

## What the Churches are doing in Ludlow: a selection

### Baptist Church

- Jon Edwards (Minister) is the co-ordinator of the Ludlow Healing On The Streets team. Currently about 15 people from 3 churches are involved, having received training. Once a month a team of people are in Castle Square looking to engage with people and offering to pray for people, and in particular pray for healing, whether that be physical or emotional.
- Jon is also co-ordinator of, and the church is the contact point for, the Emergency Food Parcel scheme, to which several CTAL churches contribute.
- Once a month we run a lunch club – home-made soup, bread and cheese, home-made puddings – for £2.00. Transport is available, and there is room for more people to come!!
- Once a quarter (approx) we run a Swap-Shop where people are encouraged to bring their "stuff" – typically children's toys, clothes, books, crockery etc etc – in case someone else wants it.
- We play an active part in community events in our area. There are plans for a Sandpits Estate Day and we plan to be involved in that. We also plan to put on a free fireworks display for the community this year. We will also do some things at Christmas. Last year we did a Carol-oke which was well attended.
- Individual volunteering: we have a small number of folk who visit some elderly/infirm, and we have a couple of people on the hospital chaplaincy team, and we have people who are school governors and we have people who are involved with activities in their local villages.

### Elim Church

- We run a drop-in centre for those that need company on Tuesdays and Fridays from 10.00 – 4.00. It is open to all. Entry is £1.00, and results in unlimited tea/coffee all day. Games and puzzles are available, along with an internet link. Occasional trips are organised, and we ensure that low-key 'pastoral care' is available to those who want it.
  - Lunch is provided on the second Tuesday of the month from 12:30. Usually, it is soup + pudding + tea/coffee for £2.00. Folks need to book in for this, though there is usually enough if a visitor wanders in.
  - We run a Youth Club on a Friday night from 6:30.
  - We offer occasional gardening/DIY for those who need it.
- We also run quizzes, and special meals at Harvest, Valentine's Night, Pancake Night etc. All open to all. We do occasional specials such as Easter Egg Hunt. We support the work of CTAL in the Four Rivers Care Home. We support CTAL's work in schools and enhance this by organising Easter Experience, Living Nativity, Life exhibition and the Jesus Live lorry. We also support the work of Options, the pregnancy advice service.

We would love to expand our drop-in and youth work, but until we have new premises we may be restricted further before we increase.

## Living Waters Church

Living Waters is currently contributing to CTAL work in schools and to the Options pregnancy counselling service. We also provide work parties periodically to do gardening or DIY work for isolated and elderly people who are unable to do the work themselves. Our other main activities are Simple Church house groups, Café Church, Valley Worship, Healing on the Streets, Treasure Hunting, Adventure Gaming, and Carol Services. In addition, individuals within the church are currently:

- Visiting isolated residents of local care homes
- Providing transport for isolated, elderly and/or disabled people who are unable to drive themselves or use public transport, on an ad hoc basis
- Leading 'Walking for Health' walks for both carers and other isolated elderly people and also vulnerable young people based in the Foyer
- Providing emergency accommodation in their own homes on an ad hoc basis to those who need it
- Supporting the needy whenever the opportunity arises.

We have agreed that we should investigate, and possibly take forward, a number of initiatives:

- Support Young Shropshire in Work. The support could be financial or volunteering to provide administrative support or mentoring, or both.
- Run a regular coffee morning or afternoon tea session for the elderly and isolated in the Lower Galdeford, Temeside, Upper/Lower Fee area.
- Set up, advertise and run a register of church members (of all the CTAL churches) who are prepared to volunteer to make their spare rooms available to those in need of emergency accommodation.

## Ludlow Quakers

As Quakers endeavouring to take our place in our local community, we find ourselves in our homes and our jobs alongside our neighbours, so when we asked each other how we are involved in our local community, people emphasized the ways we live in and around the town - sharing with one another things like plants and books, ideas and information about what's going on, trying to support one another. We're pleased that our building is hired by groups who welcome its quiet location for activities like yoga, meditation, study, healing and also gentle fun music for the very young and their parents. We try to put love into action in peace work, social care, climate change and sustainability concerns. We have made our Meeting House as environmentally green as we can. We have recently established an annual Olivier Lecture named after two Quakers who taught us all so much about peace making. Our weekly collections support the work of other groups - including some local charities - and they often remind us of the good work that's going on around the globe.

