



Ludlow
TOWER

the **Parish Magazine**

of LUDLOW ST LAURENCE

Journeys

Pg5

Pigeon Post

Pg31

**Lift up
your eyes**

Pg17

AUGUST 2026



VISIT OUR CHURCH TO SEE OUR

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- ◆ Mediaeval misericords
 - ◆ Historic monuments
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ICON
COFFEE



After 15 months in vacancy with no clergy serving the three parishes of the benefice of Ludlow there was relief and excitement when we were finally able to advertise for a successor to Kelvin Price as Rector of Ludlow. Sadly, the first round of recruitment ended without an appointment being made and as this issue of the Ludlow Tower went to print we were awaiting news of what happens next.

This is inevitably disappointing – and the contrast with the time taken to install a new Prime Minister to lead the country has raised a few wry smiles – but we are fortunate that our congregations continue to pull together, supported by a large number of serving and retired clergy and lay people.

The message of this month's magazine might be to encourage us to count our blessings and appreciate what we already have, be that the wealth of wildlife hidden under our feet (p27), the beauty of parts of our church building which often go unnoticed (p11 and p17) or the advantages we enjoy compared with so many others in the world (p25).

Lesley Harling (Editor)
07309 263730

This month's cover

Image: St Laurence's tower

Greg Bunn

Graphic design: Nicky Luck

Nickyluck@nannolica.co.uk

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Opinions expressed in contributed articles in this magazine are those of the contributor and do not necessarily represent the position or opinions of the PCC or Editorial Committee.



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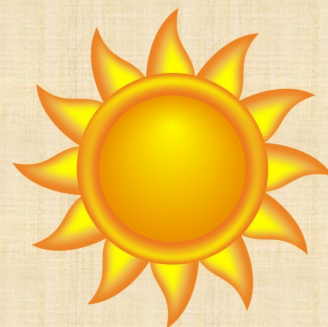
"Passed first time... I fully recommend Cliona and love the way she really goes the "extra mile" for all of her students."



ST LAURENCE'S CHURCH



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JOURNEYS

I wonder how many journeys you have planned in your lifetime: the daily trips and the longer adventures; the familiar routes we take almost on autopilot, and the journeys we plan carefully because of where we are going, or what we hope to do and see?

There are the journeys we make every day—to work, to school, or to see a neighbour. There are the journeys we make less often, but still regularly: visiting relatives, going to church, or attending commitments. And then there are the journeys we may make only once in a lifetime. Each journey has a purpose, a beginning and an end: to see a loved one, to celebrate, to earn a living, to shop for food, to visit the doctor, to take a holiday, or to explore somewhere new.

As a family, we recently spent hours planning the route and places to stay for a road trip through Italy - from Lake Como to Naples and back. We wanted to visit the places on our 'we would really like to see' list, while also making time to rest, explore and enjoy being together. The planning resulted in a wonderful holiday: we saw amazing things, experienced busyness and rest, encountered a different culture, and came home refreshed - physically, emotionally and spiritually.

Throughout the Bible there is a great deal of journeying, and often in those physical journeys we see God at work in the lives of those who travel. We see the Israelites rescued by God and formed as his people; Elijah running away and discovering that God is with him;



Image by Schwoaze from Pixabay

Paul shipwrecked yet protected so that he can speak to others about Jesus; and Jesus journeying to the cross, revealing God's ultimate love through his words and actions along the way.

At the beginning of July, I was part of two joyful services as Bishop Richard ordained our new priests and deacons. As I sat through those services, I was reminded again of journeys - not physical journeys this time, but spiritual ones: the journeys we make with God as we respond to his call and leading. As followers of Jesus, we are called by God into his service, a calling that takes many shapes and forms. Like our physical journeys, our spiritual journeys have a purpose. Paul speaks of doing whatever we do to the glory of God, and Jesus teaches that in all we do we reveal God to others - his light, his life and his love. So, as we head into a season of holiday journeys, I wonder whether we might use the opportunity of a physical journey to reflect on our spiritual one, from beginning to end.

*The Venerable Sam Hustwayte
Archdeacon of Ludlow*



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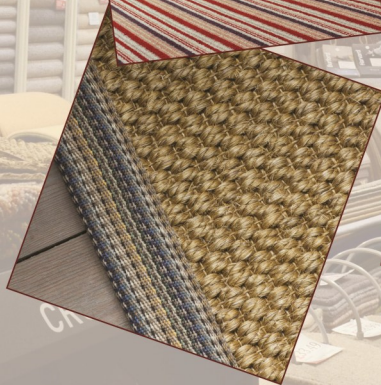
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A PRAYER FOR UNITY IN OUR NATION

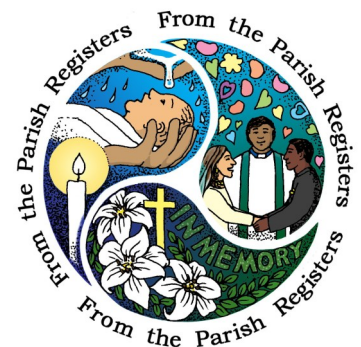
Almighty God, source of all wisdom,
love and power,
we pray for the nations of this United Kingdom,
and give thanks for all who work for peace
and build up our common life.
Give us wisdom as we seek
to protect the most vulnerable among us.
Help us to love all who call these islands their home;
and, in your power, protect us
from the perils of division and hatred.
We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ,
who died on the cross that we might be reconciled
with you and with our neighbour.
Amen.



FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptism

- 5 July Lexi-Mae Mann
12 July James Jonathon Ronald Dell
Charles Henry Dell



THE HEREFORD GOSPELS FOR TODAY

The Hereford Gospels for Today is an exciting project commissioned to accompany the exhibition, **Shaping Early Medieval Faith: The Hereford Gospels** and celebrate the 1350th anniversary of the foundation of the Diocese of Hereford.

With thanks to members of Hereford Cathedral Congregation for supporting this project and to Arthur Green of Green's Books.



Hereford Cathedral
Sunday 24 & Monday 25 May 2026

Leominster Priory
Wednesday 27 May - Monday 22 June 2026

St Mary's Church, Ross-on-Wye
Saturday 27 June - Monday 6 July 2026

Holy Trinity, Much Wenlock
Saturday 11 - Sunday 19 July 2026

Hereford Cathedral
Sunday 25 July - Sunday 6 September 2026

St Laurence's Church, Ludlow
Thursday 10 - Wednesday 23 September 2026



This exhibition/ project was made possible with Art Fund support

Art Fund


Garfield Weston
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NEWS FROM ST GILES'

St Giles', Ludford has very recently joined St Laurence's and St John's in the Ludlow benefice. Tucked away behind a high hedge St Giles' is a peaceful and historic church dating back in part to the 12th century.

In July St Giles had a celebratory blessing of new benches which have been donated to the church by members of the congregation. On Sunday 9 August we are holding our fundraising marquee garden lunch straight after the morning service.

Throughout August we will continue to have our regular 11.15am services. On alternate Sundays the service is lay-led by Dr Margaret Clark, a simple 40-45 morning prayer service with sermon and hymns, while the other Sundays continue as Holy Communion with an excellent team of largely retired vicars.



On Sunday 30 August our rural dean, Revd Prebendary Ashley Buck, will lead our first gathered service as a member of Ludlow benefice and we look forward to welcoming our brothers and sisters from the churches of St John's and St Laurence's to worship with us.

All our Sunday morning services are followed by a convivial sherry, donated by members of the congregation.

Everyone is welcome.

Karen Unwin, PCC Secretary

LUDLOW BENEFICE PRAYER MEETING

Saturday 8 August

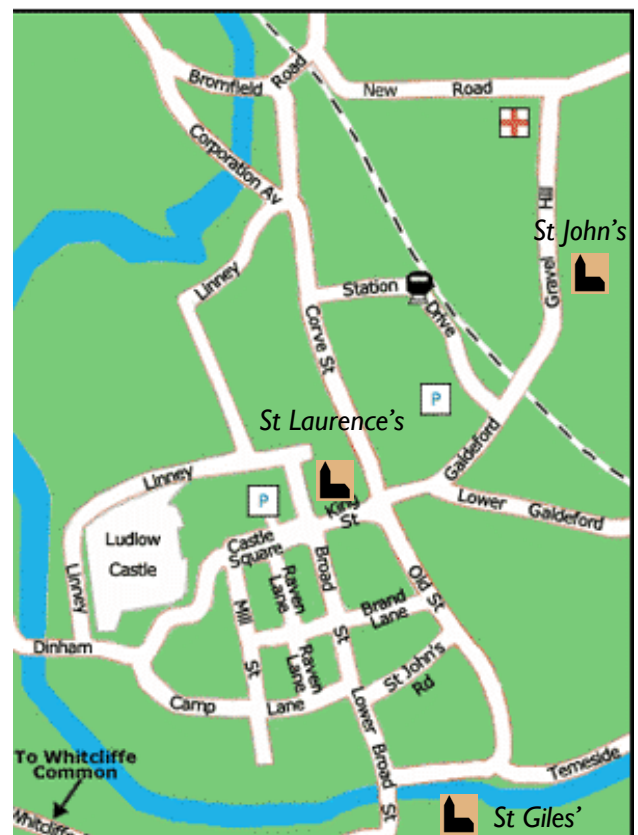
11am

**at St Giles' church, Park Road,
Ludford**

**to pray for our three churches
and
our town during the vacancy**



This will take place each month on the second Saturday 11am at St Giles.





The Conservation Trust for St Laurence Ludlow
invite you to a

Summer Garden Party

Friday 7th August 6-7.30 pm

in the lovely garden of 8 Corve Street

(by kind invitation of Karen & Merlin Unwin)

Drinks and canapés

Tickets £15 per person

Available from Eventbrite (scan the QR Code)

or contact us to book tickets:

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or call/text 07887 710140



ST BARBARA BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE

Continuing our series from the archive of Conservation Trust projects in support of the church, we come to the story of the painting of St Barbara which hangs in St John's chapel and its remarkable restoration. Thanks to a grant from the Trust in 2014, the picture and its frame were carefully cleaned and repaired, revealing a richness long hidden beneath dirt, old varnish and earlier overpainting.

Conservators discovered that a thick brown layer of oil paint had been added during a previous restoration. As this was removed, darker original paint reappeared, along with an unexpected puzzle: the lower corners did not match the rest of the painting.

All four corners had diagonal strips of filler, and the paint beyond them was not original. This suggested that the painting may once have been set in a shaped frame, with the corners hidden or unfinished, before later being placed in a rectangular frame.



Before



After

The restored frame was also strikingly different once the dirty gilding had been cleaned. The restoration uncovered clues about the painting's history and past repairs, allowing the congregation and visitors to appreciate it afresh as part of the life and heritage of St Laurence's Church.



So who was St Barbara?

Barbara was the beautiful, intelligent daughter of Dioscuros, a rich pagan who worked for the Roman emperor in what is now Turkey. He kept Barbara locked up in a tall tower to protect her from all external influences but she secretly became a Christian, refusing all the offers of marriage he arranged for her in order to dedicate herself entirely to God.

