widespread and would have added to the growing discontent with the king, ultimately leading to the Magna Carta in 1215.

Eric Griffiths



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OPENING THE OVEN DOOR



Life continues apace at Stephen House. I'm writing this during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, fittingly as we continually witness such unity here. We have had some things come to fruition, including the first of our weekly cooking sessions that I mentioned last month - using ingredients that have been donated to us, cooked by members of the community for use by those most in need. We also took the chance to have a light meal ourselves. A great time of fellowship and unity, and a chance for a catch up ... we've already planned next week's session, and numbers are growing already!

Grateful thanks go to the residents of Ashford, who, in a heartwarming act of Christian unity have donated lots of mugs and kitchen essentials for Stephen House and its clients. As well as being much-needed (we only had a handful of plain white ones) they bring a splash of homely colour and variety to the kitchen too!

We continue our support for the wider community, helping the Foodbank with deliveries wherever possible, as well as our continued participation in the community lunch at the Rockspring Centre. I find this a valuable experience, being at the heart of the community and witnessing God's love at work.

Things happen when we work together. With others, I've been working with a regular user of Stephen House to both secure and maintain their own tenancy locally, after years of uncertainty. It's been a blessing to be one of the various

strands of support which have come together to achieve a result.

I'm also looking forward to the start of our new Tuesday fellowship group - get in touch if you'd like to join us!

How good and pleasant it is, when brothers dwell in unity! Psalm 133:1

Thank you all for your support and prayers.

God Bless.

*Paul
Lay Pastoral Worker*



In the oven



Ready for the freezer



OPEN TEA AT ST LAURENCE

3pm-4pm

First Monday in the month

MONDAY 2 MARCH

HOLY WEEK SERVICES



Palm Sunday
29 March

Donley-led procession **9.40am**
(from Buttercross)
Benefice Choral Eucharist **10.00am**

Maundy Thursday 2 April

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



Good Friday
3 April

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

Holy Saturday 4 April

Easter Vigil (with incense) **8.00pm**



Sunday 5 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.



CHILDREN'S EASTER EGG TRAIL



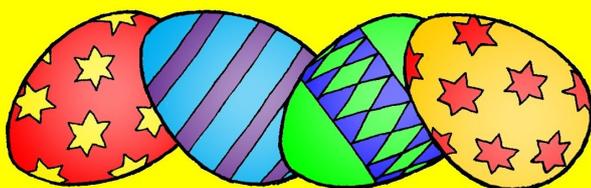
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LUDLOW PIANO FESTIVAL JUST KEEPS GROWING



When Alistair McGowan moved to Ludlow in 2020 and discovered that the town boasted two superb concert pianos – in St Laurence’s Church and the Assembly Rooms – he was inspired to create a five-day festival celebrating everything the piano could do, adding a third piano at Palmers Hall.



Classical - Tyler Hay



Debbie Wiseman with Anton Lesser

Pop-Up is an additional two-day, winter celebration of piano music in November pairing a ‘straight’ classical concert with something more quirky.

On concert days talented amateur pianists are given the chance to play the wonderful Steinway at St Laurence’s, in pre-booked 20-minute sessions while the cafe remains open for passers-through to enjoy at their leisure.

From the outset the plan was for the **Ludlow Piano Festival** in May:

- * to be as broad and varied as possible
- * to bring visitors to this fabulous town raising awareness of the special beauty of Shropshire while supporting local businesses
- * to give local amateurs a chance to play in public
- * to bring music onto the streets for everyone in the form of street pianos

Ticket sales for the main Piano Festival , which began in 2023 at 1,500, have been rising every year. Tickets for 2026 have just gone on sale and already look likely to exceed the 2025 total of 2,300.



Jazz - The Joe Thompson Trio

The latest addition to the Festival’s stable of events is **LPF Presents** – a small number of one-off piano concerts throughout the year featuring a mix of established pianists and emerging new names with an eclectic mix of composers and performance styles.

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
1st Sunday (St John's church)
6pm Celtic Prayer - evening liturgy
4th Sunday
5th Sun Joint benefice service
with St John's

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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

Mike.Beazley@hotmail.co.uk
01584 873570

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

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Contact

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Ludlow Methodist Church

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Ludlow Quakers

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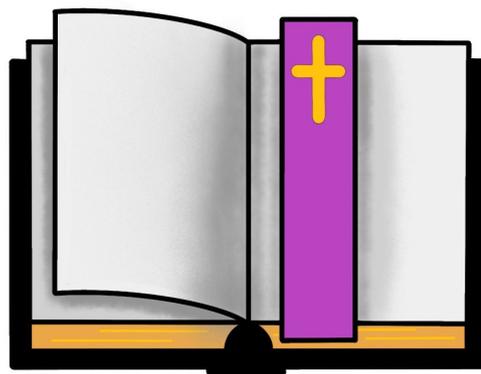
Cynthia Prior 01584 831855

St Peter's Roman Catholic Church

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

Contact

st.peters.ludlow@talktalk.net



CANDLES OF HOPE FOR UKRAINE



Since BBC Midlands Today featured his work bringing light, heat and hope to the trenches and bombed-out homes of Ukraine by recycling candle wax, Mark Stevens has been inundated with enquiries from people all over the country wanting to

know what they can do to support his efforts. For over a year St Laurence's has been acting as a collection point where people can drop off candle stubs and unwanted candles which Mark melts down in his garage at home to make new candles and even stoves.



