

Wesleys

10 Years on

The projects featured in this booklet are only a small selection of those we have supported. Through our 10 year history, we have made over 70 grants totalling £61,482. Here is a list of the organisations that we have supported:

- St Laurence's Vision project
- Bibles for children
- Ludlow Foyer
- Christian Aid
- Young Shropshire in Work
- "LIFE" exhibition
- Ludlow Women's Centre
- Working Together
- Ludlow C of E School
- Ludlow Boxing Club
- Fresh Start / New Beginnings
- Marches Circuit (Community Chaplain project)
- 1st Ludlow Ranger Guides
- Options
- CTAL (Ludlow Under Pressure report)
- Busy Bodies Nursery
- Ludlow Twinning Association
- Ludlow Access Group
- Ludlow Defibrillators 4 You
- Ludlow Elim Church
- Rockspring Centre
- Leintwardine & Bucknell Community First Responders
- CTAL New Initiatives
- Marches Circuit (Agricultural Chaplain Project)
- Shropshire Mind
- Ludlow 21 / Green Festival
- Homestart
- Ludlow in Bloom
- Ludlow Faith & Friendship
- South Shropshire Youth Forum
- Cleobury Mortimer Methodist Church
- Barnabas Deaf Community
- Ludlow Cancer Support Group
- Hands Together Ludlow
- Ludlow Area Youth partnership
- Young at Art
- South Shropshire Domestic Violence
- Arts for Health
- CTAL (Food Bank)
- Caynham Village Hall
- Ludlow RVS
- Ludlow Hope Events
- Ludlow Community Firework Event

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Wesley's Cafe commenced operations on Saturday 15th April, 2006. A huge amount of work had been undertaken as part of the church re-development in order to make the church accessible to people who may not otherwise enter church.

It was a real step of faith (or leap into the dark!) which took vision and courage to even commence, let alone complete the project. From its inception it has drawn together volunteers from many of the churches around Ludlow and, whilst not wanting to be forceful in its Christian ethos and message, it has always been ready to offer a listening ear and pastoral prayer. We have also been able to take the small profits made and donate them to local groups and organisations to help them achieve some remarkable things. This booklet highlights and celebrates those groups, along with the Wesley volunteers, without whom our work would not be possible. A notable birthday deserves a proper review.

The project team comprises one volunteer from each day's team, plus the Minister. We meet quarterly to consider applications, and are proud of the projects we have supported, long may this role continue!





Our Volunteers:

The photo on our front page was taken on the day we opened. It shows Len Price, who at 90 years old was the church's oldest member, and Gill Hall whose vision and perseverance in planning, organising and fundraising brought Wesley's into being. However, Wesley's would not work without an army of volunteers, and we place on record our grateful thanks to all of them. Currently, there are 15 people who make cakes, quiches or soups, and 46 people who regularly serve in the Cafe, with a further 18 people on stand-by to cover 'staffing gaps'. Over the 10 years, unsurprisingly, a number of our volunteers have had to stop their involvement, some have moved away, some have passed away, (including Gill and Len) and some have simply had a change of circumstances. We particularly remember those folks who have helped in the past, but are no longer able to today.

Our aim was always to offer a warm welcome, and friendly greeting to locals and visitors alike, and our visitor's book entries would suggest that this has been achieved. Over the ten years, we have not only learnt a lot about catering, but have also seen babies in prams become self-confident children, now able to order their own food, and some adults who have been through difficult times, yet because of the Wesley's welcome and genuine concern have been enabled to face the future. Our reward has been our increased understanding of our neighbour, community, ourselves and God, the greater use of our premises and the ability to help finance a wide variety of community projects. The green apron of Wesley's is something we wear with pride, as a sign both of community commitment and Christian service. We hope you enjoy reading a little of what has been achieved through Wesley's.

Organisation	Ludlow in Bloom
Project	Various projects

The money you have given to us goes towards new tubs all around the town including the two outside the Methodist church, compost and shrubs for the middles of the displays. We have also taken on the small garden in Lower Corve St and will continue this year with a new bench around the tree, the uneven slabs have been taken up and three new boxes along the wall at the back including a salt bin for local use. There are still one or two tubs needed for Mill St, King St and Weeping Cross Lane, this will then mean that all the old tubs will have been renewed.

