

# Friends of Launde

Charity No: 519042

## Easter Newsletter 2025



### Over the last couple of weeks spring has truly sprung!

The early part of this year has been an exciting time for us as in the latter part of 2024 we were notified that we had been successful in receiving a grant of up to £13,000 from Harborough District Council towards our project to reduce the overall carbon footprint of our garden machinery, enhance bio-diversity and maximise the calm and peaceful spaces in Launde Abbey grounds. Under the terms of the grant this will be match funded by ourselves and so we have been arranging purchasing for this project.

These will include a new ride-on lawn mower for the grounds, a range of commercial battery powered garden tools enabling accessibility and usage of the tools for a wider scope of the Abbey's volunteers, purchase of a battery powered push mower and support for the garden works around the South Border.



Last weekend the grounds looked glorious in the spring sunshine and there is so much work that has been carried out over the previous months and so a huge thank you to all of the Abbey's staff and volunteers.

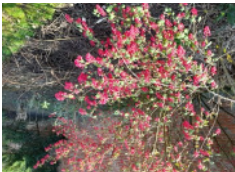
Our current pledges in addition to the above are £5,000 towards hybrid conferencing and £1,000 as the balance toward the Abbey's new website. Thank you to everyone whose membership subscriptions and donations support us in our grants to the Abbey.

It was a vibrant Trustees' meeting last Friday with varied discussions ranging from our upcoming Friends Retreat, our Cream Tea at the end of August and other possible upcoming Social and Fundraising events and News from the Abbey.

One of the items discussed at our meeting was the possible development of having our own logo and branding for communications for 'Friends' which would compliment Launde Abbey's own branding but would be visually distinctly different. If you would be interested in being part of a small working party to help with this Madeleine would love to hear from you: [madeleine.v.wang@gmail.com](mailto:madeleine.v.wang@gmail.com)



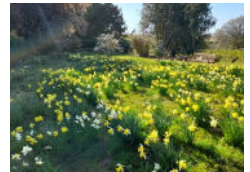
**Alison Collis - Newsletter Editor**



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In the summer of 2024 when Revd Chris Webb, Launde Abbey's Deputy Warden, took off on his pilgrimage to Assisi I became an avid follower of his blog which he has continued since being back in this country, now entitled [www.50ccpilgrim.uk](http://www.50ccpilgrim.uk) The following is an item from his blog and entitled 'Dinosaur'. **Alison Collis**

I was ordained nearly thirty years ago, and was training for ministry for three years before that. In the last millennium. Most vicars still wore frocks in church, even though they were all men then. Most churches still had their own vicar. Lots of churches still used the Prayer Book brought in under Henry VIII and his kids. Some churches were considered avant garde because, alongside the pipe organ and robed choir, they also had a guitar. The real pioneers were embracing the new technology: Roneo duplicators, OHPs, Amstrad word processors, faxes and a pager for the vicar.



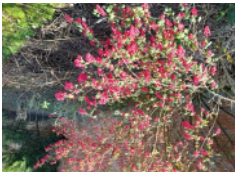
*Sometimes this is how I feel*

Now, in the age of Zoom church, surfing church, Insta influencing, TikTok, online worship, cafe church, forest church, new monasticism, vision and strategy, minster communities and more, all that stuff I started with looks so quaint and archaic. I still wear a frock and like a good liturgy, and I feel like a dinosaur.

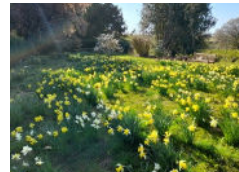
So am I against all the new ways, wishing I could turn back the clock? Not in the least. We keep moving forward: of course we do. In the end it's mostly froth anyway - in another thirty years all this new brilliance will look quaint and archaic too. But in amongst all this we're still pursuing what really matters: loving God, loving others, seeking the kingdom of God, practicing peace and radical hospitality to friends, enemies and strangers alike, praying and living as though the God we talk about was actually real.

We all become dinosaurs in the end. It's ok. But unless the asteroid comes, I'll still be turning up week by week, day by day (even in my frock) because the stuff we do matters. No matter how we do it.

**The Friends of Launde Membership Secretary:** [j.zientek12@btinternet.com](mailto:j.zientek12@btinternet.com)  
**The Friends of Launde Newsletter:** [friendsoflaunde1@gmail.com](mailto:friendsoflaunde1@gmail.com)



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**Dates for your Diaries**

**Our Friends Retreat 2025**

**Afternoon Tea Monday 11th to morning coffee Wednesday 13 August**

Following feedback from our last retreat we approached Launde Abbey with the possibility of trialling a summer retreat for us so that our Friends could hopefully enjoy the warmer weather, the ambience of the Launde grounds, the joy of the longer days with more time for fellowship whilst still having both a spiritual and themed programme.

Launde Abbey has therefore offered us an outline programme led by Revd Catherine Wright and Revd Fran Grasham, two members of the Abbey's current praying community and experienced retreat leaders.

More details will follow very shortly.

***Social Event for the Friends of Launde Abbey***

**CREAM TEA AT LAUNDE ABBEY**

**Sunday 31st August 2025**

***The Committee of Friends are hosting this event***

Tickets £10 per person which includes a donation to Friends of Launde Abbey. Arrive from 3pm onwards to meet Friends and walk around the grounds. Cream Tea served from 4pm until 5.30pm.

Please notify Patrick Rendall that you wish to attend by Friday 15th August: [patrickandfrances@btinternet.com](mailto:patrickandfrances@btinternet.com) or 016644 24240 (leave a message if necessary).

Pay Patrick on arrival by cash or cheque made out to The Friends of Launde.

Launde Abbey have very kindly offered a free breakfast for overnight stays either side of our Cream Tea,. So, if it is too far to travel for just a Cream Tea or if you were already planning to attend our Cream Tea, then why not make it into an overnight stay? The offer for Friends attending the Cream Tea (DBB) rate is at the reduced price of £117.00 per person, per night (for a single occupancy Simple room / reduced from £124.80) . Please mention this offer for Friends of Launde when booking.



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### Introducing Jan Zientek Membership Secretary of The Friends of Launde

I became Membership Secretary in 2018 and remember well the dark days of lockdown with meetings transferred to zoom and people quite isolated when I was able to keep you in touch with events by email and phone, learning just how much Launde meant to so many of you as a special place and how you dreadfully missed being able to visit and take part in all it has to offer.

It was a unique time to get to know you and learn of your dedication to the place and your appreciation of the support and online resources offered to many who were very isolated,

I have a keen interest in the history of Launde and have been researching the Launde Community in the 1980's and 1990's when the Community members lived in at Launde as one large family, very different from the professional Launde of today.

Although the number of Friends are less now than in Canon Henry Evan's time, the help that you as both individuals and parishes, provide is as important as ever in helping to improve the facilities that Launde can offer to future generations as a place of spiritual nourishment and contemplation.

**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>

**All donations  
are gratefully received:  
The Friends of Launde  
Sort code: 40 28 06  
Account No : 21302132**

We look forward to hearing from you regarding any S&FR ideas for upcoming events. All suggestions will be very welcome

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](mailto:madeleine.v.wang@gmail.com)