



the  
**Parish Magazine**

of LUDLOW ST LAURENCE

**Abominable  
Shepherds**

Pg5

**Be kind  
to bees**

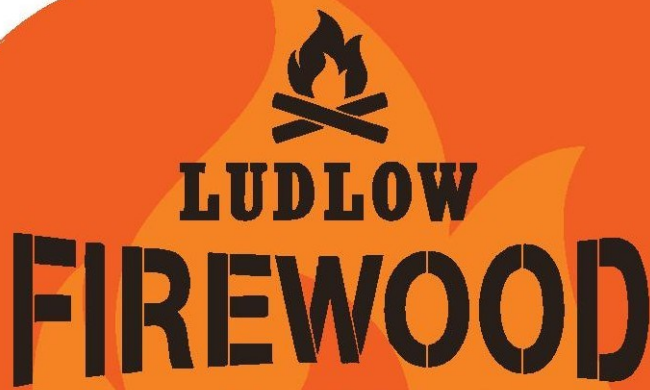
Pg29

**Strawberry  
Thief**

Pg33



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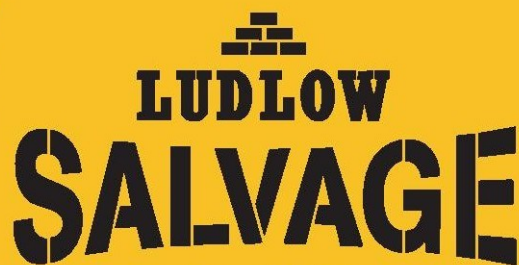
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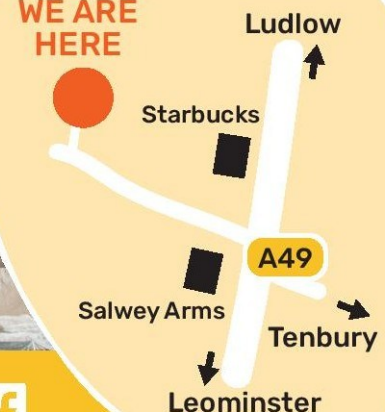
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This promises to be an exciting month for St Laurence's – and not just because we can finally throw open the doors to let in some sunshine, offering visitors, pilgrims and worshippers shelter from the heat rather than from the rain and cold. Applications for the post of Rector of Ludlow close at the beginning of June with interviews towards the end of the month, offering the prospect of an incumbent in the autumn - and lending an extra dimension to Uncle Eustace's account (p37) of life in a less than ideal rectory.

In the meantime the life of the church continues to thrive with attendance at Sunday services rising, weekday visitor numbers rising and a busy programme of musical events. June brings the start of the Saturday lunchtime concerts as well the midweek chancel concert season this month. In this issue we learn (p17) about John the Baptist who features on the front cover and whose saint's day falls in June. We read (p7) about a key moment in the campaign to save HMS Ludlow's White Ensign and Tom Gordon challenges us (p9) to open our minds as well as our building.

*Lesley Harling (Editor)*  
07309 263730

## **This month's cover**

**Image:** Lesley Harling  
St Laurence's south porch

**Graphic design:** Nicky Luck  
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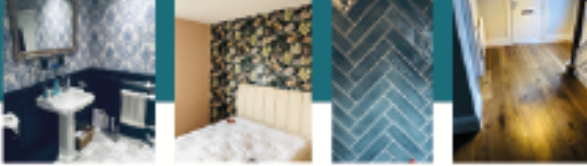
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# ABOMINABLE SHEPHERDS

*'Shepherds are an abomination to the Egyptians' (Genesis 46:34)*

The life of shepherds in ancient times was not an easy one. Between the two arduous seasons of lambing and shearing there stretched long days and nights in remote countryside, exposed to all weathers and dangers from thieves, wolves and other predators. Perhaps the worst aspect was the sheer emptiness of their lives: with little company, no books, phones, television or other normal human distractions, many must have gone mad. It was a job for slaves and the lowest of the low, and many communities treated them as outcasts.



Yet in the Bible and Christian history these deprivations seem to have become channels of grace and encounter with God. In Exodus chapter 3 Moses as a refugee leads his father-in-law's flock through the wilderness to Mount Sinai (Horeb) where God reveals himself in the burning bush and calls him to return to Egypt and liberate his people. Early Christian missionaries like St Patrick and monks like St Cuthbert were surprised to find their vocations in a similar loneliness – a spiritual vacuum which only God could fill.

In his Confession Patrick describes how he rediscovered his faith (or rather, God discovered him) as a British youth enslaved on the mountains of Ireland: 'Every day I had to tend the sheep and many times I prayed. The love of God and his fear came to me more and more, and my spirit was moved to pray hundreds of times in the day and the night, even in the woods and on the mountain, through snow, frost and rain. I felt no harm and there was no sloth in me, because the Spirit within me was fervent...'. He eventually escaped to France, only to be sent back by God, like Moses, to the land of his captivity – but this time with the Gospel of redemption.

I wonder if this explains why the Egyptians abominated shepherds? All along the Nile they kept everyone busy building their great pyramids, temples, tombs and sphinxes to hold at bay the encroachment of the desert. All our civilisations make a similar attempt - to fill our lives with constant activity, pleasures, wars and distractions which drown out the One who speaks to us with a different voice, the God of the wilderness, Bethlehem and Calvary. At the turning-point of history when Christ was born, it was to shepherds keeping watch over their flocks by night that heaven's angels sang, 'And man at war with man hears not the love song which they bring. O hush the noise, you men of strife, and hear the angels sing!'

*+Michael Bourke*

# THIRD SUNDAY SERVICES IN MAY

*First Sunday*

## CHORAL EVENSONG



**3.30pm**  
In the chancel  
**Sunday 7 June**

*First Sunday*

## THE LIVING ROOM



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sharing of bread and wine

**3.30pm at St John's**  
**Sunday 7 June**

*Third Sunday*

## CHORAL MATINS



**11.30am**  
In St Laurence's chancel  
**Sunday 21 June**

*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 28 June**

# HOW LUDLOW SAVED ITS WHITE ENSIGN

We are delighted to announce that the White Ensign of HMS Ludlow has been lowered from its flagstaff and placed into the care of a specialist textile conservator, marking the beginning of its long-awaited rescue.

The ensign was returned to Ludlow to hang in St Laurence's after HMS Ludlow (one of 50 US destroyers transferred to the Royal Navy and Royal Canadian Navy in exchange for basing rights in the Caribbean under the 1940 Destroyers for Bases Agreement) was decommissioned in 1945. Efforts to conserve the ensign made in the late 1990s or early 2000s were unsuccessful. An assessment in 2016 confirmed the need for urgent remedial work but the church lacked the funds to proceed, leaving the ensign hanging dusty, torn, and increasingly fragile.

In 2025, a National Trust conservator considered that although the ensign was in a very poor state, it might still be saved if action was taken swiftly. With 2025 marking the eightieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War St Laurence's launched a public appeal under the rallying cry **Save Our Flag**, in April 2025.

The response was remarkable. By August, more than £6,000 had been raised entirely through public subscription. Donations came from across the community and far beyond: from local residents and societies, visitors; a family whose ancestor had served 'with the ensign' aboard HMS Ludlow, and even supporters in the



United States. The town's Cub Scouts memorably contributed their pocket money during a tour of the church.