We must also thank the church members for their help in the way they always come to the rescue when we need the planters planting in May, and emptied in October. We have just received word that we are to receive a grant this year to put a new Sensory Garden in Castle St car park, and McConnells are making new signs at the entrances to the town to replace the ones which were stolen .





Organisation	Leintwardine & Bucknell First Responders
Project	Funds towards provision of 4 x 4 vehicle

Organisation	Ludlow Twinning Association
Project	Visit to France with school children

The Wesley's Project Group supported us with a donation which we put towards the purchase of a Ford Kuga 4x4 vehicle. This response vehicle enables our group of First Responders to respond into areas where we would not normally be able to reach with a normal car. It has proved useful on many occasions when the weather has been bad through floods and snow. It also proved its worth in Bucknell woods when it was used to carry an injured mountain biker out of the woods on a scoop stretcher down to the main road where he was then transferred into a waiting ambulance. This was the only way we could have done this without carrying the patient for about 1.5 miles as road vehicles could not get over an earth mound and the gates were locked.



Your financial support enabled children from this area to visit France last May. It enabled our organisation to reduce our overall transport cost so that parents could take children to France at no extra cost.

Without your support it is unlikely that the children would have been able to visit our twin French twin town of La Ferté Macé, or to see the Bayeux Tapestry, Bayeux Cathedral and to live with French families in their own homes. It is particularly important that our Association can do this given that schools find such exchanges difficult in the current economic climate.



Organisation	Ludlow Foodbank
Project	Provision of emergency food parcels

Wesley's has been very supportive of this scheme, both with financial support, and housing a collection box where people can donate non-perishable foods.

Any money we have received has been used to buy food, which is given to people in crisis.

Since January 2013 we have given away over 750 food parcels. Without the help from Wesley's we would have had to work much harder to raise money to pay for this food, and the burden would have been carried by fewer people.



Organisation	Shropshire Marches Methodist Circuit
Project	Borderlands Agricultural Chaplaincy



Our remit is to focus on being proactive in meeting the needs of the vast socially and geographically isolated rural agricultural community within our area.

We offer confidential support to those engaged in farming and land management, tourism, rural businesses and rural life. Support may range from a listening ear to utilising practical skills on-farm, advocacy and networking. Borderlands Chaplains work in close association with other helping agencies, farming charities and rural support groups. The money we've received has been incredibly humbling and has been used to help appoint a full time chaplain / co-ordinator to undergo this vital work. It has helped to grow and train a team of volunteer chaplains. It has meant travel costs could be covered in order to reach out to the most isolated and lonely individuals in our rural community. It has helped demonstrate to many who felt unloved, undervalued and outcast that God through the church and through this chaplaincy cares. Good shepherds need to be with their sheep; the money donated by Wesley's has helped put boots on the ground to walk through the mud and journey alongside our needy and often forgotten farming community.



Organisation	Ludlow Cancer Support Group
Project	Commencement of support group

Organisation	Young Shropshire in Work
Project	Supporting YP into the workplace

The Ludlow Cancer Support Group aims to provide a sociable and welcoming environment where members can get to know each other and share experiences. The emphasis is on fun and friendship, but there are ample opportunities for deeper or more emotional discussion, should members wish this. The Ludlow Cancer Support Group is an Unincorporated Association, i.e. a not for profit organisation.

A public liability insurance was essential, and money had to be spent on rental costs and printed flyers, used to attract members and inform the public and relevant health 'providers' of the Group's existence. We wanted to offer a variety of activities. Painting is one, and some of the money was spent on materials. The photos below show our resident artist and the first painting class.



Young Shropshire in Work is a Charitable Trust created to help young people in South Shropshire make the transition into work. The Trust offers funding to young people who have been offered a work experience, volunteering or training that will lead to employment and are unable for financial reasons to take it up.

Grants are awarded in the following circumstances:

- to help cover travel, subsistence, equipment or clothing essential to the role.
- to help cover expenses that would not usually or cannot reasonably be met by the employer.
- to help complete a short certificated course (e.g Food Hygiene) which enables them to start, continue or resume employment.



Organisation	Trustees of Caynham Village Hall
Project	Village Hall Upgrade

Organisation	Shropshire Marches Methodist Circuit
Project	Community Chaplain

Our village hall was built in 1911. It was in urgent need of a major refurbishment including a new floor, removal of the existing stage to make more space, and installation of a new automatic door.