Since the January broadcast we have been inundated with candles of all shapes, sizes and colours. Instead of small bundles and plastic bags the donations

Sorting the donations are now arriving by the box load. One church near Birmingham which had just changed over from wax to oil-filled candles brought us all its unused stock. A father whose daughter had planned to start a candle-making business during lockdown arrived with a vast bag of wax beads. Parcels have arrived from Inverness, London and all points in between. On



Making stoves

occasions Mark has had to make two trips into town in the same day because we were becoming swamped.

When his garage is full Mark takes the neatly-packed boxes to Macclesfield where a dedicated team of volunteers working for the Macclesfield Ukrainian Aid charity has a storage depot. From there convoys of vans, pick-up trucks, 4x4 utility vehicles and ambulances travel to Ukraine taking Mark's stoves and candles along with other vital aid supplies to where they can be of most use. After they are offloaded the vehicles are left in Ukraine, donated for use in the war effort. Mark himself has made several trips to deliver vehicles and aid but for now he is focusing on keeping up with the incoming supplies of wax.



Packed up ready to go to Macclesfield

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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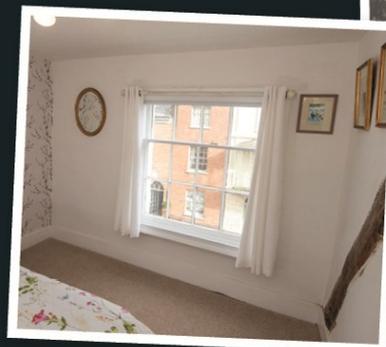


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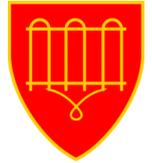
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WHAT'S ON AT ST LAURENCE'S



IN MARCH

Sunday 1

Choral Evensong **3.30pm**
Living Room (at St John's) **3.30pm**

Monday 2

Open Tea **2.00pm**

Friday 13

12-1.30pm
Lent Lunch (hosts - St Laurence's)

Friday 20

12-1.30pm
Lent Lunch (hosts - Ludlow Methodists)

Tuesday 24

2.00pm
Ludlow Primary School
Easter performance

Wednesday 25

2.00pm
St Laurence's Primary School
Easter service

Sunday 15

11.30am
Choral Matins

Sunday 22

6.00pm
Celtic Prayer

Sunday 29

9.40am
Palm Sunday procession from
Buttercross

MIDWEEK

Daily prayer

Mondays and Fridays **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 screenshot shows the top of the St Laurence's website. At the top left is the email address 'office@stlaurences.org.uk'. In the center is the church's logo and name: 'THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST LAURENCE LUDLOW' with 'DIOCESE OF HEREFORD CHURCH OF ENGLAND' below it. To the right is the phone number '01584 872073'. Below this is a navigation menu with links: 'SERVICES & WORSHIP', 'CHURCH & OUTREACH', 'COMMUNITY EVENTS', 'ENHANCE YOUR LUDLOW VISIT', 'SUPPORT US', and 'MEET US'. The main banner features a photograph of the church building with the text 'Welcome to St Laurence's' overlaid. A small 'About Us' button is visible in the bottom left corner of the banner.

For all the latest news including last-minute changes go to

<https://stlaurences.org.uk/>

Watch the Sunday Eucharist: <https://stlaurences.org.uk/live-stream/>

Catch up with our news: <https://stlaurences.org.uk/news/>



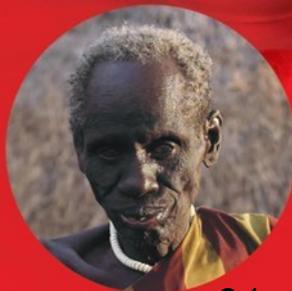
Lent Lunch



St Laurence's Church
Fridays 13 & 20 March
12noon - 1.30pm



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.

MAKING UP FOR LOST OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN

As with many aspects of our lives, I think we take for granted the availability of educational opportunities - yet this is far from the situation in many parts of the world. In many parts of the world, attendance in primary school is the only flicker of normality for millions of children.