Incensed by this Dioscuros had Barbara tortured. Every night she was scourged with rough, stinging cloths until her skin was flayed, and her flesh was burnt with red-hot metal, but by the morning her wounds had miraculously healed and torches intended to inflict further pain were extinguished before they could burn her. Barbara remained steadfast to her faith so finally she was condemned to death by beheading. Dioscuros himself carried out the sentence but was struck by lightning on the way home and his body was consumed by flames.

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FOCUS ON FOOD: EPIC COFFEE

Our Focus on Food this month features the latest addition to Ludlow's coffee scene, Epic Coffee. Its proprietors Molly, who grew up in the Ludlow area, and Rach, who hails from Scotland, met through the cycling community so starting their first joint venture next to Epic Cycles on Tower Street made perfect sense.

Rach got into hospitality while travelling, working to fund her hobbies of cycling, snowboarding and climbing. Molly's experience is more as a consumer, some of it acquired while establishing a Guinness World Record for cycling around the coast of Britain!

The main focus is coffee. We serve a range of espresso-based drinks using beans from Triple Co Roast, a small independent roastery in Bristol but we also serve loose-leaf teas from Canton Tea. We think tea deserves the same care and attention as coffee.

We like to work with local suppliers, independent businesses that share our passion for quality, like Peter Cook and local baker Helen Melrose who surprises us every day with different cakes and seasonal variations as well as some fantastic gluten-free options. Next up we're planning to introduce freshly made toasties and sandwiches - keep an eye on our socials to stay updated.

From the beginning, we wanted to create a space where people could genuinely relax and take their time. We want everyone to feel welcome and not rushed. In our first few weeks we've already built up a lovely group of



regulars. Different groups of customers often end up happily chatting together, which creates such a nice vibe. With plenty of indoor seating, lots of plants, natural wood décor and a relaxed atmosphere, it's somewhere people can settle in and stay awhile.

Our enclosed courtyard makes us very dog-friendly. Seeing our furry regulars come through the door always brightens our day. The dedicated cycle parking means riders can leave their bikes safely while they enjoy a coffee and a pastry before heading back out.

At work or off-duty our favourite coffee is an oat flat white. As for food Molly is partial to Rach's Chicken Katsu curry with sticky rice and crispy kale while Rach's favourite is a salad with all the trimmings, halloumi, pomegranate seeds, avocado, vine tomatoes, cucumber, a boiled egg, crispy bacon and plenty of fresh leaves topped off with a honey and mustard dressing and some crusty bread on the side with proper butter.



u3a

Ludlow

Are you retired or semi-retired with
interests to share with others?
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Meet the u3a

Monday, 17th August
11.00 am to 12.30 pm
St Laurence's Church

Join us to see the range of
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With over 600 members and 60+
interest groups there is something for
everyone in Ludlow u3a, and if not, we
will start it up!

live, laugh, learn



THE LUDLOW MYSTERY PLAYS

As part of the Ludlow History Week in August, a Mystery Play Cycle will be performed in Ludlow Methodist Church.

Four familiar Biblical stories, adapted and updated for a modern audience, in the spirit, but not imitation of the Medieval Mysteries, a provocative mix of homage and hilarity, will be staged in support of the Town Walls Trust.

Date: Saturday 29 August

Time: 7.30pm

Admission: £12

Tickets available from Ludlow Assembly Rooms in advance or on the door.

Should be an enjoyable evening!

Ian Barge

LUDLOW ART SOCIETY SUMMER EXHIBITION

Make sure that from Sunday August 23rd to Tuesday September 1st you drop in to St Laurence's Church, where you can view and possibly purchase a piece of the inspired work produced by the talented members of the Ludlow Art Society. The exhibition is in the south aisle of the Church and is open from 10am to 5pm each day (11am-5pm on Sunday). Entry is free. The magnificent church of St. Laurence, created by master craftsmen of the past, is the perfect architectural setting to enhance the talent and diversity of Ludlow's current artists. Ludlow Art Society was created almost 80 years ago as a showcase for established and aspiring artists.



Today the organisation has over a hundred members and stages two exhibitions a year.

This inspired summer exhibition brings together over 70 artists exploring many disciplines and blending together all that is uniquely Ludlow.

www.ludlowartsociety.org.uk

THIRD SUNDAY SERVICES IN MAY

First Sunday

THE LIVING ROOM



All-age informal worship

Conversation, play, food and a simple service at St John's

Sunday 2 August

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 23 August

Choral Services

St Laurence's choir
is taking a well-deserved
summer break.

No first Sunday Choral Evensong

No third Sunday Choral Matins
in August



OPEN TEA AT ST LAURENCE



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

Monday 2 August

LIFT UP YOUR EYES

One of the most striking features of St Laurence's is surely its height. For the welcoming stewards the telltale sign of a first-time visitor is the instinctive lifting of the eyes, often accompanied by a dropping of the jaw, as the visitor enters from the south porch. From the crossing at the west end, the fine English Perpendicular columns draw the eye up to the painted roof of the chancel.

Yet all too often when the visitor reaches the chancel there is so much else to admire, from the carved misericords and stained-glass windows to the reredos, tombs and monuments that they fail to look up. To encourage them to take in the glories of the chancel roof without giving themselves a crick in the neck we have recently provided two handheld magnifying mirrors.