Our regular users had complained for years about the state of the patched-up wooden floor of the main hall, which let in the cold air, but funds were insufficient to do anything about it.

The full grant we received from Wesley's went towards the cost of removing the existing floor, then fully insulating between the floor joists, laying a new sub-floor onto the joists, and finishing off with a commercial standard "wood-finish" vinyl top surface. We are very pleased to report that the work has been completed. The end result is a much warmer, safer floor and a real boost in heat retention. Without the grant from Wesley's we would not have been able to afford to replace the floor.

The post was set up by the Methodist Circuit in Shropshire to support both groups and individuals on the edge of Church and with no church involvement.

Regular contact with the community in Ludlow is made, and individuals are supported during times of crisis, by the chaplain being alongside them.

New and existing community groups are attended, to offer support, and there is regular contact with some of the Care homes in Ludlow.

Without this money the Wellbeing day that gave information and support to vulnerable adults would not have taken place. "Coffeetimeplus" that supports lonely people would not have been formed and the spiritual support that individuals have received would not have made a difference to helping them find solutions during difficult times.



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Organisation	Ludlow 21
Project	Green Fair 'awareness-raising' activities

Organisation	Ludlow C of E School
Project	Pupil Support Centre - Garden project



Demonstrations during Ludlow Green Festival to capture people's interest.



With the funding we were able to include demonstrations on how to build an eco house and how to construct a cob oven at home. Children enjoyed the fun of playing instruments made out of recycled materials.

We organised a programme of walks ranging from a gentle local stroll to a foraging foray and an expedition to Clun with a visit and tour of an organic holding and we were able to work with a local firm to improve our marketing reach.

The money made a big difference to us and enabled us to include an interesting and diverse mix of activities to complement the Green Fair and offer our audience a fun approach to a green way of life. By helping to support our marketing work it also gave us the opportunity to benefit from valuable expertise of a local firm. A big thank you!

In July 2012, Ludlow C of E School's Pupil Support Centre (PSC), took delivery of our poly tunnel, thanks to a £1000 grant from Wesley's cafe. The poly tunnel is situated in our PSC vegetable garden, at Ludlow C of E School. It has provided a much needed, all year round growing environment for tender salad crops and vegetables, with the added bonus of an irrigation system with a timer, allowing flexible watering in unpredictable weather! Having irrigation has been invaluable in enabling us to grow crops and keep them watered throughout the year and especially during the school holidays. Our pupils are involved in sowing seeds, planting out the seedlings, tending them through to harvesting, then cooking with and/or eating the crops. Furthermore, PSC pupils raise funds to buy seeds for next year's crops by holding an annual plant sale in addition to selling salad leaves, surplus crops and cooking soup for staff and pupils; they see the full cycle from "field to fork"!



Wesleys 10 Years on

Organisation	Working Together
Project	Various projects



We are a registered charity for young people and adults with learning disabilities. We currently have around 35 members. Our main aim is to provide a safe and happy life with meaningful work and social opportunities for all our core members.



Within the last 10 Years Wesley's has supported us on several occasions providing funding for several of our projects including our Diversity Club, a sort of Youth Club for our over 25s, and various craft activities. Wesley's also purchased for us an outside display stand to replace the one that was stolen from outside our café last year. We are indebted to Wesley's and all the kind people behind the scenes for all the help and encouragement provided.

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Organisation	Shropshire Mind
Project	Various projects

Shropshire Mind is the mental health charity for our county, raising all funds locally, that allow us to maintain the vital support across the county.

We have groups in Ludlow, Bridgnorth, Market Drayton, Oswestry, Whitchurch and our HQ in Shrewsbury.

The Ludlow group is the largest outside of Shrewsbury, able to muster over 30 on a good evening, which highlights the constant need for mental health support.

2 years ago, Wesley's was kind enough to grant Shropshire Mind funds, which we matched, to renew our carpet in the hall, landing, stairs and office. This carpet had failed HSE inspection, so it was not by choice but as a necessity, to have a safe and effective place to operate from.

The funding also allowed us to purchase upgrade software to the computers that had been donated, but all of which had obsolete software.