

The Parish of Saint Peter, Doddington

(serving the villages of Doddington and Whisby)

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Welcome to the seventeenth edition of the Church Bulletin,
bringing you up to date with news and developments at St Peter's.

A Christmas thought from the Rector

This year it is all true. "In the bleak mid-winter". "See amid the winter's snow". Hopefully a truly white Christmas, but again hopefully, without too much disruption. If you can fight your way through the blizzards to church, sometime over the Christmas season, all will be complete.

Of course, the "bleakness" and the "frostiness" of the carols are also like little parables, picture stories that tell us some great truth.

Bishop John, in his final Christmas message to the Diocese, says: "*the birth of Jesus counters a culture of hopelessness*". In many ways our world is a dark cold place, and yet the Christmas message brings light and warmth and joy and hope. But for Christmas to be "happy" or "merry", you and I have to do something to make Bethlehem in the First Century become relevant to Lincolnshire in the Twentyfirst Century.

As the Bishop adds, "*Living takes on a new meaning, as we seek to live in accordance with our Lord's example.*"

Enjoy the Christmas season, with its message of Cheer and Good-will. But take some time, perhaps now for a few moments, to ponder - How can I make the coming of Jesus into our world, into a changed life (mine) that makes this world better.

Follow the example of Jesus. Apply the teaching of Jesus. Ask God for the help of Jesus. And enjoy the Christmas message - all year round.

May the eagerness of the Shepherds, the joy of the Angels, the perseverance of the Wise Men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ-child, be yours this Christmas.

Richard Billingham, Rector.

Doddington Church Services for the next few months

19 th Dec	7.00 pm	Candle-lit Christmas Carols
25 th Dec	8.00 am	Christmas Early Communion
20 th Feb	6.30 pm	Evensong - 3 rd Sunday before Lent
22 nd April	2.00 pm	Hour at the Cross - Good Friday
24 th April	8.00 am	Early Communion - Easter Sunday

Carols by Candlelight - Sunday 19th December

Although Christmas at Doddington starts earlier and earlier with the opening of the Bauble Barn and the sale of Christmas Trees, it is the annual Carol Service which traditionally marks the start of Christmas. Be sure to come early, wrap up well and bring your friends to what is the high point of the year at St. Peter's. The congregation is invited back to the Old Rectory afterwards.

Lighting in the Church

For several years now the lights in the Church have been left on in December to show off the beautiful stained glass windows as an addition to the Christmas lights in the village. Last year Antony Jarvis donated a simple system which provides much greater light intensity for less than one tenth of the power consumption.

Fund Raising

We continue to raise money for the restoration of the remaining four stained glass windows and the re-lime washing of the inside of the Church:-

- The **Harvest Supper** organised by Jane and Ged Marsden raised £117. A big thank you to Jane for so perfectly cooking the ham.
- **Bernard Beacroft** raised £355, 50% of which will go to Saint Peter's, by cycling round 14 churches on 11 September. A splendid effort.

Future Fund Raising Events

The following events are planned:-

- The next **Dogs Around Doddington** will take place in **March 2011**.
- **Roving Dinner**. We had difficulty in finding a date when all the core regulars could attend, so this will now take place in **May or June** next year.
- The next **Quiz Night** will take place in **May** next year.

Re-Lime Washing the inside of the Church

The Parish Project to scrape down the walls and apply new lime wash to the inside of the Church under the direction of Antony Jarvis has been delayed because of travel plans over the summer. Further details to follow.

Church Brochure

Antony Jarvis has rewritten the Church Brochure, which will appear next year with a new photograph taken by Terry Lowe.

Monthly Prayers in Church

Richard and Frances hold prayers and bible reading in Church at 10.00 am on the first Tuesday of the month for 45 minutes. Everyone is very welcome.

The next dates are February 1st, March 1st, April 5th, May 3rd.

Ian Macalpine-Leny, Secretary to the Parochial Church Council

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