



TOLPUDDLE OLD CHAPEL TRUST

Company number: 8908950 Registered Charity number 1159578

tolpuddleoctrust@btinternet.com

www.tolpuddleoldchapeltrust.org

TOCT Project Update Easter 2020

So far this year detailed preparation for the repair of the unique cob structure of the old chapel have continued.

Our architect, George Tasker and our structural engineer have carried out a series of site meetings with a specialist team from Historic England.

Trial excavations have been carried out on site by conservation builder, Nigel Jaggard to establish the state of the brick plinth foundation and the state of the cob.

Historic England are organising an in-depth analysis of the cob, in order to guide production of cob blocks which will be used in the repairs.

The soil adjacent to the north wall of the building has been excavated to expose the cob wall and allow it to dry out. A number of old 'Patterson' coffee bottles were found.

The Trustees wish to thank all our Friends of TOCT, our 900 Twitter followers, our TOCT volunteers, our donors and sponsor, especially The National Lottery Heritage Fund and Historic England, and all the members of our project team for your continued support with this exciting project.

We wish you all a Happy Easter, Stay safe and well.



"Congratulations to all involved in this amazing project. Restoring what is, a building of historical importance, which stood not just as a place of worship but as a symbol of social justice and individual liberty. Your restoration project will ensure the Chapel stands as a reminder of the struggles faced by rural communities in the past and the changes their efforts and sacrifices achieved for all, not just those in the past but for those today and in the future. Congratulations."

Justin Downer
Farming Through the Ages

March

Nigel Jaggard, Conservation Builder, carried out excavations of six trial holes on the Old Chapel site.

They will help inform Architecton, our architects and Historic England as to the requirements to safeguard the structure of the 200 year old brick plinth that supports the unique cob walls of the Old Chapel.



Photo credit: Ian Cray, TOCT



Photo credit: Tobias Carleton-Prangell



Site meeting with Historic England and TOCT. The trial dig found the foundations to be sound and the cob to be in really good condition.

Tobias Carleton-Prangell (right) is using an endoscope to examine and record the extent and condition of the void in the cob wall for the purpose of providing information that will accurately inform the specification for repair.



Photo credit: Sarah Ball, Historic England



Nigel Jaggard, Conservation Builder,
removing a section of a boundary wall.
This work is to expose to the air the
northern facing cob wall which has for
many years been covered with debris
and soil.



These photos show the area dug out adjacent the
north wall of the chapel. This reveals the really
good state of the north cob wall which has been
buried under a rubbish dump for many years. It
also shows the top of the brick plinth that the cob
rests on. Now the exposed north wall can dry out.

Discovery on site

Thirty-nine well preserved bottles were found in the dig from the site of an old dump which was against the north wall of the Old Chapel. The majority of the bottles are vintage green Paterson's camp coffee bottles!

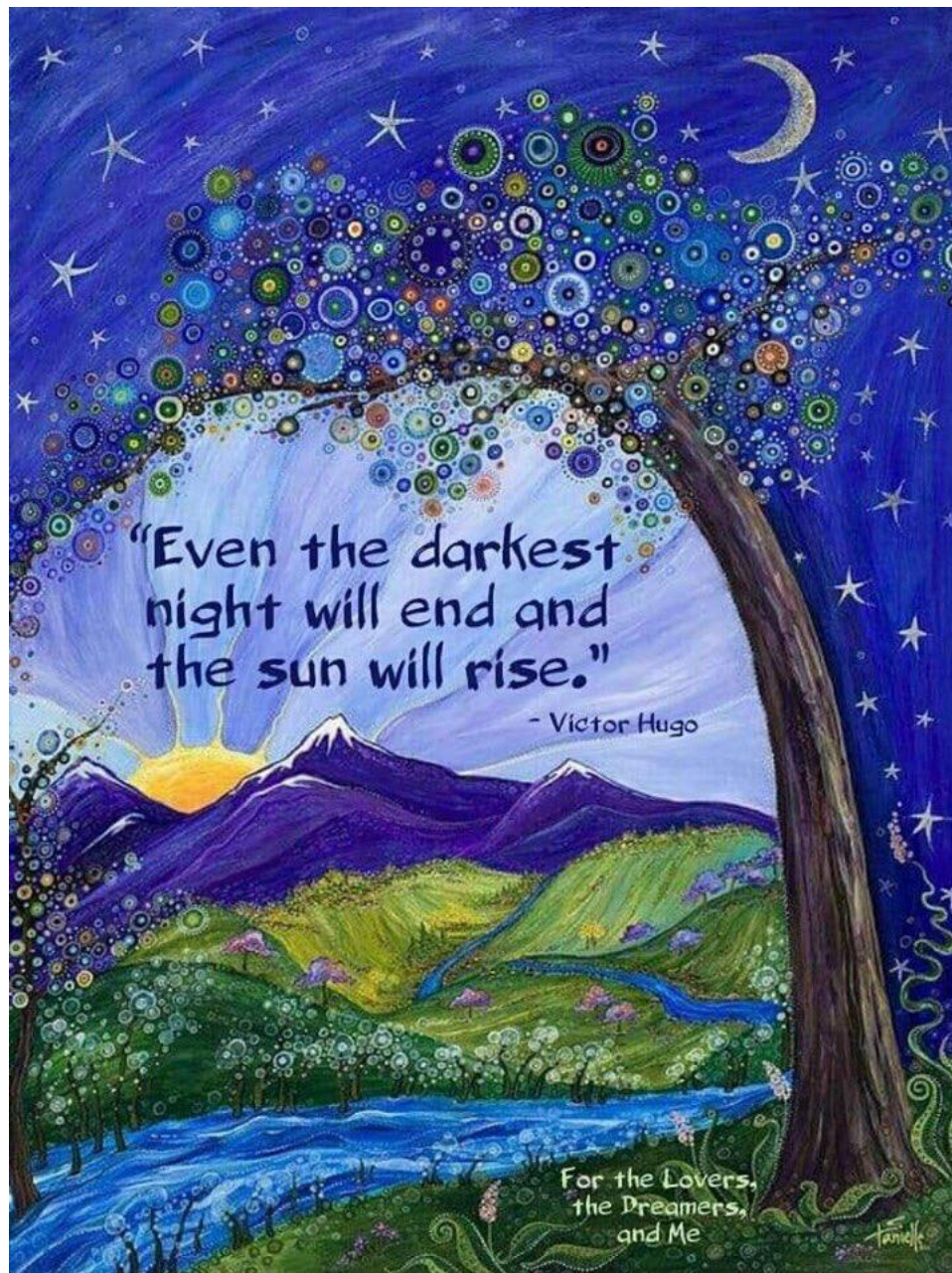


April

A big thank you from the TOCT Trustees to all our followers. Your retweets and likes are a great source of support, especially during these challenging times. Stay safe everyone.




Happy Easter and Stay Safe to our followers, sponsors, donors, Friend of TOCT, TOCT Volunteers and to our Project Team.



Historic England



 @TolpuddleOCT

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