A highly regarded conservator based in Hereford agreed to undertake the work within the available budget, the church secured the necessary permissions to carry out work on the historic church property and on 18 May 2026, the White Ensign was lowered and transferred into professional care. It is not known how long the conservation process will take but the intention is clear — the ensign will return to St Laurence's for public display, together with the ship's bell which remains in situ.

St Laurence's Church extends heartfelt thanks to everyone who has contributed, in ways large and small, to reaching this milestone.

*Eric Griffiths*



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# ESCAPE

**‘Our soul is escaped, even as a bird out of the snare ...**

Psalm 124:6

If the Holy Spirit has escaped its restrictions, might we be better to follow it to a new freedom?

Two stories ... Firstly, there was a woodpigeon in the crematorium. No one knew when it had sneaked in or how long it had been there. It must have gate-crashed the funeral by slipping in among the grieving mourners, but nobody knew when. Indeed, it could have hidden itself away for ages before it made its appearance.

And what an appearance it was! It swooped from the organ gallery during the first hymn and hopped about between verses. It took a stance in front the catafalque when scripture was being read. It dive-bombed a lady with a fancy hat during the thanksgiving prayer. It cooed loudly at the end of the eulogy. It pecked the centre aisle carpet, searching for titbits during the Committal. For most people, the only thing they would remember about Uncle Billie’s funeral was a recalcitrant woodpigeon.

Story number two ... High up in the apex of the east wall of Iona Abbey, way above the marble communion table and the arched window, there’s a little square opening. It’s glassed over now for the comfort of the congregation, but originally, in mediaeval times, it would have been open to the elements. For this opening, common to all grand cathedrals in the middle-ages, is a ‘bird

window’. Given that a bird trapped inside a building will fly to the highest point of light, the cathedral builders designed an escape route for any bird that entered the building.

A bird’s purpose isn’t inside a building, grand or otherwise. It’s outside in the world, through the bird window, free of all restrictions. Perhaps the crematorium should have had a bird window to allow a trapped woodpigeon a way back to the world of freedom it was designed to enjoy.

In the Season of Pentecost, when we remember the Holy Spirit in our midst, we need a bird-window in our churches. For do we want to trap the Spirit of God inside our buildings, discomforting, disturbing and disrupting? Or do we want that Spirit to escape, to get back to the world in which it belongs, to be free of restrictions, to soar and swoop as it was made to do? And ... might we follow that Spirit into the world, escaping any snares and restrictions we experience, to find a new freedom too?

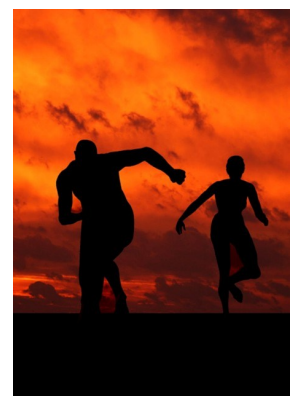
## **A prayer for today**

*The Holy Spirit is alive and well.  
Can I find the freedom it offers?*

*Amen*

An original reflection  
by © Tom Gordon

*Photo by Pixabay  
on Pexels.com*





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# PCC NEWS

## PCC meeting Monday 20 April

Summary of a meeting held on 20 April 2026 in the Ann Barge Room at Stephen House

12 members of the PCC attended.

- ◆ **Resolutions:** to agree revised delegated authority for churchwarden spending; to approve scheme to improve archive storage and record-keeping; to endorse nomination of new chalice assistants; to allow limited use of silk flowers in church in interests of greater sustainability; to adopt terms of reference for Personnel committee and Stewardship Campaign working group; Benefice Profile for Statement of Needs for new Rector
- ◆ **Discussions:** reviewed existing electoral roll prior to update; summer beer garden arrangements;
- ◆ **Reports:** received from Finance Manager, Health & Safety, Electoral Roll and Safeguarding Officers; Fabric, Finance and Arts committees

### Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 17 June at 5.30pm

## Annual Parish Meetings Sunday 10 May

The Annual Parish Meeting elected two churchwardens for 2026-27:

- ◆ Dick Franks
- ◆ Lesley Harling

who will attend the Bishop's Visitation on 10 June at Church Stretton and be presented to the congregation at the Civic Service on 28 June.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting approved the Annual Report and the Accounts for 2025 and the appointment of ten PCC members:

- ◆ Caroline Culley (*ex-officio as Licensed Lay Minister*)
- ◆ Jean Ferguson-Davie
- ◆ Gail Forrest
- ◆ Barry Forrester
- ◆ Liz Gardner
- ◆ Eric Griffiths
- ◆ Angie Jones
- ◆ Ian Marshall
- ◆ Mark Turner (*ex-officio as Deanery Synod representative*)
- ◆ Nick Young

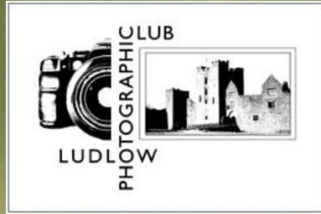
## PRAYER FOR THE MONTH

God be in my head,  
And in my understanding;  
God be in my eyes,  
And in my looking;  
God be in my mouth,  
and in my speaking;

God be in my heart,  
And in my thinking;  
God be at my end,  
And in my departing.



Attributed to Pynsom's Horae (1514)



# Ludlow Photographic Club EXHIBITION

6<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> June  
10am to 5pm

Lady Chapel, St Laurence's Church,  
Ludlow  
*Free entry*

*Photo courtesy of Brian Dean*

# FROM THE REGISTERS



## At St Laurence's

### Baptism

10 May Ethan Alan Chaplin

### Interment of Ashes

22 May David Lutyens  
(Garden of Remembrance)



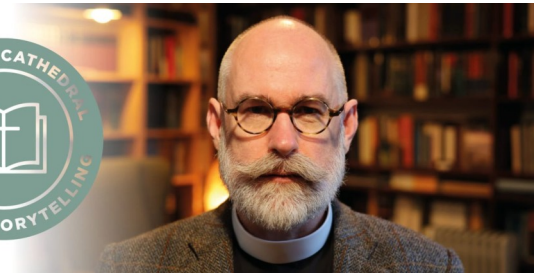
## HOW ON EARTH WAS JESUS GOD?

The fact of Christianity stands or falls on the person of Christ. If Christianity is to be believed, then Jesus must be God. Anything less, and Christianity falls. If Jesus is less than “very God of very God”, sharing the substance of God, then the Creed to which the church holds is false.

In a lecture to be given at the

**Ludlow Mascall Centre  
at 7pm on Tuesday 23 June**

The Revd Preb Dr Christopher Moore will seek to show how the Apostle Thomas, bare days after he had seen Jesus undergo the torturous execution of the cross, was able to face the risen Christ and exclaim. ‘My Lord and my God!’. How could a Jew in the first century accept that claim? How could someone who would assert that ‘the Lord is one’ (Deuteronomy 6:4) come to believe that Jesus is that same Lord?



Christopher Moore is Rector of the Fownhope Benefice and a member of General Synod. Prior to moving to the diocese, he was a lecturer in Bristol and his PhD research was into the Old Testament roots of the doctrine of Christ in the Gospels of Mark and John.

