

Church and Community: a new perspective in sharing

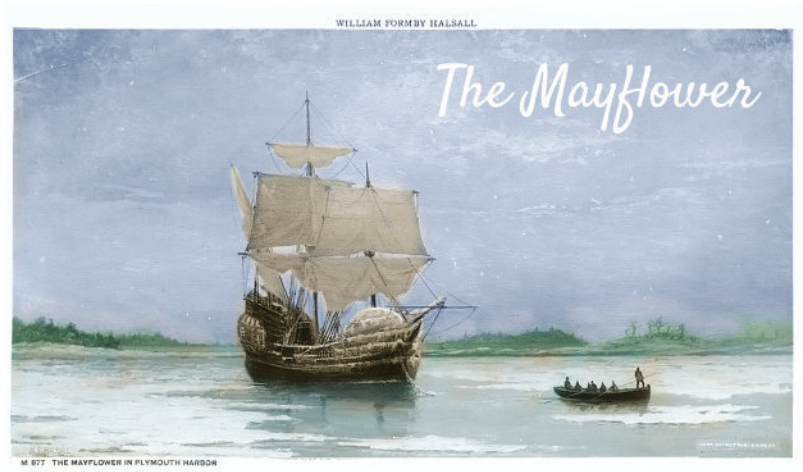
Aims & Objectives

To promote and develop the use of the Church and its facilities as a community asset.

To form partnerships with local affinity groups encouraging them to use the Church for meetings and events in return for their support in maintaining the fabric of the church.

To restore the secular role of the Church as a dynamic centre for a vibrant local community, encouraging today's 'new' Chorley to relate to its past roots.

A ship facing the horrific dangers of crossing the Atlantic in 1620: a small fierce man charged with protecting its passengers: a building project in a new land: a Christmas Tree in Saint Laurence's Church. What has all this to do with the people of Chorley in 2018?



The answer to this question lies in a study of one of the most important historical events of the seventeenth century. In the autumn of 1620 a group of 102 passengers were chosen to travel on the Mayflower with the aim of setting up a colony in the New World. The core of the group, known as Separatists, were seeking to establish a settlement where they were free to follow their own religious beliefs and practices which would be independent of the doctrines, traditions and organization of the Church of England. Described in history as the Pilgrim Fathers they set sail from Plymouth in September, arriving on the shores of Cape Cod, in present day Massachusetts, in November of that year.



For further information concerning the Friends and their activities visit our website www.friendsfstlaurencechorley.org or email friends@stlaurencechorley.co.uk

Bonding Church and Community together

This is an exciting new experiment in sharing, bonding together Church and a community which already has its roots deep in the area's history.

Hopefully readers of this leaflet will be intrigued enough to want to discover more about Friends of St. Laurence's and explore the possibilities offered by such a proposal.

We encourage you to find out more about the Friends by visiting our website: www.friendsofstlaurencechorley.org and by following us on Facebook and twitter.

You will discover a very warm welcome for members and supporters who will help us to achieve our objectives.

Also on board the Mayflower was Captain Myles Standish. Myles Standish was an English army officer with experience of war both in this country and on the continent. He had been hired by the Pilgrims to act as their adviser on military matters. After landing he played an important role in the establishment, administration and defence of the Plymouth Colony and was elected by the colony's militia as their first commander, a position that he held until his death. Small in stature and known for his fiery temperament, Myles Standish was a brave and courageous military leader and led successful attacks on groups of native Americans. As an able administrator he was influential, together with Governor William Bradford, in developing a colony that was blessed with law and order. Although not one of the religious dissenters, he was recognized by them for his talents and held in high esteem. He was allocated a farm of 120 acres that he named Duxbury and settled there for the rest of his life. Although there is little hard evidence about his early life, historian Justin Winsor and others have suggested that the name Duxbury was given by Standish in honour of Duxbury Hall, near Chorley in Lancashire, the home of a branch of the Standish family of which he was a member.



So what does all this have to do with the Christmas Tree in Saint Laurence's Church? 2020 is the 400th anniversary of the sailing of the Mayflower and the foundation of the Plymouth Colony in Massachusetts. To celebrate this important anniversary a series of events is being planned by a working group, supported by Chorley Council, which they hope will attract visitors not just from this country and America but from all over the world. These will include drama, music, lectures, tours and much more. Visits to the tombs of various members of the Standish family located in Saint Laurence's Church are a significant part of this story. Given the close links between the Standish family and St. Laurence's Church, the Friends will play a full part in these celebrations. The Christmas Tree is a prelude of things to come and visitors will discover symbols of the voyage of the Mayflower that may be purchased at very reasonable prices.



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