The chancel roof has the shallow pitch characteristic of its age and is made up of five bays, each comprised of eight main panels, each of which in turn is divided into four smaller panels with



the exception of the westernmost panel which has six. The colour scheme is nineteenth century, based on fragmentary evidence of the original. Many of the intersections in the roof are decorated with carved bosses. These carvings include the emblems of the royal houses of York and Lancaster and the symbols of the Evangelists (an angel for Matthew, a lion for Mark, a bull for Luke and an eagle for John).

The carved angels, all different, which feature along the chancel ridge and at the bases of the arches give the roof its name of 'angel choir' or 'angel roof'.

Many such roofs, built in large numbers from 1395 onwards were destroyed in the English Reformation so that today only 170 survive, many quite possibly saved from destruction by their inaccessibility. The vast majority are to

be found in East Anglia, making St Laurence's even more special.

Next time you visit St Laurence's why not pick up a mirror, lift up your eyes and feast them on our angels?



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

Contact

office@stlaurences.org.uk
01584 872073

St John, Gravel Hill

10am 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays
Holy Communion
2nd & 4th Sundays
Morning Worship

5th Sun Joint benefice service
with St Laurence's

Contact

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@gmail.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)

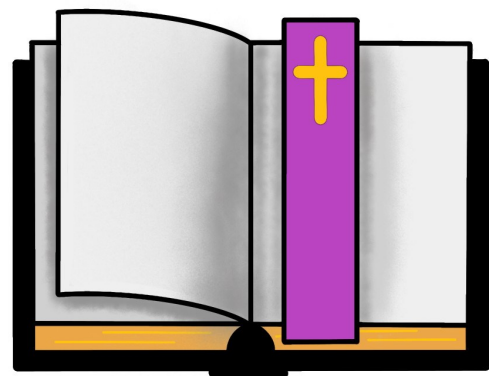
Morning prayer

9.15am Monday-Friday

9.45am Saturday

Contact

st.peters.ludlow@talktalk.net



POETRY CORNER: LOUIS MACNIECE

The sunlight on the garden

The sunlight on the garden
Hardens and grows cold,
We cannot cage the minute
Within its nets of gold;
When all is told
We cannot beg for pardon.

Our freedom as free lances
Advances towards its end;
The earth compels, upon it
Sonnets and birds descend;
And soon, my friend,
We shall have no time for dances.

The sky was good for flying
Defying the church bells
And every evil iron
Siren and what it tells:
The earth compels,
We are dying, Egypt, dying

And not expecting pardon,
Hardened in heart anew,
But glad to have sat under
Thunder and rain with you,
And grateful too.

MacNeice was educated in England (Marlborough and Oxford) going on to lecture in classics at the University of Birmingham and Bedford College, London but remained staunchly loyal to his Irish roots.

The themes of *The sunlight on the garden* include time and loss as well as a sense of foreboding about the political storms building in Europe.



Frederick Louis MacNeice
1907 – 1963

Louis MacNeice was born in Belfast to John, an Anglican clergyman and later bishop in the Church of Ireland, and Elizabeth, a school teacher, who was admitted to a nursing home with clinical depression when Louis (then known as Freddie) was six and died not long afterwards.

Best known as a poet and a member of the Auden Group of writers of low-key, unpoetic, socially engaged and topical verse, MacNeice was also a successful playwright and producer for the BBC. His poetry won admirers for its relaxed style, avoiding some of the more simplistic 'political' views expressed by many of his contemporaries, while opposing the totalitarian ideas gaining ground in the pe-war period.

It was written soon after MacNeice's divorce from his first wife Mary Ezra who had abandoned him and their year-old son. He went on to re-marry, Hedli Anderson an English singer and actor but they separated in 1960, by which time MacNeice was drinking heavily and having numerous affairs. He died in 1963 having contracted viral pneumonia while exploring a cave during research for a BBC radio programme.

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www.cranio-sacral.co.uk

angela@cranio-sacral.co.uk

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LUDLOW HISTORY Festival



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21 – 30 August 2026



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WHAT'S ON AT ST LAURENCE'S



IN AUGUST

2-15 August	10-5pm
Winnie the Pooh display	
Saturday 1	1.00pm
Organ recital - Tom Coxhead	
Monday 3	3.00pm
Open Tea	
Tuesday 4	6.00pm
China-UK Celebration of Music and Culture - free concert	
Friday 7	5.30pm
Evensong - Derby Singers	
Saturday 8	
Weddings	
Barbara Higham	1.00pm
& Simon Langley	
Lauren Speake	4.00pm
& Christopher Parry	
Evensong - Derby Singers	5.30pm
Sunday 9	10.00pm
Benefice Eucharist & Patronal Festival	
Thursday 13	10-12.30pm
Christian Aid Coffee Morning	
Saturday 15	1.00pm
Piano recital - Alex Wyatt	
Friday 21	7.00pm
Ludlow History Festival Regency Ball	
23 August –5 September	
Art Society Summer Exhibition	
Sunday 30	
NB No 10am service at St Laurence	
Benefice Service - St Giles	11.15am
Celtic Prayer	6.00pm