Tickets cost £12 and can be booked

- via the cathedral website  
[www.herefordcathedral.org/event/how-on-earth-was-jesus-god](http://www.herefordcathedral.org/event/how-on-earth-was-jesus-god)
- at the cathedral ticket desk
- or by telephone—01432 374 202  
Monday – Saturday, 10am – 5 pm

# Shema

We have acquired a large stash of yarn through a generous donation. The plan is to make scarves / gloves / beanies for Paul to offer out in his daily work next winter. If anyone is interested in crochet or knitting and would like to join us, please contact:

Eileen Padmore 07590 534945  
or Mary Williams 07848 606933



*'The Lord will send out  
blessings ... upon all the  
works of your hands.'*

*Deuteronomy 28:8*

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## OPEN TEA AT ST LAURENCE

All are welcome at St Laurence for a cuppa, cake and chat on the first Monday in every month between 3pm and 4pm.

**MONDAY 1 JUNE**

# INTRODUCING ...

## **Please tell us a bit about yourself.**

My name is Nick Young. I was born in Kidderminster where my father was a Brinton's carpet weaver and my mother an A&E nurse. I was educated at the local grammar school and Birmingham University Dental School. After a brief period in the NHS I joined the army and was commissioned from the Royal Military College Sandhurst into the Royal Dental Corps. I was deployed in peacetime and on operations worldwide including Cyprus, the Gulf War, Kosovo, El Paso, Texas and Brunei where I was chief dental officer to the armed services of the Sultan. I retired in 2015 as a brigadier and Chief Dental Officer HM Forces.

Since then, I have been chair of the General Dental Council fitness to practice committee, a non-executive director on the board of Royal Stoke Hospital, a governor at Lacon Childe School, a parish councillor in Ludford and latterly a trustee of Hands Together Ludlow.

## **What brought you to Ludlow?**

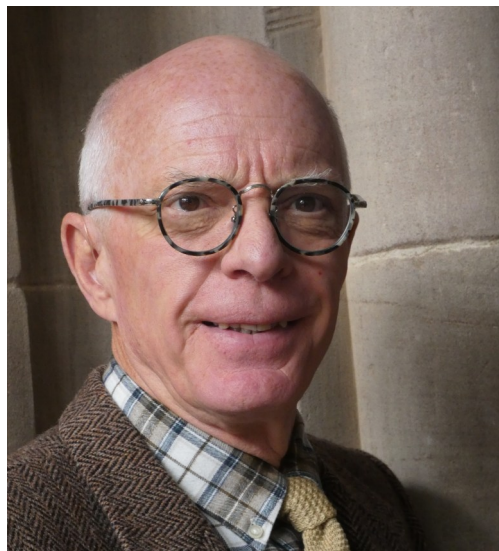
My wife – Ludlow is her hometown. We have a son and a daughter both married and living fairly close.

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

Pevsner was right - it is indeed the 'Cathedral of the Marches'.

## **So what is your role in the church?**

To date my only role has been as a bellringer but I put myself forward for PCC membership at the APCM in May because, as a committed Christian, I felt it was appropriate and I think I have useful skills.



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

The uplifting choral music and the carved misericords – temporal humour in a spiritual setting. The contemplative atmosphere at 08:15 HC in St John's chapel: an early morning sun filtered by ancient stained glass; silent stones that eavesdropped on nine centuries of murmured orisons.

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

Classic cars, flyfishing, gardening, home improvement, bridge, weightlifting and running. In 2024 I ran London Marathon and raised several thousand pounds for Hands Together Ludlow and did it again in 2025 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

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

Performing my impression of a gorilla going downhill carrying a tea tray. It was my first time on skis in Austria.

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

For my last five years' service as a brigadier I was graciously appointed to be honorary dental surgeon to the late Queen.



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# WHO WAS JOHN THE BAPTIST?

The biblical references to John can differ significantly. But if we take everything on trust, the story emerges of a remarkable person who was a key link between the Old and New Testaments.

The story starts with an old Jewish priest named Zacharias who has a vision while in the temple. The angel Gabriel told him that his aged, barren wife Elizabeth would have a son who would bring many to God. While the Virgin Mary was carrying Jesus she visited Elizabeth, and John,

sensing the presence of Jesus, leapt in his mother's womb. The significance of this was not lost on Elizabeth and the *Magnificat* beautifully records her feelings.

As an adult, John lived and preached in the desert. He baptised his many followers for the remission of their sins. But he saw himself as preparing the way for another, greater person, fulfilling Isaiah's prophesy as *The voice of Him who crieth in the wilderness, prepare ye the way of the Lord*. He told his followers *I baptise you with water, but He will baptise with the Holy Spirit and with fire*.

At the start of his ministry, Jesus went into the desert to meet John who



reluctantly baptised Him. Immediately afterwards the heavens opened and the Spirit of God descended upon Jesus, proving to John that He was indeed the promised Messiah. In Jewish tradition a lamb was often sacrificed to atone for wrongdoing but, predicting the Crucifixion, John pointed to Jesus saying *Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world*.

For the rest of his short life, John remained a powerful preacher. Afraid of no one, he criticised the actions of King Herod who had

divorced his wife and married Herodias, his half-brother's wife. Herodias hated John and wanted rid of him, but Herod refused to kill him. When Salome, Herodias's daughter, danced the so-called *Dance of the Seven Veils* for Herod he was so entranced that he promised her anything she wanted. Her mother persuaded her to ask for the head of John the Baptist, and that was that.

John is usually portrayed in art wearing an undergarment of camel hair and with a cross and a lamb referring to Christ.

Hugh Wood

*This image comes from the reredos in St Laurence's church.*

# 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  
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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

11.30am Online

#### Contact

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

### Ludlow Methodist Church

10.30am Sunday worship

#### Contact

Ludlowmethodist@outlook.com

### Ludlow Quakers

10.30am Meeting for worship

#### Contact

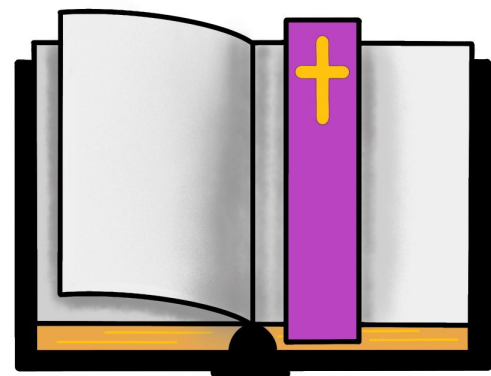
Cynthia Prior 01584 831855

### St Peter's Roman Catholic Church

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

#### Contact

st.peters.ludlow@talktalk.net



# TWENTY TWO YEARS OF PEWS, LOOS, MUSE AND BOOZE

When Ewart Carson stepped down from the PCC in May it marked the end of an impressive 22 years of near-continuous service to St Laurence's as churchwarden and PCC member. Under a succession of rectors, from Brian Curnew and Colin Williams to Kelvin Price, and working closely with erstwhile Church Executive Officer Shaun Ward, Ewart has been instrumental in bringing a number of major projects to fruition over the last two decades, many of them as part of the long-term Vision project.

As reflected in the title of this piece Ewart was a key figure in the internal reordering of the church - the removal of the pews to allow more flexible use of the space, the installation of the church's first toilet and kitchen facilities, after 800 years, and the development of the building into a first-class venue for arts events such as the highly successful English Song Weekend and Ludlow Piano Festival and a wide range of musical and theatrical performances.



