



## TOLPUDDLE OLD CHAPEL TRUST

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As a positive follow up to the recent good news from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, here is a poem from our own Dorset Community Poet.

### Tolpuddle Old Chapel

By Laurence Lagrue, Dorset Community Poet

[wisforduck.wordpress.com](http://wisforduck.wordpress.com)

Twitter @LaurenceLagrue

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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