Some of us are able to take their place in local groups, for example as regular volunteers or board members in charities (Citizens Advice, HomeStart, Working Together Café, South Shropshire Furniture Scheme and Rockspring, hospital visitors, trolley service or chaplaincy team). We also volunteer for Wesleys, Ludlow 21, Ludlow Women's Centre, Oxfam, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, Hereford Samaritans. Some contribute to Westhope College, Ludlow College, Ludlow Town Council (one a Mayor for the last two years), Ludlow and South Shropshire tourism groups, as a Town Guide, in the Local History

Research Group, in gardening groups and the Local Produce market, the University of the Third Age, South Shropshire Inter-Faith Forum and CTAL.

## Methodist Church

Our activities include:

- Tea and Worship – monthly short service and tea attended by about 35 folk, some of whom would not otherwise go to church
- Messy Church – monthly family activities and time of worship on a weekday
- Junior Church – weekly sessions during morning service for children and young people, not widely attended, but a few of the parents/carers attend
- Wesleys – ecumenical Church café open Monday to Saturday for tea/coffee and light lunches, the fellowship much appreciated by visitors. Volunteers from many CTAL churches run it and there is a Project Group who distribute surplus money to local churches and community groups.
- Pastoral visitors –Methodist scheme of visitors so that all church members/ adherents have someone to visit them and oversee their pastoral needs
- Monthly Sunday lunch – organised at a local hostelry for singles, most of whom attend church
- Playbox – weekly mums (or dads) and toddlers, currently full and attended by few if any church families
- Wives and Friends – fortnightly ladies’ meeting (men welcome too), which is attended by folk from outside church who value the fellowship
- Zion Luncheon Club – fortnightly meeting at St Peter’s Parish Room for men and women. Simple lunch, followed by a speaker. Open to all.
- Table tennis – fortnightly from September to April, open to all, and non-churchgoers attend
- MIND – weekly meetings using church rooms, with a number of our folk volunteering
- Options – pregnancy and post-abortion counselling service in our own quiet room with volunteer involvement from our members
- CTAL food bank box in foyer
- Volunteers from church are members of the CTAL team going into schools to do assemblies
- Volunteers also help with Café Church monthly at Costa Coffee
- A number of other organisations use our facilities, such as Relate, CRUSE, Alcoholics Anonymous, Community Choir and members have involvement in many of these

## St John’s Church

We run a parents and toddlers’ group. Volunteers are involved in, for example, CAB.

## St Laurence’s Church

We have a Link team offering care and concern to particular members of the congregation. We give a proportion of our income to local and national bodies serving the poor and deprived. Volunteers are involved in, for example, CAB. We also host many civic events for the community.

## St Peter's Catholic Church

The grounds of St Peter's are an effective open space within the town boundary. It has been used for fund raising events in the form of car boot sales and more recently for accommodating the local school children at the sports event accompanying the Olympic Torch passage through Ludlow.

The parish rooms are used for a variety of activity, such as:- Ludlow WI, Ludlow Spinners, AA, Ludlow Garden Club, Ludlow Chess Club, Weight watchers, Slimming World, Ludlow Flower Club, Zion Fellowship Lunch Club, Ludlow and South Shropshire Hearing Club, Feel Good Fit Class, Painting My Way, Hereford Mothers Union, League of Friends of Ludlow Hospital, Hope House Ludlow Fund-Raising, whist drives, Brownies, and local and national elections.

We have a parish branch of the St Vincent de Paul Society, which exists to assist the marginalised by helping to improve their quality of life both spiritually and materially. The principal activity is visiting the elderly, sick, house-bound and helping with transport to hospital and doctors' surgeries etc.

In association with CTAL, we organise the regular dispatch of parcels of food and other basic necessities for the relief of those in need locally.