



Churches Together Around Ludlow



PRESS NOTICE– 28 OCTOBER 2013

CHURCHES ADDRESS URGENT SOCIAL NEEDS IN LUDLOW

In their well-received report, 'Ludlow Under Pressure', published last year, Churches Together Around Ludlow identified four urgent local needs. Now they are following up with practical proposals for action.

Launched at a public meeting in November 2012 attended by over 200 local residents, the report told the bleak story of increasing social need in Ludlow where some wards are amongst the most 20% deprived in England. It identified in particular the anxieties and unacceptable suffering of older people at risk, the needs of people in the 16 - 24 age group, the impact limited community transport has for those seeking work and health care, and the serious shortage of social and affordable housing.

Following that meeting, a steering group comprising people drawn from across the local community was set up to investigate these issues in greater detail. Now a further public meeting is planned for 7.30pm on Thursday 7 November at the Ludlow Methodist Church to hear the group's proposals in response to rising levels of local need, in particular the growing demand for food parcels and the impact of fuel poverty.

Speaking about the forthcoming meeting, Methodist minister The Revd Dr Neil Richardson, who chairs the steering group, said "This is a crucial meeting. We are extremely concerned about families and individuals at risk this coming winter. With more cuts and so-called welfare reforms on the way, the situation is likely to get worse. Our report 'Ludlow under Pressure' warned of the impact which cuts to benefits and services were likely to have on the more vulnerable members of our community. The intervening months and particularly the welfare changes introduced in April have brought a wider appreciation of the hardship which many are beginning to suffer."

BACKGROUND NOTES

1. Churches Together Around Ludlow (CTAL) comprises a covenant between the local churches to work in partnership to serve the people of Ludlow and the surrounding villages. Churches participating comprise the Baptist Church, the Church of England (St Laurence's, St John's and St Giles), the Elim Christian Fellowship, the Living Waters Church, the Methodist Church, the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) and the Roman Catholic Church
2. For further information about the report or about the forthcoming meeting contact The Revd Dr Neil Richardson on 01568 780710.
3. Copies of the report 'Ludlow under Pressure – A Report on Urgent Social Needs' can be obtained from Barry Forrester on 01584 878872