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

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

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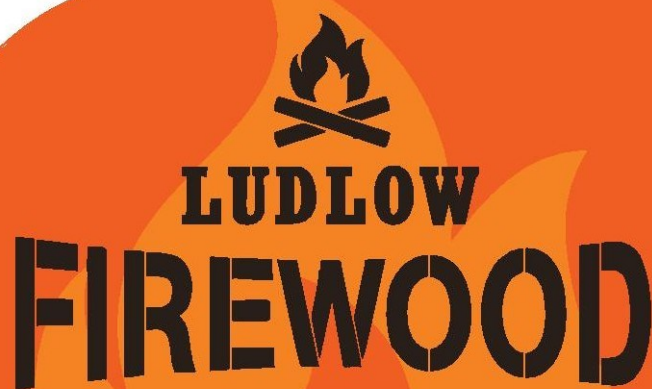
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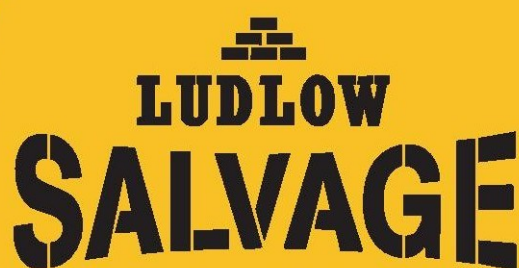
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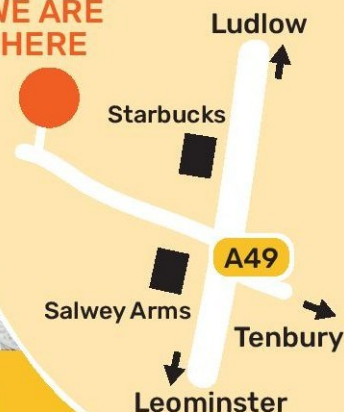
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THE PRIVILEGE OF EDUCATION



A recent plotline in *The Archers*, Radio 4's 'everyday story of country folk', has concerned the local primary school which recently had a poor Ofsted report. Panic ensued: 'What can we do? Go private or travel further'. How fortunate we are to have such choices, even if it doesn't always feel like that.

Christian Aid started responding to the needs of displaced Syrians over 12 years ago, following local conflicts. With local partners they provide safe spaces where children and young people can improve their skills, increasing social inclusion through remedial education, vocational training, psychosocial support and community involvement.

In February 2025 there were several earthquakes which devastated southern Turkey. 4,500 people were killed and more than 10,000 buildings were destroyed. Christian Aid responded alongside existing and new partners and £14 million was raised through the emergency appeal. The initial response included cash distribution and a focus on child protection, including reuniting children with their parents, where possible. The programme evolved to include work on reducing risks, enhancing preparedness and supporting communities where they had identified particular needs.

Ten-year-old Samir lived with his family and friends in a small town in northern Idlib, about 30 km from the Turkish border and very close to the epicentre, when the earthquake struck in February 2023. He had not been attending school and had fallen behind with reading,

writing and maths. Samir's father had heard that Christian Aid's local partners working in Idlib were offering learning opportunities and could help children like Samir. He was offered special one-to-one help including educational and emotional support at a child-friendly space in a community centre, in their hometown.

'I consider this place is my second home and it is where I feel safe', Samir said. He particularly enjoyed colouring in, craft and writing. 'I love this place very much. I can play with toys and learn from the teacher - I've learnt my numbers and Arabic letters. I come here three times a week and always look forward to it'.

Part of a message from Christian Aid following Christian Aid Week: ..together we've seen an incredible week ..your support will help communities around the world to access the tools and resources as well as the opportunities they need in order to thrive.

I hope you have already bought your ticket for the Christian Aid Coffee Morning, generously sponsored by Icon Coffee, in St Laurence's from 10am on Thursday 13 August. If not just come along and buy one at the door.

Claire Wilcox



COFFEE MORNING

Thursday 13 August 10-12.30 pm
at St Laurence's Church
ADMIT ONE – £4.00
Hot drinks from Icon Coffee
Books, cakes, produce.

Arts@St Laurence – August 2026

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

Arts@St Laurence Organ Recital



Saturday
1 August 2026
1 pm

Tom Coxhead

Newport Cathedral

Free Entry: Donations Welcome



THE SPACE AT ST LAURENCE, LUDLOW



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Alex Wyatt piano



Saturday
15 August
2026

at 1pm

Free Entry
Donations
Welcome



THE SPACE @ ST LAURENCE LUDLOW



UNDER YOUR FEET

By August, areas of long, flowery grassland should have been cut (unless you have late-flowering species such as scabious or betony which can be left a little longer). With the long grass cut and raked there is often an opportunity to spy on the world of small rodents such as mice, shrews and voles who may have made routes through the sward revealed by the cut.

Small rodents are short-lived and highly reproductive; wood mice tend to live for about a year, during which time they may have up to six litters of between four and eight young. In a churchyard you may have several species of mice, shrews and voles, the most likely being wood mice, field vole and common shrew.

Wood mice have large ears and eyes, useful for their largely nocturnal life whilst field voles have blunter noses and smaller ears and eyes, they can be active during the day and night. Shrews are distinctive with a long, pointed nose and tiny eyes.

All of these animals need to feed frequently and are always on the move seeking food. Shrews eat 80 to 90% of their body weight each day. They feed on insects and other invertebrates but also tackle quite large earthworms, far bigger than they are! Mice and voles seek out seeds,



Wood mouse

berries and fruits, some of which they may stash for later. Whilst mice can be agile climbers, voles tend to stick to the ground, following the trails they make through grassland seen after a cut.

Unfortunately for voles and mice, they are major prey items for a range of other species. Tawny owls, often found in churchyards, hunt silently for small rodents as do kestrels, weasels, foxes and of course cats. To find out more, look for owl pellets beneath a nest or roosting place; these are regurgitated bundles of the inedible parts of their



Shrew

food which can provide information on what they have been eating. Shrews by contrast may be found bitten and dead on a path, having been hunted but discarded as not very tasty.

