

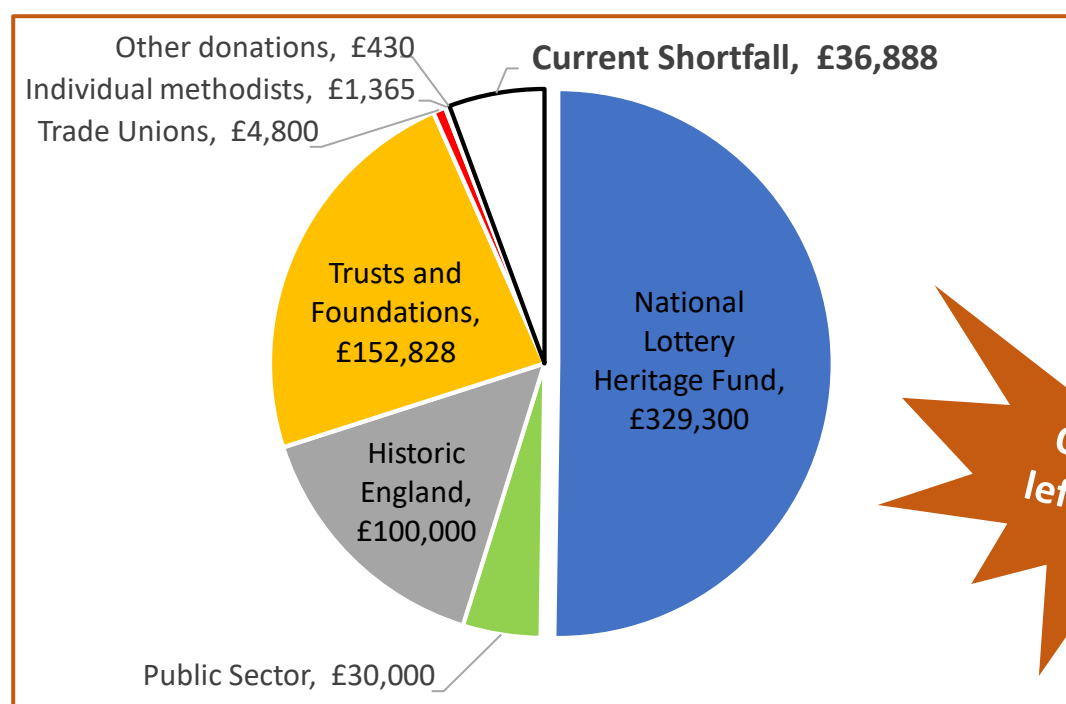
Tolpuddle Festival Update

July 2019



We're nearly there!

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.



TOCT continues to work tirelessly to secure the support needed to raise this final target and unlock the funding pledges that have been made.



Every donation, large or small, will make a huge difference to help save Tolpuddle Old Chapel.

Funding will enable:

- The full restoration of the old chapel
- A new extension, situated adjacent to the east wall of the chapel to support event and activities
- A year round programme of activities and interpretation
- A pilot schools programme (Engaging students with the history of Tolpuddle and the Dorsetshire Labours.)
- Various volunteering opportunities
- A secure future for the Chapel and the stories it tells



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

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

A little bit of history...



Visual with the permission of TOCT/Jason Wilsher-Mills

This is a digital depiction of the “Whole Story” of The Dorsetshire Labourers, later known as The Tolpuddle Martyrs.

The digital artist, Jason Wilsher-Mills, depicts the Tolpuddle Martyrs Tree with the silhouettes of the six Dorsetshire Labourers walking around the Martyrs Tree. (In the early 19th Century they walked daily from their homes to and from the farm now known as Tolpuddle Manor, on their way to and from their farm work)

In 1818, they built and used a little chapel for Non-Conformist worship from then until 1834. It was a place where they studied the Bible, sang hymns, listened to sermons 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 1834 they swore an oath and formed their own branch of the Union. They were subsequently arrested, tried in the Shire Hall Courthouse in Dorchester, transported to Australia and Tasmania, pardoned and eventually 5 of the 6 moved to London Ontario in Canada to start a new life.

These events played a huge role in the subsequent creation of the Trade Union movement which of course is still celebrated today by the annual Tolpuddle Martyrs’ Festival.

Ways to support TOCT: <https://tolpuddleoldchapeltrust.org/ways-of-supporting-toct/>

Please help us spread the word!

Thank You !



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TOLPUDDLE OLD CHAPEL TRUST

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