



“A Place of Peace”

Steve Saville, Acting Churchwarden, St Laurence Parish Church

The original church of St Laurence was rebuilt over 150 years ago by subscriptions by the people of Stroud, for the people of Stroud. So, it is yours it belongs to this community. No-one is excluded unless they want to be. However, for too long it has been a closed shop only for a few who express their life and their faith in a very particular set of words and rituals. As a community we have close to £0.5 million available to begin recreating and reimagining this place as the Stroud Centre for Peace & the Arts. In the last few years there have been many but not enough people with time, vision and the passion to unlock its potential. There haven't been enough people to pick up a Hoover, change a lightbulb, or rearrange the seats after a funeral. I hope that can now change and the Stroud Centre for Peace & the Arts can become a place where we can listen and share our stories; where we can begin to learn - and learn from - each other's languages those words, rituals and actions we use to make sense of our lives and our faith. My hope is that in the Stroud Centre for Peace & the Arts we can create a vibrant and sustainable community; a place of creativity, of joy and celebration; of social and environmental justice; of compassion, of loving kindness, patience and understanding; of sustainable and committed engagement - a place of peace.