Ewart has an encyclopaedic knowledge of the people, the building and the history of St Laurence's as well as the intricacies of the faculty system and National Lottery Heritage Fund applications and we are so glad that this, along with his meticulous record-keeping, will continue to be available to the new PCC and, in due course, to the new Rector. Meanwhile he will continue to play a leading part in the Arts at St Laurence programme of music.

In recognition of all this, and with a nod to another of Ewart's roles as the church's longest-serving barkeeper, ever present at Arts and social events, PCC Lay Chair Dick Franks presented Ewart with a specially commissioned tankard after the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.



# LUDLOW LOCAL LISTING

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### 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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[angela@cranio-sacral.co.uk](mailto:angela@cranio-sacral.co.uk)

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Full page - £380

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Eighth page - £75

Classified - £40

Contact 01584 872073 or [office@stlaurences.org.uk](mailto:office@stlaurences.org.uk)

# Arts@St Laurence – June 2026

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

## Arts@St Laurence Organ Recital



Saturday  
6 June 2026

1 pm

Jed Hughes

Wootton-under-Edge

Free Entry: Donations Welcome



THE SPACE AT ST LAURENCE, LUDLOW



Arts@StLaurence 2026

## Summer Chancel Concerts Wednesdays 1pm



JUNE:

3<sup>rd</sup> - Clare Tocknell (*violin*)  
Jane Annette (*cello*)  
Michael Oakley (*continuo*)

10<sup>th</sup> - Theoc Baroque

17<sup>th</sup> - Lachrimae Consort

24<sup>th</sup> - Ypotryll  
*Music from the Middle Ages*

Free entry: Just enjoy the music  
while visiting the Church



THE SPACE AT ST LAURENCE, LUDLOW



LYDLOW  
CHORAL  
SOCIETY

Ludlow Choral Society presents  
SUMPTUOUS MUSIC  
FOR A SUMMER EVENING  
CONDUCTOR: NICOLA STARKIE

Saturday 20th June 2026

St Laurence's Church, Ludlow 7.30pm



TICKETS £18

ON THE DOOR

Or from  
LUDLOW ASSEMBLY ROOMS  
[www.ludlowassemblyrooms.co.uk](http://www.ludlowassemblyrooms.co.uk)  
(Under 18s free)

Arts@StLaurence 2026

## Organ Recital

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2026  
7.00pm

Bar is available during the performance

Jonathan Scott  
International Organist

Gala Recital

Tickets £12 each will be available via  
Ludlow Assembly Rooms or on the door



THE SPACE AT ST LAURENCE, LUDLOW



# WHAT'S ON AT ST LAURENCE'S



## IN JUNE

<b>Monday 1</b>	<b>3.00pm</b>
Open Tea	
<b>Wednesday 3</b>	<b>1.00pm</b>
Chancel Concert - Theoc Baroque	
<b>Thursday 4</b>	
Annual General Meeting	<b>2.00pm</b>
Conservation Trust for St Laurence	
Solemn Eucharist for	<b>7.00pm</b>
Corpus Christi <i>with incense</i>	
<b>Friday 5</b>	<b>2.30pm</b>
Serendipity Ladies Choir visit	
<b>Saturday 6</b>	<b>1.00pm</b>
Organ recital—Jed Hughes	
<b>Sunday 7 – Saturday 20</b>	<b>10-5pm</b>
Ludlow Photographic Society display	
<b>Sunday 7</b>	<b>3.30pm</b>
Choral Evensong	
<b>Wednesday 10</b>	<b>1.00pm</b>
Chancel Concert (Theoc Baroque)	
<b>Saturday 13</b>	<b>11.15am</b>
Visiting bellringers	
<b>Wednesday 17</b>	<b>1.00pm</b>
Chancel Concert (Lachrimae)	
<b>Saturday 20</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>
Ludlow Choral Society concert	
<b>Sunday 21</b>	
Choral Matins	<b>11.30am</b>
Visiting bellringers	<b>2.00pm</b>
<b>Wednesday 24</b>	
Chancel Concert (Ypotryll)	<b>1.00pm</b>
Elgar evening	<b>7.30pm</b>
<b>Saturday 27</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>
Gala organ recital (Jonathan Scott)	
<b>Sunday 28</b>	<b>10.00am</b>
Mayor's Civic Service	
<b>Monday 29 – Saturday 11 July</b>	
Poyners Events wedding dress display	

## MIDWEEK

<b>Daily prayer</b>	
Mondays and Fridays	<b>10.30am</b>
<b>Tower bells practice</b>	
Mondays	<b>7.30-9.00pm</b>
<b>Handbells practice</b>	
Tuesdays	<b>5.30-7.15pm</b>
<b>Choir practice</b>	
Thursdays	<b>6.00-8.30pm</b>

## WEDNESDAYS AT ST JOHN'S

<b>Daily prayer</b>	<b>9.30am</b>
<b>Tea and toast</b>	<b>10.00am</b>
<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>11.30am</b>
<b>Prayer Hour</b>	<b>4.00pm</b>

## FELLOWSHIP

For details of weekday fellowship groups meeting in Stephen House or in private homes please contact:

**Paul Kemp (Lay Pastoral Worker)**  
**07785254568**

office@stlaurences.org.uk THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST LAURENCE LUDLOW 01584 872073

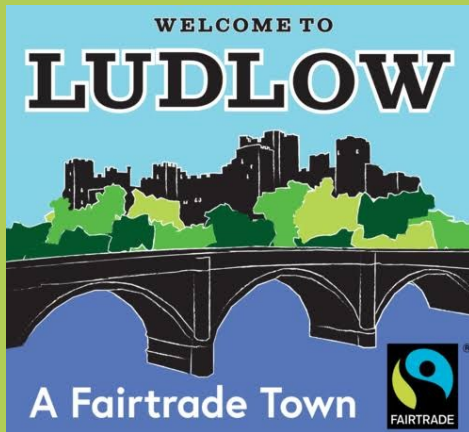
SERVICES & WORSHIP CHURCH & OUTREACH COMMUNITY EVENTS ENHANCE YOUR LUDLOW VISIT SUPPORT US MEET US

Welcome to St Laurence's

About Us

For the latest news of events at St Laurence's go to <https://stlaurences.org.uk/google-calendar/>

# LUDLOW FAIRTRADE TOWN GROUP IS LOOKING FOR NEW VOLUNTEERS!



This means that we're committed to promoting ethical and fair trade both here and abroad.

We believe that a critically important way to help people in developing countries improve their standard of living is through trading fairly

- ◆ giving small scale farmers and artisans a fair price for the goods they produce,
- ◆ enabling them to improve facilities in their communities, such as schools and hospitals,
- ◆ encouraging small producers to work in sustainable ways, using good environmental practices,
- ◆ ensuring safety at work and cooperative structures that allow workers a stronger voice.

We believe that trading fairly with farmers and artisans around the world is an extension of the ethical standards driving our wish to pay our own local producers fairly.

We are glad to be supported by Ludlow Town Council as well as local schools, churches and businesses.