In Syria Christian Aid, with its local partner, Darna, has been working to provide safe spaces to enable them to teach new skills, improve existing skills, increase resilience and encourage inclusion of children and young people through remedial methods, vocational training, psychological support and community involvement.

Before the national and international conflicts which have been raging since 2011 almost all Syria's children were enrolled in primary school- now the rate of attendance is among the lowest in the world and millions of people have been internally displaced.

Mahmoud faced unemployment after being twice displaced forcibly, with the consequent disruption to all aspects of his life. But he volunteered to work with his community at the Darna Centre - an educational and life skills centre run by one of Christian Aid's partners and funded by the EU. Here Mahmoud could improve his IT skills, learn project management and communication skills. He had to juggle the requirements of his course with his family's needs and his commitment led to him being offered a internship.



Mahmoud studying in the Darna Centre

With a proven portfolio of skills and accompanying growing confidence he secured a job with an organisation providing medical and general relief for people affected by the Syrian conflict.

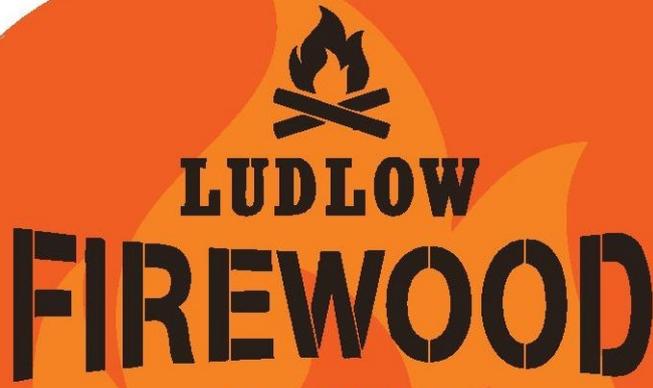
"Darna opened the door for me and it is now my responsibility to keep going forward to prove myself and to help others."

Christian Aid has reached over 500 young people through these centres providing skills and education, a spark of hope for young people engulfed in a conflict we cannot imagine.

Please remember the work of Christian Aid in your prayers and support this work whenever you can. And the next opportunity for that is coming up very soon with Lent Lunches on two Fridays this month - Friday 13 March and Friday 20 March, in St Laurence's. Please support one or both.

Claire Wilcox
07906 894 027





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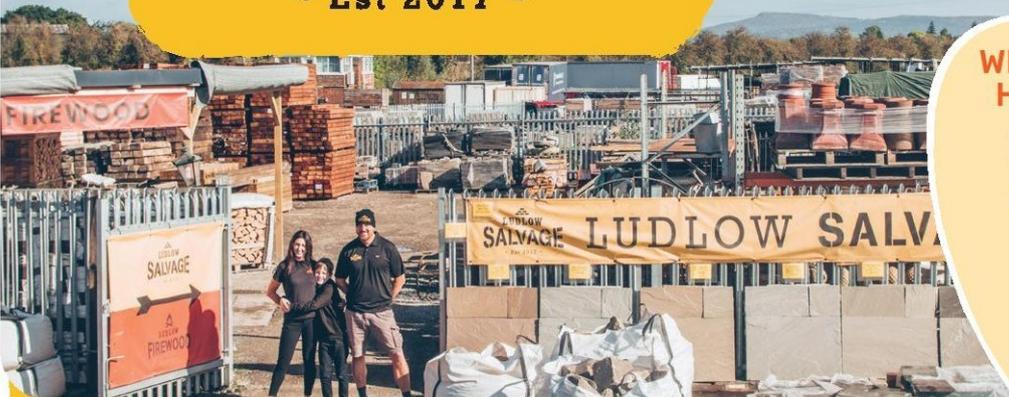
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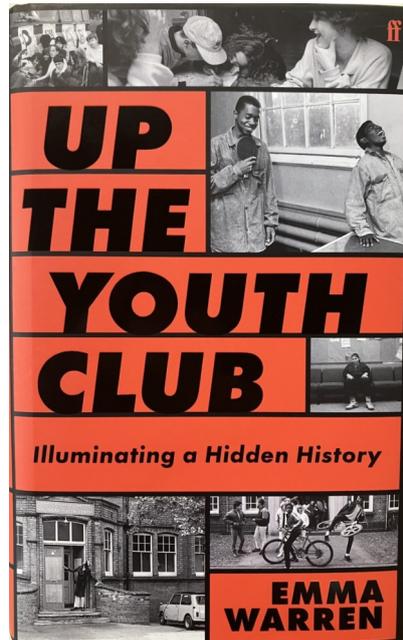
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UP THE YOUTH CLUB: ILLUMINATING A HIDDEN HISTORY

How many of you spent time in some form of youth club/group in your teens? Plenty, I'm sure but do you know how and why they came to exist, why they are so important (though often misunderstood) and, critically, why they are disappearing? The last question is probably the easiest to answer. They are so much more than a place to keep the young off the streets. Their story is not specifically rural or urban; they are about young people and providing a space for them to discover their interests.

