



Back in 1925, 11 Abbey Square first opened its door as a retreat house right in the heart of Chester. Itself on the site of the ancient abbey courtyard, for more than three-quarters of a century the house was a much-loved place of generous welcome.

Now, **Retreat House Chester, a newly-registered charity and not-for-profit grassroots community venture with a wide and growing network of support**, wants to offer ways of retreating that meet the needs of modern living. The fact that the old retreat house now stands empty presents a wonderful opportunity to do this. So we are aiming to take on the ground floor and re-open the door, planning to be:

- non-residential
- open to all
- a comfortable city-based resource for residents, workers & visitors offering opportunities for silence, stillness, reflection, prayer & conversation; workshops, talks & courses drawing on Christian spiritual tradition; personal & professional support
- run by staff & volunteers, with local & national visiting speakers & facilitators
- resilient, sustainable & ethical
- a place which understands both interior life and the value of community, especially in a city context

To do this, we need your support...



We are inviting you to join the story of **Retreat House Chester** and bring the benefits of retreat right to the heart of the city and the heart of everyday life.

Chester's former retreat house was first opened with the funding of 15 benefactors. **So, mindful of the generous joint effort and visionary initiative of these fifteen people, we are calling this The Fifteen Appeal**, and are asking people to consider donations based on multiples of £15, **although any sum at all is welcome.**

The Fifteen Appeal will support Retreat House Chester and its work of 'retreat in the city':

- It will provide essential start-up funds to help the new charity become established.
- If we can meet our vision, it will enable us to refurbish and open the retreat house, and to help run the premises and programme.

Whatever you can contribute, we would love you to join us at this stage in the story of Retreat House Chester, rooted in time and reinvented for today.

To follow the story and watch its progress, tick the box on the attached form, or visit our website at www.retreathousechester.co.uk

Thank you.



12 Abbey Square
Chester CH1 2HU
admin@retreathousechester.co.uk
www.retreathousechester.co.uk



**Retreat
House**
CHESTER

Peace

To this house;
To those who enter;
To those who dwell here;
To those who depart,

Peace

Translation of motto
over front door

15 THE APPEAL

Registered Charity Number 1163330

Many of us today feel the need to slow down or step aside now and again, maybe to find a greater depth and connection in life as we live it – personal life, family life, working life.

When people are able to do this, research shows that there are not just personal benefits, but benefits to society too.

A city needs breathing spaces.

Retreat House Chester, rooted in Christian tradition, believes that refreshing the ancient practice of retreat has much to offer people today, whatever our differences, and that sometimes we need to be able to do this in ways that fit with modern daily living. Whether it is simply quiet private time that is needed, or ways of exploring reflective living and spirituality, Retreat House Chester wants to be a place for this.



I/We would like to donate to The Fifteen Appeal.

Your contact details (Please complete)

Full name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____

To donate by cash or cheque – thank you

Please make cheques payable to Retreat House Chester. Please do not send cash by post.

I/we enclose a cash/cheque (please delete) for:

£15 £30 £45 Other

Please state amount: _____

To donate online – thank you

Please see our website – www.retreathousechester.co.uk

Keeping in touch

We will use and store your information only for the processing of this donation and Gift Aid purposes. Please tick here if you would like your contact details to be added to our database to receive further information from Retreat House Chester: by post by email (It helps to keep our costs down if we can contact you by email.)

Become a Founding Benefactor

As in 1925, we are also seeking fifteen key Founding Benefactors. Please contact us for details.

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Gift Aid

Please tick the box, fill in the contact details above and sign below if you would like to Gift Aid your donation, which means we receive an extra 25p for every £1 you give, at no extra cost to you. (You must pay income tax/capital gains tax at least equal to the amount of tax reclaimed on your donations.)

I pay tax in the UK. I want to Gift Aid my donation of £_____ to Retreat House Chester. I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for the current tax year that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities and Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for the current tax year. If I wish to cancel this declaration or no longer pay sufficient tax or my name or address changes I will notify the charity.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please send completed forms to:

Retreat House Chester,
12 Abbey Square
Chester CH1 2HU

Thank you.