

Friends of St Laurence's

🐟 'FOSLS' 🐟



St Laurence's has been at the centre of village life for centuries.

Currently we have a small active congregation.

There are other non-church goers who support St Laurence's in various ways through the year.

Many people in the village will have had some kind of connection with the church at special times of their lives or through school.

Whilst we acknowledge with thanks all of those who help us at the moment, we do need our group of friends to grow in order to keep St Laurence's going for the village.

We also want to develop new ways of sharing this wonderful building and its surroundings.

**Don't let St Laurence's
become a fossil**

Come join the FOSLS!

Ways for friends to help



Include:

- Building maintenance
- Churchyard maintenance
- Encouraging wildlife in the churchyard
- Flower arranging
- Baking
- Brass polishing
- Help with newsletter
- Helping at events
- Joining the bell ringers
- Thinking of new ways to use our building

Whatever your skills, or preference for working, peacefully alone, or sociably in a group, there is a way you can contribute. If you feel you cannot volunteer you can still become a member of the friends: suggested donation £3.p.a.

Did you know?



Various events are held through the year:

Goose Fair: pre-Christmas craft and gift fair plus our renowned home-made cakes.

Christmas tree festival: a feast of music, decorated trees and delicious cakes

Cuckoo Fair: we run St Laurence's Larder offering morning coffees, lunches and teas

Summer Fete: traditional stalls, Downton band, Choirs and other attractions

Jazz in the churchyard: some years we are able to invite people to bring a picnic to enjoy whilst they listen to local stars entertaining us with trad. Jazz

Concerts: various artists over the years

Talks: for instance authors talking about their books

We send out the Downton Parish News 10 times a year.





‘A place for
those of all faiths
and none’

Churches do not receive funds from government. Upkeep is dependent upon donations and volunteers. If you are unable to help in person but would still like to support us please consider a voluntary donation of £3 per year.

The church has charitable status and donations can be gift aided.

Bank details:

St Laurence Downton PCC

Acc. No.: 65475214

Sort Code: 089299

Funds will be used for equipment and materials for upkeep of the buildings and churchyard, also for the newsletter and for social events.

The church is a space for all which could be used in many ways.

The interior was refurbished in 2016 (after the sale of the church hall which the congregation could not afford to keep up).

We now have a meeting room, servery and toilets as well as the main space of the church.

The church is open for visitors every day.

If you are interested in joining the Friends please get in touch with:

Susan Barnhurst-Davies: 01725 512963

Sue Joseph: 01725 511848

Philippa Merrill: 01725 512175

fosl@stlaurencedownton.co.uk

The aim of the Friends is to share our grade one listed building and its beautiful churchyard with the whole community.

Friends of St Laurence's will:

- Organise regular working parties
- Send out a newsletter to friends about progress and events
- Hold social events.