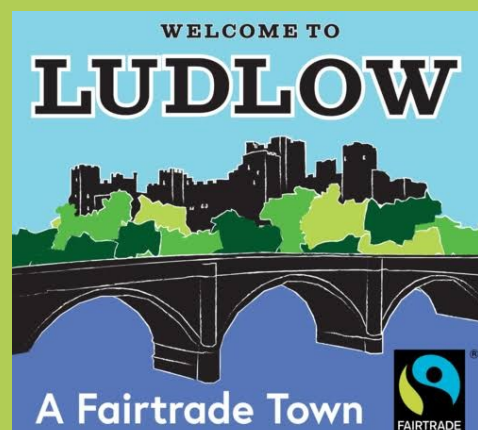
Please come and join us!

You could help with ...

- ◆ delivering the Fairtrade message to young people in primary and secondary schools and colleges,
- ◆ organising activities and events during Fairtrade Fortnight in September,
- ◆ helping on a Fairtrade stall in the market or a church, selling Fairtrade goods and campaigning on Fairtrade issues,
- ◆ assisting us with keeping our WordPress site and Facebook page up to date.
- ◆ And there are lots of other things - designing eye-catching resources, keeping the Fairtrade flower bed just outside the castle looking wonderful ...

We would love to hear your ideas!

- ◆ Find out more [ludlowfairtrade.com](http://ludlowfairtrade.com)
- ◆ **Contact us on -** [ludlowfairtrade@gmail.com](mailto:ludlowfairtrade@gmail.com)
- ◆ We look forward to hearing from you!



# FOCUS ON FOOD: NOOK

Nook is a new arrival on the hospitality scene in Ludlow, a cosy restaurant tucked away on Parkway, off Corve Street run by Charlie Price and Cat Gouveia.

Charlie told us: After deciding at a young age that I wanted to become a chef I jumped straight out of school into hospitality training at Radbrook College in Shrewsbury. Working and training under Jonnie Waters at the Roebuck Inn in Brimfield many years ago gave me a good base to go on and explore food in many restaurants.

Cat comes from Portugal and began her journey in hospitality working in a beachside restaurant in Lisbon alongside her university work. Initially she moved to London to save money to fund her Master's degree back in Portugal but found a passion for front-of-house service and began her journey working in different high-end restaurants.

We provide a mix of Mediterranean and Middle Eastern food – we believe in full flavours and love to get the customers' taste buds working in our food and cocktails.

Hidden away off the beaten track Nook is a great place to sit with friends and socialise whether it be a huge feast or just a few nibbles and drinks from our carefully picked wine list, Cat's cocktails or coffee.



*Cat and Charlie ready to welcome you into their restaurant, Nook*

Most of our dishes, created from the best produce based on 20 years of experience, are made to share, apart from breakfast but don't worry - we don't make you share if you don't want to!

Now with outside seating, Nook is a great place to come and spend time with friends and family for a fry-up breakfast or shakshuka, lunch time bites and specials or an indulgent dinner. We cater for everything and look forward to you paying us a visit soon.

When we are not working in the restaurant my favourite meal is Cat's homemade fish pie which I am lucky enough to eat whenever she makes it (maybe one day it will be on the menu at Nook). Cat loves sushi - it is so clean and healthy but also feels indulgent.

Notice of the  
**20<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of  
The Conservation Trust for  
St Laurence Ludlow  
Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2026 2 pm  
in St John's Chapel,  
St Laurence's Church**



The meeting will be followed  
(at approximately 2.30pm) by a talk on the  
recent conservation of the exterior stonework  
of the Church from the contractors,  
McMillan & Holder.

Light refreshments will be available.  
**ALL SUPPORTERS ARE MOST WELCOME**

# ELGAR - THE COMPOSER YOU THOUGHT YOU KNEW

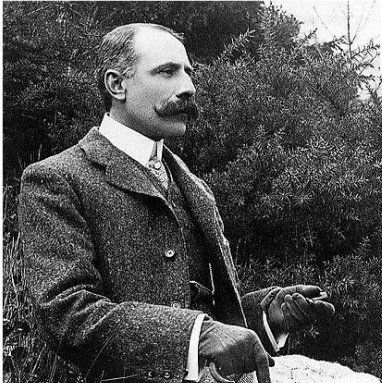
Most of us will have a preconceived image of Elgar, one of our greatest English composers. It is likely to be as an establishment figure, a pillar of Edwardian society. We may think first, of his statue outside Hereford Cathedral - the very image of a moustached English gentleman, leaning on his bicycle, about to embark on a trip amongst the rolling Malvern hills.

Next come thoughts of the stirring 'Land of Hope and Glory' played for the first time under its current title in 1902 and now one of the cornerstones of the last night of the Proms. In recent years, it has attracted criticism for its perceived jingoistic associations but is also loved by many.

In fact, according to a BBC survey in 2006, 55% of people interviewed would prefer it to 'God Save the King' as our national anthem! The character of Elgar makes a brief appearance in the 2025 film 'The Choral' as a rather peevish old gentleman, a portrayal which does him no favours but the music of the film - The Dream of Gerontius- is nevertheless glorious.

To what extent, though, was he an establishment figure? He was, of course a Roman Catholic in a society which was staunchly Protestant. Did this affect the way in which he, and his music, were received by the public and the critics when it was first heard or did it meet universal acclaim? What was he really like?

These questions will be explored by




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

Wed. June  
24th,  
7.30pm  
St  
Laurence's  
Church,  
Ludlow

## Elgar - The composer you thought you knew

An evening of entertainment, and  
music in an informal café style setting  
Bar and doors open at 7.  
Speaker: Richard Westwood-Brookes  
Tickets £10

Call/text 07887 710140 or  
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our speaker, Richard Westwood-Brookes, on the evening of our Ludlow Palmers' event. There will also be an opportunity to hear much of his music. We invite you to join us for a relaxed summer evening, over a glass of wine, in the lovely surroundings of St Laurence's Church. As the seating will be at small tables rather than in rows of seats and will be more limited than normal, please book ahead to be sure of your place.

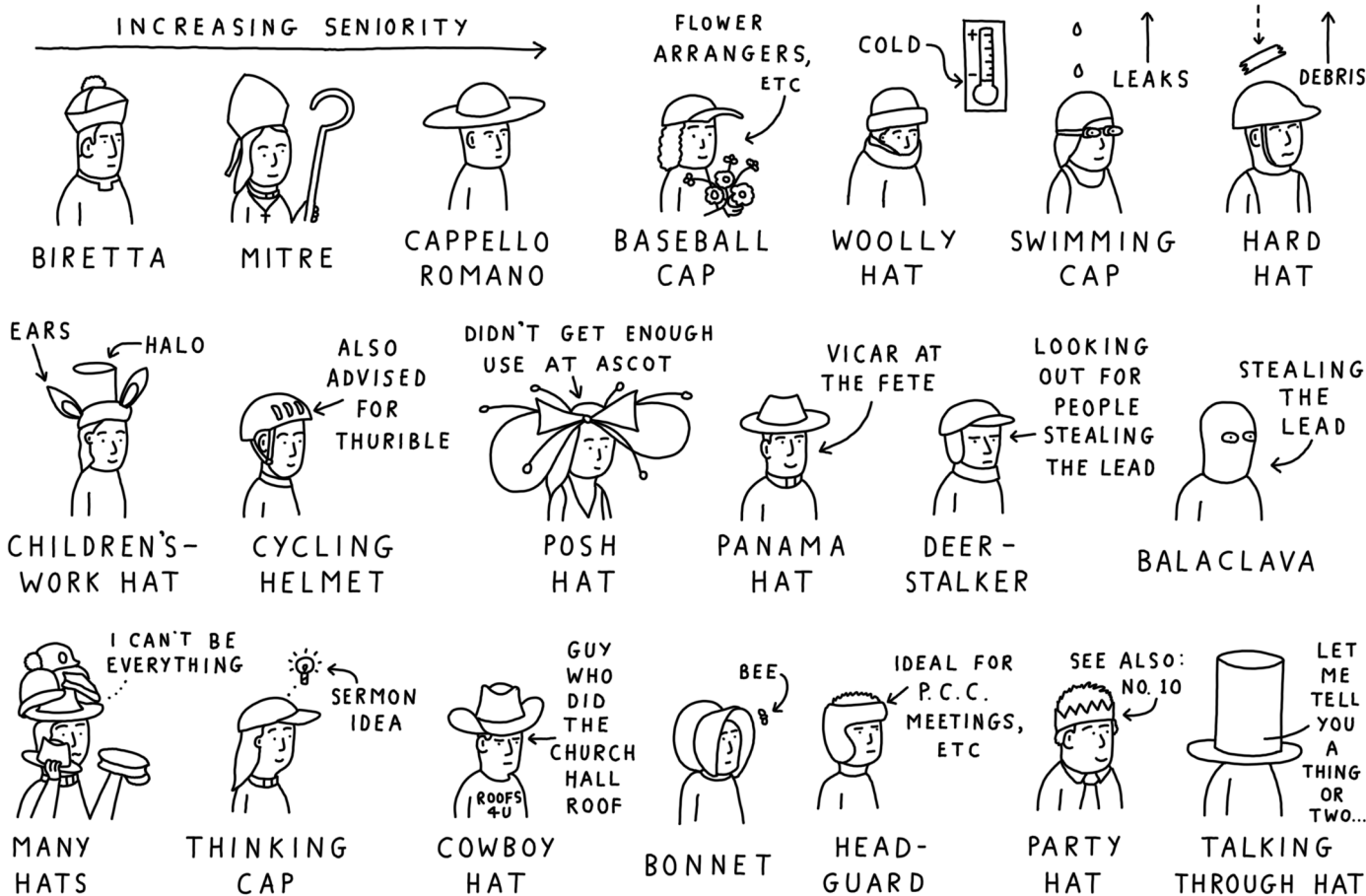


The Ludlow Palmers  
Helping to conserve the fabric and treasures of St Laurence's

# HATS

SEEN IN OR AROUND A CHURCH

INCREASING SENIORITY →



CartoonChurch.com

This CartoonChurch.com cartoon by Dave Walker originally appeared in the Church Times.

**BEE WISDOM AND EMBODIED SPIRITUALITY**  
One-day workshop. Wednesday 1st July 2026, 10am-4pm

Explore Bee Wisdom through the Wisdom Literature and bee history in Egypt, Palestine and dark Europe.

Explore the Alchemy of Waiting, Threshold and Movement in the Swarm with gentle somatic enquiry.

Explore Lemon Balm and the Melissa: A Herbal Introduction and Tea-Tasting.

Artist: Fiona Owen

**Workshop Facilitators:**  
Revd Julia Mourant is a beekeeper, Priest in the Church of England, Spiritual Director, and former Director of the Spiritual Direction course, Sarum College. Her latest book is 'The Spiritual Director: Practising the Charism of Presence and Attention'.  
Rachael Davenhill is a beekeeper, Clinical Psychologist, Spiritual Director, and retreat facilitator at Tosturi Retreat House. Her last book was 'Looking into Later Life: A Psychoanalytic Approach to Depression and Dementia'.

**Cost:** £85 The workshop includes drinks, lunch and afternoon tea with honeycake.

**Location:** Tosturi Retreat House and Quiet Garden, Knowbury, Shropshire, SY8 3LA

**Limited availability.**  
Limited availability. Booking: Call 07792776836 or Website: www.tosturi-retreat.co.uk

## Bee wisdom and Embodied Spirituality

A one-day workshop run by Revd Julia Mourant and Rachael Davenhill

Julia is a priest and writer who formerly ran the two-year course in Spiritual Direction at Sarum College, Salisbury. Her recent book on Spiritual Direction was published last autumn.

10% of the proceeds from the workshop will go to local churches, including St Laurence's, Whitton and Hope Bagot. The rest of the monies will go towards completing the Quiet Garden so that it is inclusive and accessible to all who wish to visit when it becomes part of the Quiet Garden Movement in 2027.

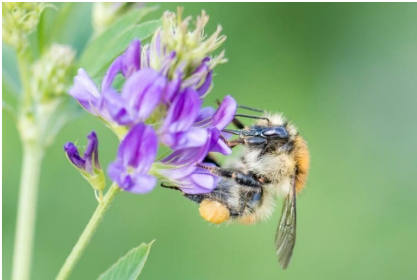
# BE KIND TO BEES

Did you know we have about 270 kinds of bee in the UK, including 24 types of bumblebees? Here are just six of them:

**Early Bumblebee:** - Found throughout the UK. Rather small, with distinctive lemon-yellow bands on thorax and abdomen, and an orange tail. An important pollinator of our soft fruit.



**Common Carder Bee:** - One of our most common bees, and often still feeding in November. Fluffy, brown and orange, with sometimes darker bands on the abdomen.



**Tree Bumblebee:** - Found in England and Wales, and recently Southern Scotland. A fuzzy bee, with brown-orange hairs on its thorax, a black abdomen, and a white tail.



**Red-tailed Bumblebee:** - The female is very large, with a big red 'tail', while males are smaller.



**Garden Bumblebee:** - A scruffy-looking large bee, with a long tongue and face. It has yellow bands at the collar, rear of the thorax and at the first segment of the abdomen, and the tip of the tail is white.



**Buff-tailed bumblebee:** - The biggest of our bumblebees, with a yellow collar near the head and another on the abdomen. The queen has a buff-coloured 'tail', while the workers have white 'tails' and black hair on their faces.



Be kind to our bees. They are in steady decline across the UK.

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# A BEACON OF HOPE FOR FRIDAH

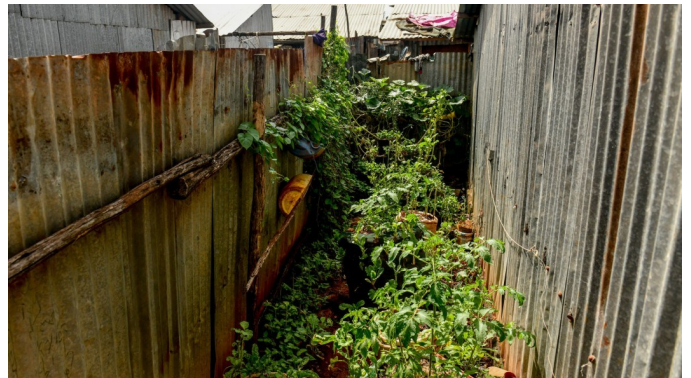
“What can I get Sam for his tea?” Every day was the same as lunch hour approached, when I was working in a factory - how we students laughed, as well as coming up with suggestions. I have often thought of Ethel and her daily challenge.