Churchyards are havens for rodents, with a mosaic of grassland, shrubs, woodland and lots of places to make burrows or use existing cracks, nooks and crannies. Free of herbicides and pesticides, they are full of food, both invertebrates and plant material, whilst areas of long meadow and tussocky coarse grass provide perfect cover. See if you can spot their burrows and

runways and imagine their busy lives in the fast lane!



Field vole

Harriet Carty
Diocesan Churchyard
Environmental Advisor



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PARADISE DEFERRED

My name is Henri. I am a reptile. Long ago, one of my ancestors was held responsible for that great catastrophe known to humans as *The Fall*. But it was nothing to do with me. I am afflicted by the curse, 'on thy belly shalt thou go all the days of thy life' but I am a tortoise with built-in decking and a roof over my head. Vastly superior.

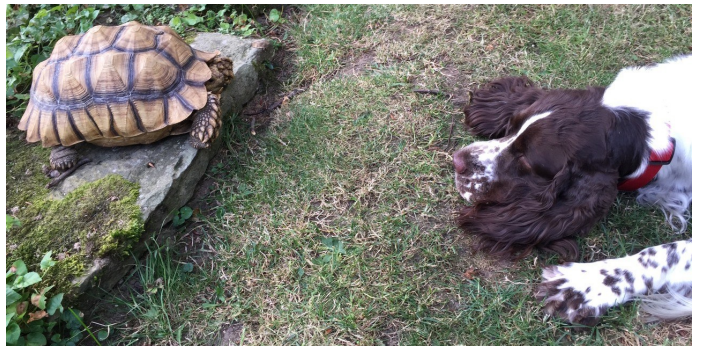


My foolish owners acquired me when I was a few months old, small enough to fit into the human hand. They called me Henrietta, not knowing I was a boy. Much later, I was renamed Henri.

Now I am a teenager with more freedom. Last summer I lived out in the garden for months, left to myself to forage and wander all over. I am content. God created me to be in the here and now. Not like my owners who are slaves to some time-measuring device. They dash around, either in a past that has gone forever, or in a future that may never happen – evidence of *The Great Fall*.

Me ... I know how to live. At night I find a sheltered spot, close to the fence under woody, fragrant plants that shelter me from wind and rain. When the sun comes up I head for the hottest spot to bathe in those potent rays.

Paradise indeed – except for **that dog!** At first she was scared of me. Quite right. But then she pranced around in circles, yapping, begging me to play. A stupid creature. Best ignored – if only!



In the drought, my keepers put out delicious supplements: crunchy leaves, juicy cucumbers, grapes – even an occasional strawberry. Would you believe it? That crazy carnivore stole my lettuce, not because she relished it, but for no better reason than to spoil my good pleasure. May it choke her! The evils of jealousy, greed and power.

That's the problem. I have to share this bent and broken kingdom with the fallen ones. Paradise so near – but not yet.

They say God has a rescue plan ...

Eileen Padmore





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PIGEON POST

One member of staff in The Shop at St Laurence is so fond of pigeons that they once dressed up as a pigeon for Ludlow Fringe Carnival. The same person also loves to reread Arthur Ransome's Pigeon Post most summers, a daring adventure of children camping without supervision, prospecting for gold, armadillos and the threat, after a long hot summer, of fell fires. When the fires arrive, a previously untrustworthy pigeon is the one to carry the message "HELP FIRE QUICK" and thus, with the help of the volunteer fire fighters, save the day!

There are now some colourful Pigeons to be found in the Shop, also ready to be sent. Inspired by origami, Pigeon is a beautifully crafted combination of letter and envelope. Designed, printed and hand-folded in England, these bright boxes contain 6 sheets of A4 paper that are beautifully illustrated, with clean space (that isn't too daunting!) left for a short letter. Fold the paper back up, and use a stamp to seal the "envelope" and you are ready to send a little bit joy to someone - almost as joyful as dressing as a pigeon in a carnival!





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ST LAURENCE LUDLOW

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Image by Maky Orel from Pixabay



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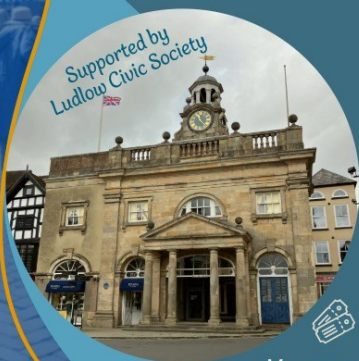
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PUBLIC GO MAD FOR MARCH HARES

Visitors to St Laurence's in June were treated to an exhibition of photographs by Ludlow Photographic Club, displayed in the Lady Chapel, beneath the awe-inspiring Tree of Jesse window.

Over 60 photographs were presented - from abstract to landscape, and wildlife to castles. There was a 22% increase in visitor numbers over last year, with 1875 people coming from as far afield as New Zealand and Mexico, in addition to all parts of the UK. Club chairman, Trevor Patchett commented that the exhibition, now in its third year at the church, had been a huge success with visitor numbers climbing year-on-year.



Visitors were asked to vote for their favourite photograph, something most found both engaging and challenging. The winning image was March Hares by Peter Lomas, taken earlier this year in Norfolk. This marks the second time Peter has taken top spot.

Trevor went on to say, 'Exhibiting at St Laurence's Church we'd hoped that visitor numbers would be good, but they far exceeded our expectation, and many seemed genuinely interested in the display and the opportunity to talk about the photographs with club members.'



Rorbuer Panorama

Other successful images were taken by a well-travelled Justin Smith.

