

Latest News – March Update

Tolpuddle Old Chapel Trust (TOCT) is a building preservation trust working to save the Grade II* listed former Methodist Chapel in Tolpuddle as a ‘Quiet Place in the heart of the historic village’.



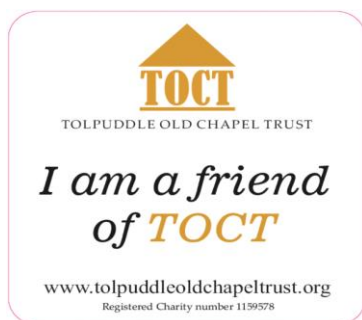
The Old Chapel was built in 1818 by the then ‘Dorsetshire Labourers’ who in 1838 became known as The Tolpuddle Martyrs.

Digital artist Jason Wilsher-Mills created this image as part of ‘The Tolpuddle Martyrs Remixed’ for the Shire Hall Court House Museum in Dorchester. Here we see the present Old Chapel transposed alongside the Tolpuddle Martyrs Tree. The figures of the six down-trodden Dorsetshire Labourers are shown walking around the tree bringing the whole Tolpuddle Martyrs Story together.

They used this little chapel for Non-Conformist worship from 1818 until 1834. It was a place where they studied the bible, sang hymns and prayed. Under the guidance of the lay preacher, George Loveless, the chapel provided a space where the Dorsetshire Labourers were able to meet, exchange ideas and build their confidence to challenge the

injustices of their harsh living and working conditions. In 1833 they met up with the fledgling union of The Friendly Society of Agricultural Labourers in London. In 1834 they swore an oath and formed their own branch of the Union. They were subsequently arrested, tried in Shire Hall Courthouse in Dorchester, transported to Australia, pardoned and eventually 5 of the 6 moved to London Ontario in Canada to start a new life.

After four years of dedicated hard work by trustees, volunteers, project managers, consultants, architects, Friends of Tolpuddle Old Chapel and our financial sponsors, TOCT is finally in a strong position to realise its vision of renovating and extending Tolpuddle Old Chapel. All that remains is to bridge the funding gap of £95K. TOCT is working tirelessly to secure the support needed to raise this final target and unlock the funding pledges that have been made but every donation, large or small, really will make a huge difference to help save Tolpuddle Old Chapel.



Please help TOCT tell their unique story by supporting our work to save this iconic building.

Ways to support TOCT:

<https://tolpuddleoldchapeltrust.org/ways-of-supporting-toct/>

Please help us spread the word!

TOCT must raise £95K Match Funding by end of April

A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR CURRENT SUPPORTERS:

Grants pledged for renovation:

The Heritage Lottery Fund	£ 329,239
Historic England	£ 100,000
Charitable Trusts	£ 86,000
West Dorset District Council	£ 30,000
Architectural Heritage Fund	£ 9,028
Individual or group donations	£ 6,000

TOTAL £560,267

CURRENT FUNDING TARGET £95,238

DEADLINE: End of April 2019

We must raise £95K by end of April to unlock these pledges

Can you help us reach our final target? Every donation, large or small, will make a real difference to help us save Tolpuddle Old Chapel!

Thank You!
TOCT Trustees