For millions of mothers in the poverty-stricken districts of Nairobi, struggling to feed their children, it's not a question of ‘What can I get’, rather ‘Can I find enough food to feed my children this evening?’ Parents wake daily knowing that if they don't go out and earn some money their children won't eat that evening. In the informal settlement of Dagoretti, Fridah, a recently widowed mother and grandmother, became the sole provider for her family having to find money for rent, school fees, water and food. The family lives in a rented corrugated metal shelter with no refrigeration or storage. Fridah travels long distances six days a week to sell vegetables at a market stall but does not always earn enough, adding to her stress and anxiety.



Life began to improve for Fridah when she and other families met Christian Aid's local partners ‘Beacon of Hope’. Through her membership of Kalimo, an urban farming project run by Beacon of Hope, she received tools,

seeds and training enabling her to grow fresh vegetables in a small city space - food she could cook for her family or sell to receive income to reinvest. At first the idea seemed impossible. ‘Where can I possibly farm here?’



But Fridah learned how to grow food in small spaces, how to use cone gardens to make compost and conserve water. At the end of a narrow alley near her home Fridah tends her own urban farm. She grows kale, tomatoes and indigenous vegetables. It means more than food to her - her vegetable plot means stability and choice: ‘Now I can plan. I can buy this. I can buy that. I can help my family. It's hard, but in God I trust for the strength to keep going day by day’. Her urban farming may be small but it carries big hopes: hope for education, independence and a future beyond daily uncertainty.

As we give thanks for the work of Christian Aid, we give thanks that we can contribute. Let's remember especially, the women of Nairobi who respond to our gifts in such positive and creative ways. We can make a difference.

*Claire Wilcox*  
07906 894027

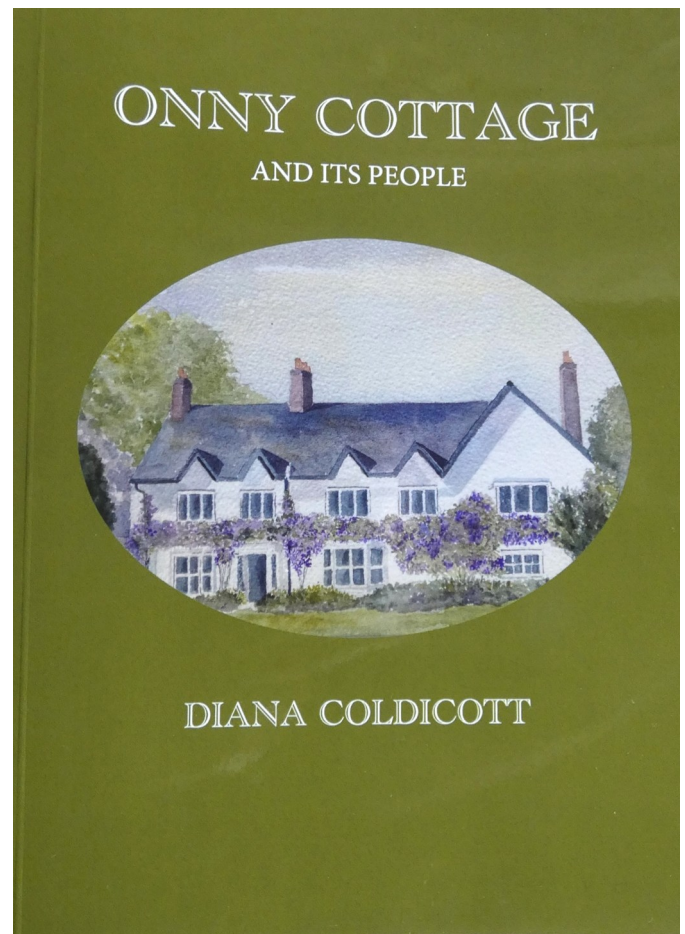
# ONNY COTTAGE AND ITS PEOPLE

## DIANA COLDICOTT

Tucked away behind a high hedge in Bromfield and on the Plymouth estate is a beautiful wisteria-covered, grade 2 listed house called Onny Cottage with a fascinating history.

The house has had many 'lives'. Its latest incarnation is as a small and obviously very comfortable care home for just eight residents, one of whom, 94-year-old Diana Coldicott, has undertaken the task of writing a short book about the house and its people. In the first part of the book Diana looks at the history of the landowners around the house (now the Plymouth estate, Oakly Park) from its entries in the Domesday survey and the establishment of a Benedictine priory at Bromfield in 1155 after a charter from Henry II, right through to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, including the interwoven histories of the Fox, Herbert and the Clive families.

In the second half of the book Diana has researched all the people who have lived in the house, from the 1840s up to the present day. It's been everything from a farmer's cottage to a girls' boarding school and later home to Cyril Francis (of Brown and Francis the former chemist in Corve Street) and his wife. Finally, after a period of near dereliction, in 2017 it was repurposed by Mrs Elizabeth Owens as a very comfortable care home with a beautiful garden.



Architect Francis Turner has also contributed an appendix which gives a history of the stages of the house's construction and adaptation from its origins in the late sixteenth or mid-seventeenth century, to nineteenth and early twentieth century extensions.

The book is being sold in the Shop at St Laurence to raise money for the church.

*Jemima Lord*



# THE STRAWBERRY THIEF

There are a few patterns that pop up regularly in The Shop at St Laurence, but none quite as frequently as William Morris's Strawberry Thief. Designed by Morris after he observed thrushes stealing the fruit in his garden at Kelmscott Manor, this pattern was at one time the most expensive his company had ever produced - and the most popular. William Morris was an ardent socialist and early environmentalist who believed in equal education opportunities for girls. His daughter, Mary, was heading the embroidery and design department, supervising a large team and in charge of orders from their most high profile clients at the age of 23.

With his designs originally being bought by the wealthy & fashionable, he was disappointed that during his lifetime he was 'ministering to the swinish luxury of the rich'.



William Morris believed that you should 'have nothing in your houses that you do not know to

be useful or believe to be beautiful' and was opposed to mass production, believing that industrialisation had

undermined craftsmanship and craftsmen. Who knows what he would make of that fact his designs are now available on almost everything, from DM boots to chopsticks! On the other hand it does his embody his hope that 'Tomorrow, the civilised world shall have a new art, a glorious art, made by the people and for the people'.



Here in the Shop at St Laurence, the items we have adorned with Strawberry Thief images are useful - a mug, handkerchiefs on Liberty Tana Lawn fabric, and notepads. We also have Strawberry Thief paper napkins, that sell so well in America that company who make them ran out of red ink when making the huge quantities required! Pop into the shop and see how many Strawberry Thief you can spot!



The Shop at St Laurence  
Mobile: 07833 866485  
[www.theshopatstlaurence.co.uk](http://www.theshopatstlaurence.co.uk)

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# POETRY CORNER



Robert Herrick was born in Cheapside, London the seventh child of a prosperous goldsmith, who died, probably by suicide, when Robert was only a year old. Although initially apprenticed to his uncle, Sir William Herrick, another goldsmith and jeweller to the king, Herrick studied at St John's College, Cambridge graduating in 1617. He was ordained into the Church of England in 1623 and was vicar of Dean Prior in Devon, a post he lost after the Civil War because of a refusal to pledge to the Solemn League and Covenant before regaining it at the Restoration of Charles II. He remained in Devon until his death, never married and lived a peaceful life surrounded by the beauties of nature which inspired some of his most powerful poetry, reflecting the message that the world is beautiful,

Gather ye rose-buds while ye may,  
Old Time is still a-flying;  
And this same flower that smiles  
today  
Tomorrow will be dying.