The club holds fortnightly meetings, which restart after the summer break on 25 August. There members have an opportunity



Hospital Corridor, Early Light

to learn from a wide range of visiting, (often award-winning) specialist speakers, to hear critique of your work from experienced judges at our competitions (whose opinions usually generate much discussion in the pub afterwards), and to contribute your skills and knowledge for the benefit of others. We also organise monthly photo-meets around the area and once or twice a year, travel further afield for three or four days, having recently returned from a trip to the Netherlands.

We're a friendly and sociable group, with a good mix of ability and camera preferences including film, DSLR and phone. Whatever the camera, it's the photo that counts!

To see more photos from the exhibition and for anyone interested in joining the group, please go to

www.ludlow-photographic-club.org.uk

Winnie the Pooh is 100
this year!



Come along and see
Pooh and his friends in
St. Laurences' Church
August 3rd to 15th



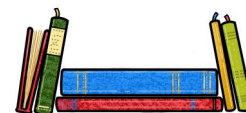
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PUZZLES OF THE PARISH

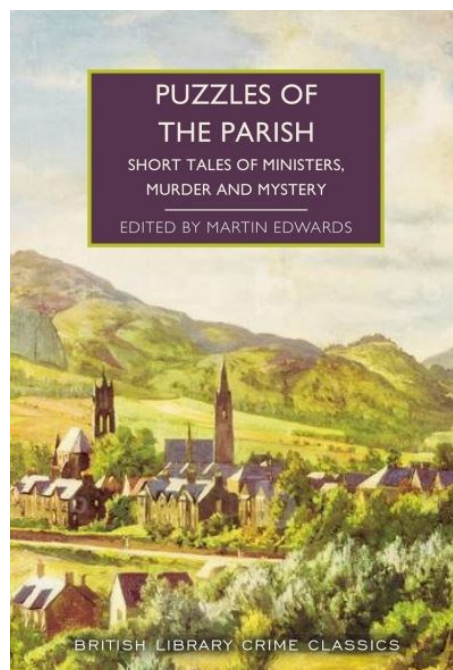
Short tales of ministers, murder and mystery

Edited by Martin Edwards



From the well-established British Library Crime Classics series, edited and collected by series consultant Martin Edwards, this is a great selection of 20th and 21st-century murder-mystery short stories. The difference here is that all the tales, as the title suggests, are related in some way to parishes, churchyards, parsons, vicars, nuns and monks and even conniving cardinals.

The anthology includes cosy brain-teaser mysteries, and fiendish stories with a sting in their tale. There are stories from writers you will know – Ellis Peters (aka Edith Pargeter) and one of the Shrewsbury Abbey Brother Cadfael stories – and less well-known writers such as Joyce Porter and Cyril Argentine Alington (great name ...). An added dimension here is that Martin Edwards precedes each tale with a short biography of its author – and it's amazing how many of the writers were employed in other areas and wrote detective tales under a pseudonym. One wonders why they felt the need to change their names as they are great tales.

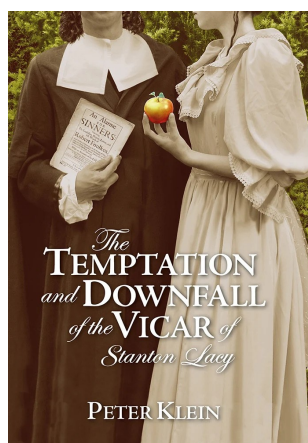


The stories are presented from oldest to newest – the earliest is a G K Chesterton Father Brown tale from 1912 and the most recent from Robert Barnard was published in 2006 – so Edwards shows you how the genre has developed over time. Alternatively, just dip in and out of the book as the mood takes you. This is a great holiday dipping book – or simply to keep by your bed when you don't want a long read ... but avoid a scary one!

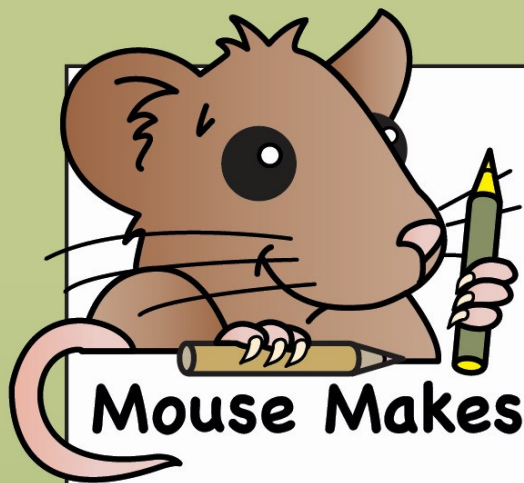
Jemima Lord

All books
reviewed in the
Ludlow Tower
are on sale in

**The Shop at
St Laurence**



While you are in the church buying your copy of *Puzzles of the Parish* look out for another tale of ministers and mystery, this time a true story written by local historian Peter Klein which starts in the parish of Stanton Lacy at a time when Ludlow was part of that parish and ends at the Tyburn Tree.



Mouse Makes

1. To which city did God send Jonah?

Jonah 1:1-2



2. Where did Paul travel to after seeing a vision?

Acts 16:9-10

MOAB

3. Which sea did Jesus walk beside before he went up on the mountain?

Matthew 15:29

5. Which town did Naomi and Ruth travel to after leaving Moab?

Ruth 1:22



6. Where did Paul and Barnabas go after being persecuted in Antioch?

Acts 13:51

4 across

After Paul was stoned, where did he travel to with Barnabas?

Acts 14:19-20

LYSTRA

4 down

Where was Saul travelling to when Jesus appeared to him?

Acts 9:3



EGYPT



JERUSLEM

7 across

Where did the Church in Jerusalem send Barnabas?