In *Up the Youth Club*, Emma Warren maps the development and shifting story of youth clubs in the UK and Northern Ireland, from origins as spaces for the factory-working children of Victorian England to the renegade self-emancipatory youth spaces of the 1970s and the music-generating youth clubs of more recent decades. Emma Warren looks at every aspect of their history from their mixed lineage in church evangelism, the patronage of the upper classes, grassroots DIY 'clubs', to how they survive with the erratic state/county funding of today.

Since the 1700s there have been Sunday schools for children of every age, but did



you know that the origins of today's Youth Clubs for older children came from a vicar in Kent? In 1863 the Reverend Arthur Sweatman presented a social paper to parliament about the importance of providing a space for the younger workers who were not old enough to attend adults' spaces such as the working men's clubs but needed a space 'to be'. The first youth spaces had begun in Kent in

the late 1850s, progressing into South London. They were, and still are, developed around the interests of the young people of the area, be that sport, music or just socialising.

One thing is for sure – 'the Youth Club' has had a huge, yet almost invisible, effect on music, sport, culture and society. Each one is, and always has been, unquestionably shaped by young people with the support of adults. Emma Warren presents a compelling argument for continuing the culture: there will always be young people, and they will always need a space to be themselves that's not school. This is a book to really encourage people to get involved in protecting and revitalising a unique part of British social and cultural life in the face of funding cuts.

Jemima Lord

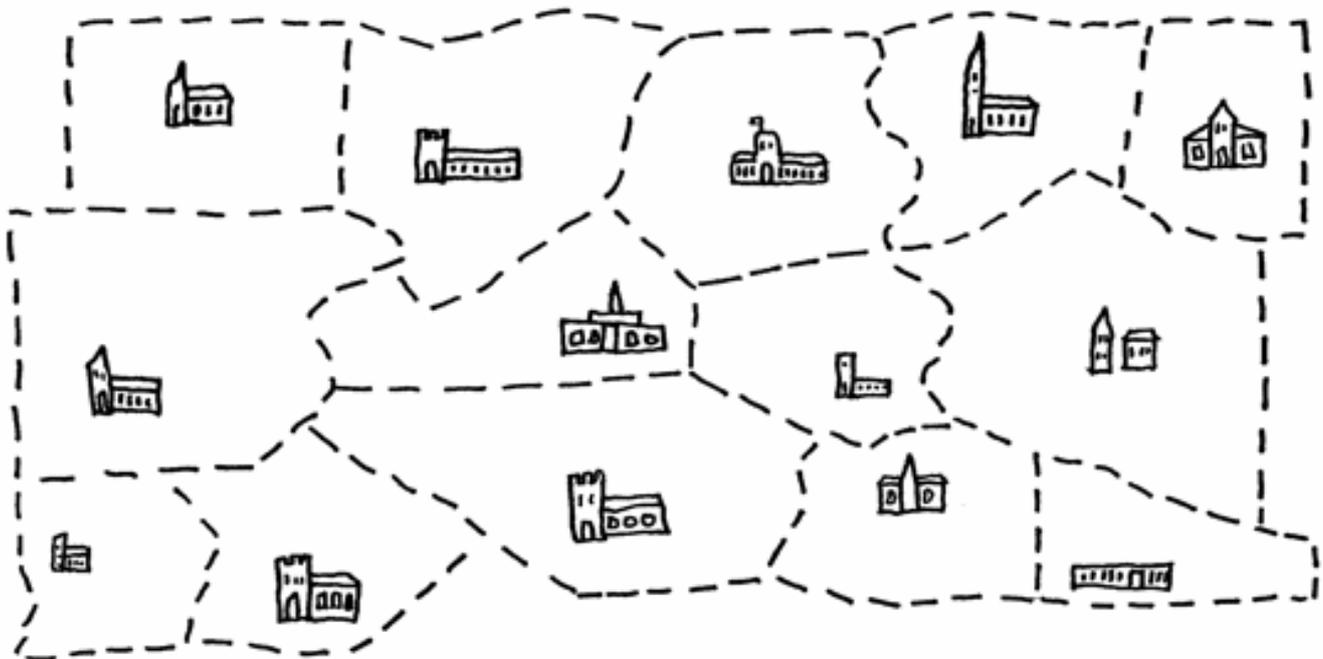
As with all the books featured in the Ludlow Tower you will find copies in the Shop at St Laurence.



