

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.



All successful projects start with a vision; what might be described as a grand idea. However, visions are only that. They are ideas but to acquire substance they require something much more. To turn a vision into reality they need drive, application, and the ability to make things happen.

So, it is with the Friends of Saint Laurence's Church. This started with a vision. How do you make the town's oldest church connect with the community around it and how can they support each other to the mutual benefit of both? What are the needs that can be identified and what are the strengths that can be offered by each to the other?

Readers of earlier newsletters will have noted the ways in which Church and Town have become linked with each other through a common history and there are many examples of this. These are themes that will be developed in future communications. Throughout the past centuries it can be clearly seen that what happens today is the result of decisions and actions taken by the Church and by the Municipal Authorities for the common good. It might be said that we are indebted to each other.



For further information concerning the Friends and their activities visit our website www.friendsofstlaurencechorley.org

or email friends@stlaurencechorley.co.uk



@Laurencefriends



@Laurencefriends

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.

This is where the Friends of Saint Laurence's Church step in to play its part. Their vision is to act as a catalyst in asking the community to respond to the Church's needs by helping to maintain its fabric allowing it to provide for the comfort and spiritual needs of that community and to ensure that it is in a position to continue God's work in the centuries to come. In return they are offering the people of Chorley many facilities by establishing a community hub aimed at binding the community together with the provision of premises, professional advice and a full range of social media platforms.

After months of preparation, and much hard work, Friends are now ready to launch. A target of 50 Foundation Members has been reached. A constitution has been adopted and a committee and officers have been elected each with their own particular responsibility. A website is now fully operational **www.friendsofstlaurencechorley.org** where members of the community can access full details of the organisation, including its aims and ambitions, membership, constitutions, minutes of meetings, news and upcoming events. There is also an opportunity for local organisations to post details of what is going on in their world. Social media platforms Facebook, Twitter and others are providing a virtual meeting place for our local community, and are moving forward with regular posts.

The Official Launch Event will feature live performances from Danielle Thomas [Soprano] and Nick Hardy [Tenor] singing popular show tunes

A two course supper

A Jazz Swing Band

tickets: £15



The public launch will take place on 5th April in Chorley Town Hall featuring a musical evening with Songs from the Shows and a jazz swing band with students from the Royal Northern College of Music. A buffet supper will be provided by Bees Country Kitchen with tickets at £15 per head. Tickets and tables may be booked by accessing the website. What started as a vision, a grand idea, is now well on the way to becoming a reality with a partnership between Church and the community building a momentum behind a project designed to benefit the people of Chorley by protecting its history and laying a sound foundation for prosperity in the future.



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