

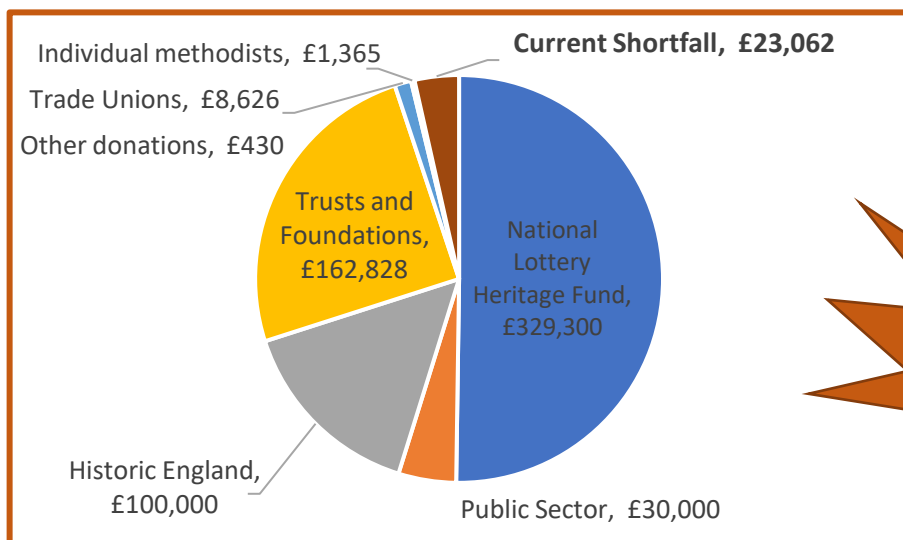
Tolpuddle Old Chapel Trust

July 2020 Update



Building work on track to start this autumn!

After five 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 has continued 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 to support event and activities
- A year round programme of activities and interpretation
- A digital research hub for academic research into the 'Missing Years 1818 – 1834 of the use of the Chapel
- A pilot schools programme
- Various volunteering opportunities
- A secure future for the Chapel and the stories it tells



Visit our website to watch our new video produced to celebrate Tolpuddle Virtual Festival 2020

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

www.tolpuddleoldchapeltrust.org

A little bit of history...



Visual with the permission of TOCT/Jason Wilsher-Mills

The digital artist, Jason Wilsher-Mills, depicts the Tolpuddle Martyrs Tree with the silhouettes of the six Dorsetshire Labourers walking round it. 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.

They were driven by fear of starvation and fear of the power of the landowners. Discontented with the established Anglican Church, they embraced the new Non-Conformism in the form of Wesleyan Methodism and built their own

chapel in 1818, and for the next sixteen years they grew in confidence, largely by virtue of one of their own, George Loveless, a self-educated local farm labourer and Methodist Lay preacher.

Their chapel became their 'sanctuary', a safe place to meet and worship through the study of the Bible, hymn singing, sermons and prayer. Here they were also able to exchange ideas and build up their confidence to challenge the injustices of their harsh living and working conditions, and explore ways to mitigate their poverty and deprivation.

In 1833 they met up with Trade Unionists and went on to swear an oath and to form their own branch of The Friendly Society of Agricultural Labourers. They were subsequently arrested, tried in 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-ofsupporting-toct/>

Visit our website to meet our trustees and hear about why they became involved

Please help us spread the word!

Thank You!



TOLPUDDLE OLD CHAPEL TRUST

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