THE SHOP
ST LAURENCE LUDLOW

THE PARISH SYSTEM

THE ENTIRE COUNTRY IS DIVIDED INTO PARISHES. EACH ONE HAS ITS OWN CHURCH. EVERYBODY GOES TO THEIR LOCAL PARISH CHURCH*



* UNLESS IT IS TOO HIGH, TOO LOW, TOO LIBERAL, TOO EVANGELICAL, TOO CATHOLIC, TOO MIDDLE OF THE ROAD, TOO UNBIBLICAL, HAS TOO MANY BELLS AND SMELLS, HAS TOO MANY SMELLS, HAS SERMONS THAT ARE TOO LONG, HAS TOO MANY CHILDREN, HAS NOT ENOUGH CHILDREN, HAS NO SUNDAY SCHOOL, HAS MUSIC THAT IS TOO OLD FASHIONED, HAS MUSIC THAT IS TOO HAPPY CLAPPY, HAS A VICAR WHO IS A WOMAN, HAS A VICAR WHO IS A MAN, HAS A VICAR WHO IS A BIT ODD, HAS SERVICES THAT START TOO EARLY IN THE MORNING, HAS REALLY BAD COFFEE AFTER THE SERVICES, HAS PARTICULARLY UNCOMFORTABLE PEWS, HAS SERVICES THAT CLASH WITH SUNDAY LUNCH PREPARATION TIME, HAS SERVICES THAT DON'T USE THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER, HAS SERVICES THAT DO USE THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER OR ISN'T THE CHURCH ASSOCIATED WITH THE PRIMARY SCHOOL THEY HAD IN MIND

CartoonChurch.com



CONTRONYMS

You may not know the term but you have almost certainly been bamboozled by a contronym. They are those strange words in English that have two completely contradictory meanings:

Sanction can mean approve (*the government sanctioned the project*) or punish (*he was sanctioned for breaking the rules*)

Lease can mean grant the use of (*the landlord leased her the property*) or acquire the use of (*she leased a car*)

Dusting can mean removing a thin layer (*I'm dusting the furniture*) or adding a thin layer (*we woke to a dusting of snow*)

Cleave can mean split apart (*the butcher wields his cleaver*) or stick together (*she cleaves to her beliefs*)

Peruse can mean read carefully (*he perused the contract*) or skim through (*she perused the magazine*)

There are many different reasons why words may, over time, develop two contradictory meanings. In the case of fast (moving quickly *she runs fast* or not moving at all *hold fast to that which is good*) the two senses have co-existed since the 13th century.

Contronyms are also known as Janus words (for the Roman god depicted with two heads, one looking forwards and one backwards) or autoantonyms, words that 'are their own opposites'.



FROM THE REGISTERS



At St Laurence's

Funerals and memorial services

23 January Kathleen Theaker

17 February Jessica Derbyshire
(Shrewsbury crematorium)

PRAYER FOR THE MONTH

Before me be Thou a smooth way,
Above me be Thou a star-guide,
Behind me be Thou keen-eyed,
For this day, this night, and for aye.

I weary and heavy am driv'n,
Lead me on to the angels' place;
'Twere time now I went for a space
To Christ's court and the peace of
heav'n;

If only Thou, God of life, give
Smooth peace for me, at my back near,
Be as star, as helmsman to steer,
From smooth rest till rising I live.

From
Poems of the Western High-landers





SHROPSHIRE MASTER COMPOSTERS

Shropshire Master Composters are a network of volunteers across Shropshire who promote home composting in their communities and provide advice and support for anyone with composting problems or questions.

SCAN HERE TO FIND OUT MORE

There's loads more composting info on our Linktree page

Become one of our dedicated volunteers in Shropshire

Learn how to compost via our FREE course
Guest password: Shrop_Rec21

IF YOU DON'T HAVE A SMART PHONE, TAKE A NOTE OF OUR WEBSITE AND EMAIL ADDRESS TO FIND OUT MORE OR GET IN TOUCH:
www.gardenorganic.org.uk MCSHropshire@gardenorganic.org.uk

garden organic



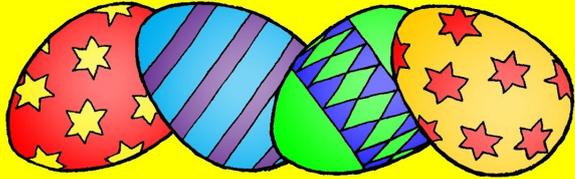

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For more information, please visit
<https://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/what-we-do/supporting-volunteers/master-composters>

POETS' CORNER: ALFRED, LORD TENNYSON

CROSSING THE BAR

Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call for me!
And may there be no moaning of the bar,
When I put out to sea,
But such a tide as moving seems asleep
Too full for sound and foam,
When that which drew from out the endless deep
Turns again home.