The glorious lamp of heaven, the sun,  
The higher he's a-getting,  
The sooner will his race be run,  
And nearer he's to setting.

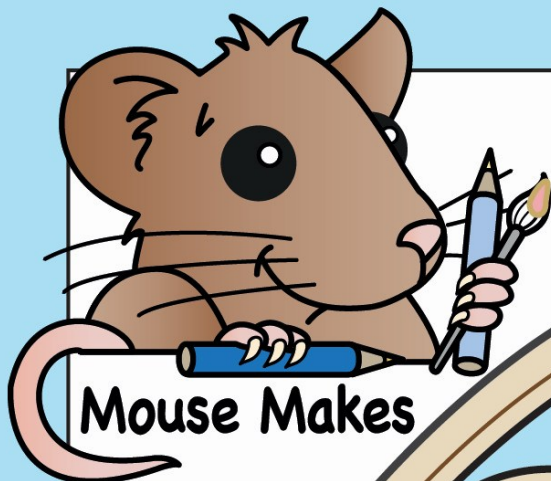
That age is best which is the first,  
When youth and blood are warmer;  
But being spent, the worse, and worst  
Times still succeed the former.

Then be not coy, but use your time,  
And while ye may, go marry;  
For having lost but once your prime,  
You may forever tarry.

*Robert Herrick*

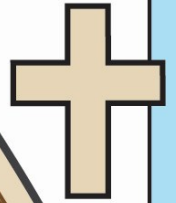
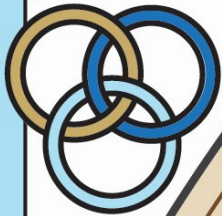
life is short, love is all-important and we should enjoy it all while we can – carpe diem (seize the day).

Herrick wrote in a classical style but in a way that was more simple and direct than the Metaphysical poets such as John Donne, making his poetry more accessible to the modern reader. His earlier works include the *Hesperides*, a collection of lyric poems, while later poems are more philosophical and spiritual including his 'monometers' – lines of verse with a single foot, notably 'Thus I / Pass by / And die / As one / Unknown / And gone.'



"May the grace of the Lord  
**JESUS CHRIST** and the  
 love of **GOD** and the  
 fellowship of the  
**HOLY SPIRIT** be  
 with you all."

2 Corinthians  
 13:14



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

**JESUS • CHRIST**  
 SON • SAVIOUR • LORD  
 EMMANUEL • MESSIAH  
 SHEPHERD • LAMB • WAY  
 TRUTH • LIFE • DOOR  
 BREAD • WORD • HEALER  
 VINE • ALPHA • OMEGA

**GOD • FATHER**  
 ABBA • LORD • JEHOVAH  
 YAHWEH • ALMIGHTY  
 HOLY ONE • SAVIOUR  
 ETERNAL • CREATOR  
 KING • MAJESTY • JUDGE  
 SHIELD • ROCK • I AM

**HOLY SPIRIT**  
 GIFT • HELPER • WITNESS  
 COMFORTER • GUIDE  
 ADVOCATE • WISDOM  
 POWER • TRUTH • BREATH  
 LIFE • ETERNAL • DOVE  
 WIND • FIRE • TEACHER



# ON THE TRAVAILS OF LIFE IN A RECTORY

*The elderly Anglo-Catholic vicar, Eustace, continues his correspondence to Darren, his nephew, a low-church curate recently ordained... by the Revd Dr Gary Bowness*

The Rectory  
St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren,

Ah, the joys of June! At last, I can return to the Rectory without putting on my overcoat before going inside. For the next four months, all windows and doors are left open, in order to let the heat *in*. If anyone else tells me how lucky I am to live in a 10-bedroom Queen Anne house, I shall have them excommunicated.

You would soon stop complaining about your one-bedroom flat should you ever have to live in a rural rectory; the days of wandering about your home in shirtsleeves will become a distant memory. In my first winter here, I had the central heating on full blast 24 hours a day. The house was almost warm, even if the boilers sounded like the Queen Mary coming into port. But that quarter's gas bill needed a substantial grant from the International Monetary Fund to cover it, so ever since, for six months of the year, I live in the kitchen. Parishioners find it either touching or sad that I sleep with my Labrador. It never occurs to them that I need her for extra heat.

It does mean that evening meetings at the rectory on winter evenings can be un-Christianly satisfying. Watching committee members fighting – with

infinite politeness - to get nearest to the one-bar electric fire is highly entertaining. They hold on to their coffee cups less for refreshment, more for a little extra warmth. At least it means that meetings are short.

My predecessor was a model railway enthusiast and so several bedrooms were taken up with a system of such complexity that it made Crewe Junction seem trivial. He also found it helpful to put his teenaged son in the turret bedroom, where he could play his drums without anyone else in the house being able to hear a thing.

Nowadays, all these extra rooms are filled with cribs and nativity play costumes, Easter gardens and spare choir cassocks. It is remarkable how all these things used to be stored quite satisfactorily in the church vestry until the parish acquired a single priest; now the empty rooms in the rectory have become vital storage space. I so hope my successor has a plethora of children, so that the parishioners have to find alternative accommodation for all the detritus vital to church life.

No, dear boy, cherish your centrally heated, dry, draft proof, mice-free, bat-less, modern-plumbed accommodation. It will not be ever thus.

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](mailto:office@stlaurences.org.uk) website: [www.stlaurences.org.uk](http://www.stlaurences.org.uk) Telephone: 01584 872073

Rector: In vacancy

Licensed Lay Minister: Caroline Culley 07557 983940

Lay Pastoral Worker: Paul Kemp 07785 254568

## Ludlow St Laurence

<b>Parish Office</b>	<b>01584 872073</b>
Office Administrator	Nicky Luck
Finance Manager	Anna Dunne
Gift Aid Secretary	Martin Salmon
Social Media & Press	Kate Garrett-Nield
Director of Music	Michael Oakley
Custodian	Matthew Lenthall
Conservation Trust Chair	Sebastian Bowen

## PCC

Churchwarden	Lesley Harling	07309 263730
Assistant	Michael Davies	07970 434822
Churchwardens	Dick Franks	892019
Electoral Roll Officer	Dick Franks	892019
Safeguarding Officer	Dick Franks	892019
PCC Secretary	Lesley Harling	07309 263730
Bible Reading Fellowship	Penelope Bridstrup	876992
Flowers	Sue Thornley	872292
Tower Captain	Richard Bracher	811514
Ludlow Tower	Lesley Harling	07309 263730

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## Ludlow St John

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Churchwarden	Mike Beazley	873570
Treasurer	Mike Beazley	873570
PCC Secretary	Mike Beazley	873570
Electoral Roll	Sue Thomas	07929900671

## Ashfords Benefice

Rector	In vacancy	
Parish Office	Jemma Saer	831203

## Bromfield Benefice

Rector	Revd Justin Parker	
Parish Office	Martin Scott	07395 413004

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