

The Parish of Saint Peter, Doddington

(serving the villages of Doddington and Whisby)

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

A Lenten thought from the Rector

I wonder what you think of, when someone mentions the season of Lent. It means Pancakes on Shrove Tuesday. It means Mothering Sunday soon, and then Easter not far away. It used to mean giving up something "for Lent", as a preparation for celebrating Easter. But doing without chocolate, or biscuits, for a few weeks, may be good for the diet, but it doesn't really move us on much spiritually.

These days, giving something up for Lent, makes more sense, if it is to make space for something else in your life, which might be a real step towards making the little bit of world around us more godly.

So, if you do give up eating or drinking something, why not give what you save to some good cause, perhaps to help the hungry in the world. The Church Treasurer (me) can help you send off any gift to TEAR Fund, a very well-respected relief charity working in all sorts of poor countries.

Even better, try giving up a bad habit. Are you a little grumpy sometimes? (No jokes about the seven dwarves, please!) Or a little selfish? Or negative and critical? Or perhaps you have a cruel sense of humour? For Lent this year (it begins on 9th March) why not try to be more loving, more generous, more encouraging, more kind, more pleasant? Which of those would be the hardest for you? Give it a try. And maybe it might last longer than Lent, maybe all the way to Christmas?

At Easter we remember Jesus giving his life, so that we might not give up trying to be good. It was to forgive us our sins, and so to help us to change our lives for the better. That was not just for "the world", but for individual people like you and me, one at a time. God's love is that special.

Perhaps that word, forgiveness, is the key to your happiness too. Do you feel you need forgiving? Do you need help to forgive someone else? More than any other thing in the world, forgiveness can change the world, and make it more like heaven. And if you need, we can help!

There's a thought for Lent!

Richard Billinghamurst

Doddington Church Services for the next few months

9 th March	10.00 am	Short prayers for Ash Wednesday
22 nd April	2.00 pm	Hour at the Cross - Good Friday
24 th April	8.00 am	Early Communion - Easter Sunday
19 th June	6.30 pm	Evensong - Trinity Sunday
24 th July	6.30 pm	Evening Communion - Saint James's Sunday
2 nd October	6.30 pm	Harvest Evensong

Annual Church Meeting - Thursday 14 April

The Annual Church Meeting will be held at 7.00 pm in the Church on 14 April, to receive Reports and Accounts, elect officers and members of the PCC for the forthcoming year, and agree the new Electoral Roll. All are welcome, but only those on the Church Electoral Roll can vote.

The Carol Service

About 140 people packed the Church for our annual Carols by Candlelight on 19 December. Steph and Tori Ramsey both sang most beautifully, we had the usual good collection of readers, and Lewis Paul (who restored the organ last year) came and played. There was the usual large consumption of mulled wine and mince pies at the Old Rectory afterwards, and everyone had a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

Future Fund Raising Events - Put them in your diary now!

The following events are planned:-

- The next **Dogs Around Doddington** will take place on **Sunday 27 March** - see separate flyer. