

Tolpuddle Old Chapel

By Laurence Lagrue, Dorset Community Poet

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Welcome one and welcome all
To this place that has for ages stood
A place of worship, a place of peace
Where just ideals forged brotherhood.

By the toil and graft of humble men
Was this place of worship built,
A sanctuary for nonconformist belief
Whose enemies sought to find their guilt.

The Martyrs' story is well known
Though less the chapel here,
Stood resolute as their beliefs
In many guises down the years.

A chapel first, a stable then
A place for storing grain,
The years stood empty took their toll
Now it's this building's time again.

Yet from its first to present time
This building keeps its place
At the heart of this historic village
A welcomed, needed quiet space.

A place of calm, a place of peace
A sanctuary and retreat,
A welcome and a social place
Where young and old can come to meet.

Work continues, the toil goes on.
See what the Old Chapel Trust has done!
As the Martyrs built it years ago
This place is here for everyone.

For the village and beyond,
For the benefit of all and good,
We'll keep this chapel in our hearts,
A legacy

Of justice, peace and brotherhood



Illustration by the artist Liam O'Farrell

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www.tolpuddleoldchapeltrust.org

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