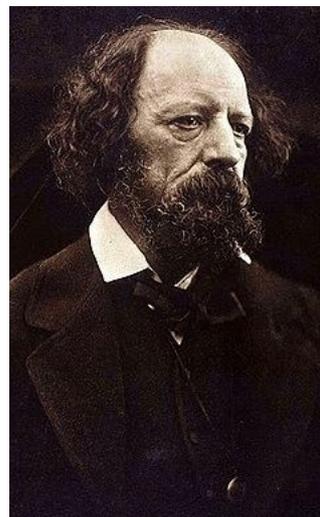
Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of farewell,
When I embark;

For tho' from out our bourne of Time and Place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have crost the bar.

Alfred, Lord Tennyson

In his poetry Tennyson drew on a wide range of subject matter, including the classics and mediaeval legends as well as the natural world. He combined rich imagery and lyricism with deft use of rhythm and the musical sound of the words but much of his work was suffused with grief, melancholy and a deep sense of loss, possibly reflecting the depression from which he suffered for most of his life.

Tennyson's forays into play-writing met with little success. He continued to write poetry into old age, works now tinged with nostalgia alongside his perennial concern about death, loss and grief.



Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1809 – 1892)

Tennyson was born in Lincolnshire, the fourth of twelve children of a clergyman from a distinguished family. He was educated at King Edward VI Grammar School, Louth and Trinity College, Cambridge where he was awarded the Chancellor's Gold Medal for Poetry.

He left Cambridge before graduating when his father died to support his mother. Tennyson was very sensitive to criticism. When his early work was badly received he stopped publishing for many years but by the early 1840s he had become the most popular poet of the day. He was appointed Poet Laureate in 1840 and given a peerage in 1883, latterly retiring to the Isle of Wight to escape the attention of his admirers.

Ludlow Palmers

Quiz Night



**Wednesday 4th March
At Ludlow Brewery**

Doors open at 7pm for 7.30pm start

Teams of 4 @ £6pp - or join up on the night

AND - to order on the night

Fish & Chips, etc, (from Ludlow Fish Bar)

New Quizmaster for 2026

RAFFLE

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The Conservation Trust for St Laurence Ludlow Registered Charity 1114678

CHARITIES AND COMMUNITY GROUPS APPLY HERE



The window is now open for local community groups to apply for a grant from Ludlow Rotary.

'Ludlow Rotary Cares' is the name the club has given to its annual scheme aimed at supporting community life in and around Ludlow by offering modest grants to local charities and organisations. The maximum grant available is £750.

Over the past 11 years the scheme has allowed the Ludlow Rotary Club to distribute £60,000 to over 110 local community projects. In 2025 alone, the club made 13 grants totaling £8,000. Nine of those grants were to organisations involved with children and young people, some of which are pictured right.

As in previous years the club is very open-minded about the types of activities it will support so long as the project or programme responds to a community need in or within 15 miles of Ludlow and meets its criteria on the giving of grants. What we need to understand is exactly what the money will be used for, who will benefit from it and how much difference it will make.

Further information and a simple application form can be found on the website www.ludlowrotaryclub.org.uk. Organisations need to get their applications in by **19 April**.



Junior members of Ludlow Amateur Boxing Club marking the arrival of new training equipment



Leintwardine Social Group under their new gazebo on a hot summer's day



Cubs trying out their new litter-pickers before tackling the town car park





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HAPPY EASTER - SAYING IT IN CARDS

The British buy more greeting cards than any other country and people visiting the Shop in St Laurence are often to be found at the counter, clutching a handful of cards. Some buy cards to have 'just in case', keeping a stash at home for when the occasion arises that requires a card. Others buy when they see the perfect card for someone's birthday, even if the birthday is eight months away! And some buy the card and borrow a pen to write in it while still in the shop, such is their need to get the belated greetings sent on their way!

We have an ever-changing selection of greetings cards in the shop, but of course at this time of year, we also have a selection of Easter cards available. I thought that the Easter Card was a fairly recent innovation, but it turns out the first Easter cards date to the 1860s.

Victorian Easter cards typically came in both religious and secular designs. The religious cards had iconography of crucifixes, images of Jesus and the tomb and religious verse. Chicks, birds and the odd naked baby or mole could be found on the secular cards. Both types would share springtime imagery with flowers, doves and butterflies. Often flowers would be used to form the shape of a cross, a design that is still popular now, reflecting how natural and religious themes intertwine to tell the story of Easter.

Our selection of Easter cards is not that far removed from the Victorian designs, floral crosses, lambs, bunnies and chicks galore, and are available individually or in packs of five. We also have plenty of everyday cards should you need to stock up for the rest of the year!