Acts 11:22

JOURNEYS

8

8. To where did Mary and Joseph flee to get away from Herod?

Matthew 2:13

JUDEA



7 down

Where did Noah's ark come to rest after its journey?

Genesis 8:4

9. To which city did Philip travel to proclaim Christ?

Acts 8:5

10. To which river did people travel out to to be baptised?

Mark 1:5



11. After a five day journey where did Paul arrive?

Acts 20:6

GALILEE

12. Which sea did Moses walk through to get away from the Egyptians?

Exodus 15:4

13. Where did Paul travel to after he left Athens?

Acts 18:1

ON HOW TO BAFFLE THE PCC

The latest letter from the elderly vicar of the parish of St James-the-Least to his nephew Darren, by Revd Dr Gary Bowness

The Rectory
St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren,

I was delighted to hear that you have been made chairman of the Missionary Sub-committee; it should help you to hone your skills in appearing to encourage committee members to contribute while ensuring that they only say the things you want to hear. It is a skill that needs not a little practice; democracy only works if all the important decisions have been made beforehand.

However, do remember that sub-committees are only formed in order either to kill an idea stone dead, or to give the chairman of the main committee some time to decide what he wants, since he isn't sure how to handle the issue at that moment. I formed a sub-committee in 1999 to discuss Miss Fothergill's suggestion of creating a 'water feature' on the Rector's glebe land, as a way of celebrating the Millennium. More than 25 years later, we are still actively discussing the idea.

I noted at the time that no one wanted the thing on their own land. It's significant that whenever people suggest some imposing edifice, they always think it will be most appropriate either in the Rector's garden, or in some public place, well out of sight of their own homes.

While the Water Feature Group has

been working away tirelessly, and endless masons and architects have been approached, a suitable design has yet to be presented. It looks as if a suggestion will eventually be considered by my hundredth successor as we enter the third Millennium. That is the customary rate of progress for St James the Least, which I find entirely satisfactory.

The procedure for decision-making is always the same: after enormous effort, the sub-committee will produce a carefully-worded report, which will be circulated round all members of the PCC. At the next meeting, they will be thanked profusely for all their hard work, and the matter will be discussed at great length. It will then be proposed that the final decision will be taken at the next meeting, after everyone has had time to consider the matter more thoroughly.

Come the next meeting, the item will somehow fail to appear on the agenda, and when it is raised in Any Other Business, it will be pointed out that it is now far too late in the evening to tackle such an important issue. From then on, you can be assured, it will sink without trace.

Always remember the golden rule: a church committee meeting consists of a body of people waiting to go home.

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

Ludlow St Laurence

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Office Administrator	Nicky Luck
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Director of Music	Michael Oakley
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PCC

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

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PCC Secretary	Mike Beazley	873570
Electoral Roll	Sue Thomas	07929900671

Ashfords Benefice

Rector	In vacancy
Parish Office	Jemma Saer 07399 567235

Bromfield Benefice

Rector	Revd Justin Parker
Parish Office	Martin Scott 07395 413004



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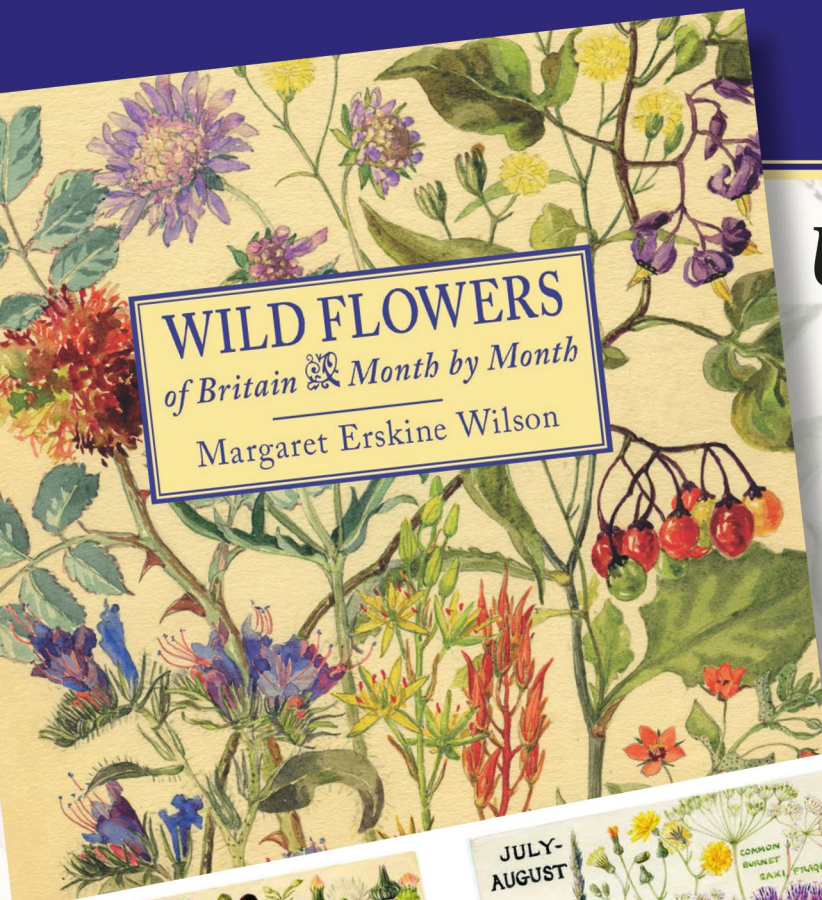
TUESDAY 4 AUGUST

There is no guarantee that material submitted will be included.

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

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