

The Friends of St James Churchyard

During the last year with the help of Blackburn with Darwen's Your Community Your Call programme, we have held some Community Clean Up events in the Churchyard which have been very successful, (although we did have to cancel one of these events because of snow).

We also had help from the Youth Offending Team, who came along and cut grass and tidied the area around the site of the Old Church.

We are very grateful for the help we have had over the last year, both from groups and individuals, who are too numerous to mention, and hope that with God's guidance we can continue in the same way this year. As this year is the 100th Anniversary of the start of the Great War 1914-1918, with this in mind we feel it is important to clean up War Graves and some Family Graves where victims of the War are remembered. There are seventy one names on the War Memorial. Many of these are buried in far off cemeteries. However we have identified at least 33 of the fallen (research is still ongoing) who are named on graves within our church yard.

In view of this anniversary it may be considered appropriate to hold some event to commemorate the unselfish actions of those who, like Jesus Christ, gave their lives that we might live in peace.

The project to restore the war graves and family graves is an ongoing one as is the project to make the whole churchyard into an open space for the benefit of all the people of the area. It's a large area and there's a lot of grass to cut and brambles to clear but we are slowly getting there. Recently the Big Celebration was held here involving local schools and we hope to hold more events like this in the future.