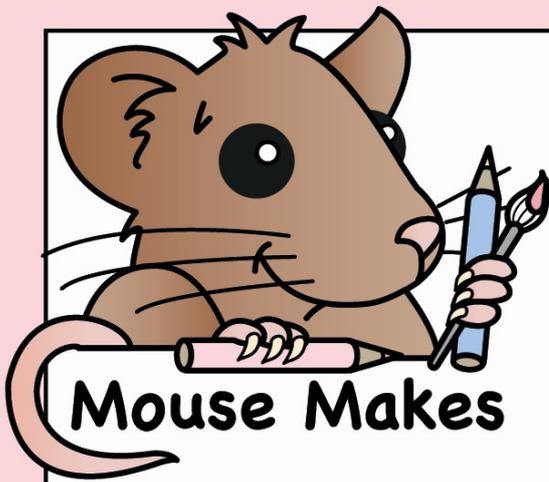
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THE SHOP
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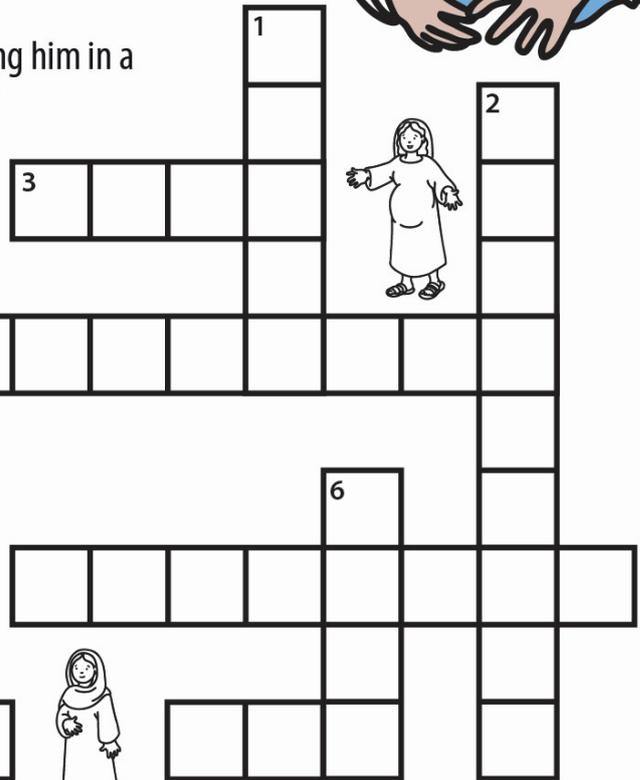


The Bible has many stories of mothers who had great faith in God. With their love, care, encouragement and prayers their children grew up to be great people of God.



Who saved her baby by putting him in a basket in the river?

Exodus 2:1-3 and 6:20



Who was 90 years old when she had her son Isaac?
Genesis 17:19



Whose prayers for a child were answered by God?
1 Samuel 1:20

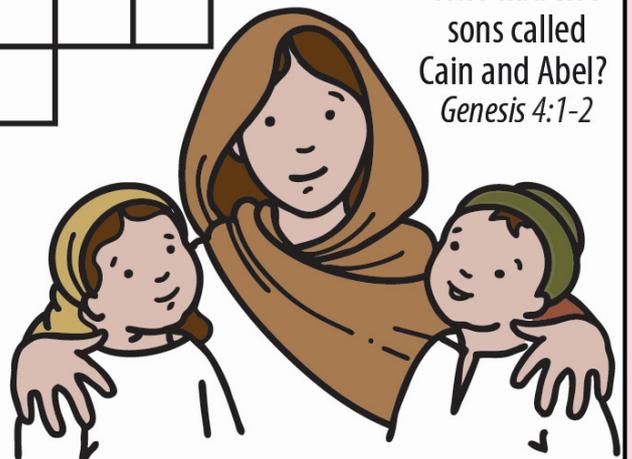
Across

- 3. **Obed's** mother
Matthew 1:5
- 4. **John's** mother
Luke 1:57-60
- 7. **Reuben's** mother
Genesis 29:32
- 8. **Joseph's** mother
Genesis 30:22-24
- 9. **Jesus'** mother
Acts 1:14

Down

- 1. **Boaz's** mother
Matthew 1:5
- 2. **Solomon's** mother
1 Kings 1:11
- 4. **Timothy's** mother
2 Timothy 1:5
- 5. **Ishmael's** mother
Genesis 16:15
- 6. **Jacob and Esau's** mother
Genesis 25:21-26

Who had two sons called Cain and Abel?
Genesis 4:1-2



ON HOW TO RUN A PCC MEETING

This month Eustace, the elderly Anglo-Catholic vicar of St James-the-Least-of-All, offers Darren, his recently ordained nephew, some sage advice, clearly oblivious of the ban on smoking in a public spaces enacted 20 years ago ...

By *The Revd Gary Bowness*

The Rectory
St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren,

Clearly, the sight of your vicar running out of the room halfway through your last PCC meeting, saying he should have stayed as a traffic warden, where he was universally liked, has unnerved you. It would have unnerved me too, since a universally popular traffic warden is an exceptional creature indeed.

But perhaps it is necessary to give you some advice for the day when you do have to chair your first PCC meeting.

