



Friends of Launde

Charity No: 519042

Christmas Newsletter 2024



Wells of Salvation Our Friends Retreat 2024

It was good to be at Launde Abbey again on a Friends Retreat when 23 of us gathered together for a time of prayer, reflection and fellowship.

Our Retreat was led by Revd Rhona Knight, one of Launde Abbey's College of Chaplains, and based on the Launde 900 prayer:

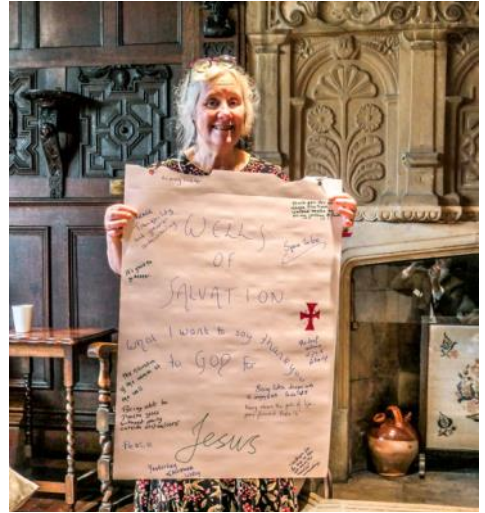


Eternal God,
who calls us to draw water
from the ancient wells of salvation,
and whose Son is the living water
from whom we can drink
and never be thirsty:
resource, renew and refresh us,
as with gratitude for the past,
we step out with confidence
into your future,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

We reflected and prayed with four main themes taken from the prayer: drawing water; Jesus the living water; thankful hearts and stepping out.



Approaching scripture through word, music, image and other creative approaches we met with God in the beauty of Launde Abbey, its community and its surroundings.



It was good for us to have time to meet and chat and of course our thanks go to all the staff of Launde Abbey who made us very welcome.



Alison

Newsletter Editor

SAVE THE DATES!

- We have provisionally booked our Friends' Retreat 2025 from tea on Monday 11 to morning coffee Wednesday 13 August.
- Friends' Cream Tea Sunday 31 August.



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Introducing Patrick Rendall MBE Honorary Secretary of The Friends of Launde

Over 10 years ago I was standing in our village with my wife Frances talking to our vicar Revd Lorna Brabin-Smith who was also the Chair of the Friends of Launde Abbey. Out of the blue she asked if we would both like to join the committee of Friends as she was looking for new recruits! How could we refuse! That began our friendship with the Friends. Sadly, Frances died 3 years ago, but I enjoy being on the committee and am very happy to be secretary.

I suppose I am not a normal Friend, although I have a strong faith as did Frances. I am afraid I get a 'D-' for church attendance, but with a background in the Army I enjoy a service with plenty of traditional hymns and a short sermon! I love church music too!

I joined the Army in 1966 and went to Sandhurst. I was a 'Cold War' warrior in the Royal Corps of Transport, and where some people might be expected to fight on the front line, my job at different levels of command was to provide transport to support the movement of supplies to fighting troops.

Frances (who had been an Army Officer too) and I moved so many times and our tours were in various German garrisons, around the UK and we also had a tour of duty in the Falkland Islands!

We enjoyed the Army life. But when the time came, we were happy to leave the Army and came to Leicestershire to be near my parents as they got older. Frances, who was an Edinburgh Scot, adapted to life in the East Midlands and enjoyed a late career in social housing. I became a project manager and in retirement am now heavily involved in governance in Church Schools being Chair of Governors of 3 primary schools.

I enjoy Launde; I enjoy the people I meet; now and again I pop in for a light lunch and try and attend the midday prayers. I enjoy running the Cream Tea and above all doing my own thing to help the committee!

Patrick

We currently have 2 vacancies for Friends of Launde trustees. We hold 2 'zoom' meetings a year and 2 in person at Launde during the spring/summer months. If this is something that possibly interests you please email madeleine.v.wang@gmail.com



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Work has continued on the refitting of the greenhouse glass roof in between all the many jobs that Karen and the Launde team of Garden Volunteers have carried out over the past months.

Many of you may know of Pam Redhead as the staff member who tamed Launde cat Amber and has now provided her with a retirement home.



Pam is sometimes seen in the dining room, but is more usually in front of the Launde kitchen sink. For her 60th birthday, she was given a surprise day out by David Gibson who was part of the Abbey's reception and booking team for many years. He took her to Walsingham Shrine where he had arranged for her to receive a priestly blessing, and then brought her blindfolded to Launde dining room where a special cake made by chef Helen awaited. Her face when the blindfold was removed was wreathed in smiles!

Revd Hazel Aucken

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Shopping Online?

We're registered with

'easyfundraising' which means you can help us and therefore the Abbey.

Over 7000 brands which include John Lewis, Argos, Boots, Amazon and Sainsbury's or Tesco Groceries among so many others will donate to us when you use 'easyfundraising' to shop with them. It's easy and completely free. These donations really mount up, so please sign up to support us at:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friends-of-launde>

The Friends, supported by Launde Abbey, have been awarded a District Council Environmental Grant of £13,000 to purchase tools for ongoing garden maintenance. The aim is to reduce the overall carbon footprint of garden machinery, enhance bio-diversity and maximise the calm and peaceful spaces in Launde Abbey grounds. Look out for updates in the new year.

Madeleine Wang

Watch Songs of Praise, currently scheduled for Sunday 29th December, to enjoy seeing glimpses of Launde Abbey



All donations are gratefully received:

The Friends of Launde

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