1. Consider every agenda issue carefully beforehand and decide what you would like to do. Then, at the meeting consult widely, listen to every opinion, weigh all the arguments and then do precisely what you had decided before the meeting ever took place.

2. Never, ever, let PCC members discuss hymns. This avoids having to deal with blood on the carpets.

3. Arrange the seating in rows, all facing the front, so that everyone must respond directly to you. The last thing you want is for PCC members to be able to discuss matters freely with one another.



Image by Rani Shoket from Pixabay

4. Start smoking a pipe. At those times when you are faced with an issue about which you really are unsure of how to respond, taking out your pipe, dismantling it, searching for a pipe cleaner, squinting down the stem to see if it is clean, mopping out the goo in the bowl, searching for your tobacco pouch, filling the pipe, tamping it down, asking if you can borrow matches and attempting to light it several times over, will give you more than sufficient time to formulate a reply. Once you have perfected the routine, the silence will have been so protracted, that most of the committee will have long forgotten what the question was anyway.

5. If someone is talking too long, consult your diary, noisily and obsessively, about next month's appointments, or write a note to a committee member who is at the back of the room and get it passed to him. The speaker should soon get the message.

These are the simpler techniques of committee management. The advanced procedures must wait until you are strong enough to bear them.

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 Telephone: 01584 872073

Rector: In vacancy

Licensed Lay Minister: Caroline Culley 07557 983940

Lay Pastoral Worker: Paul Kemp 07785 254568

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Electoral Roll Officer	Dick Franks	892019
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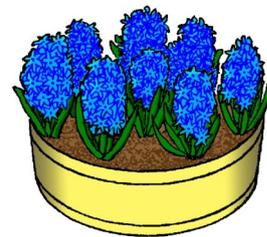
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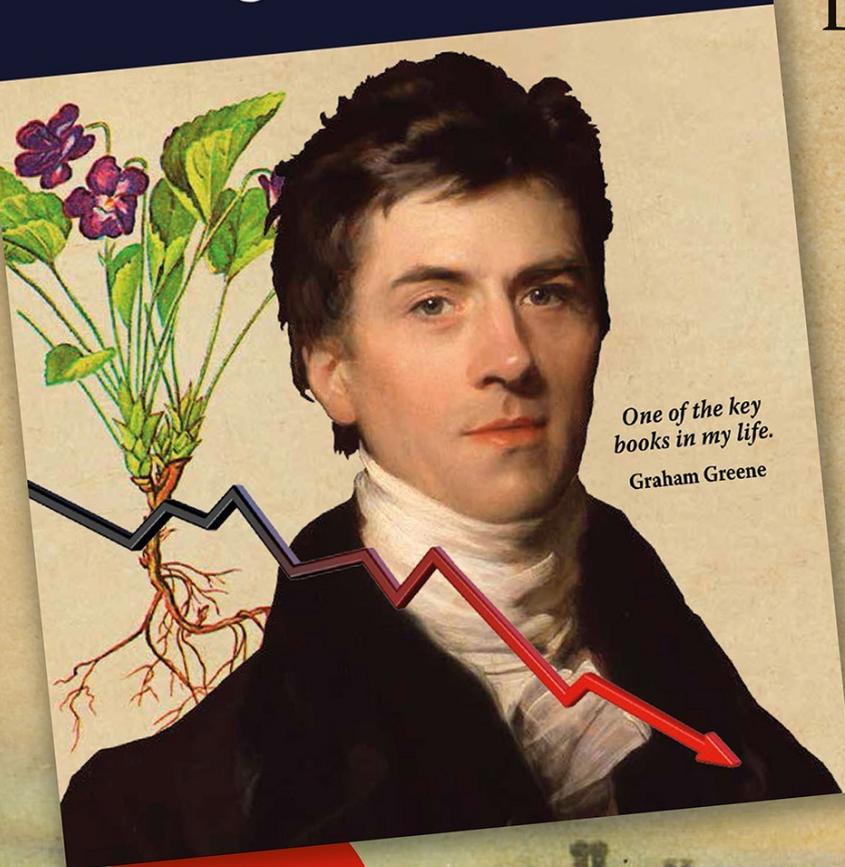
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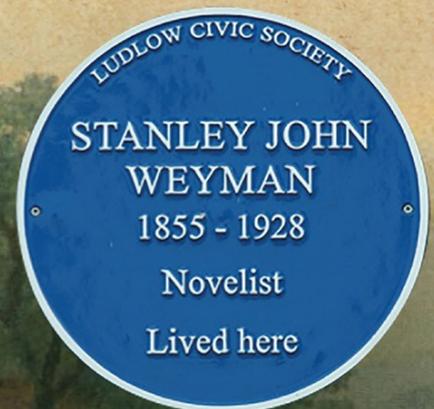
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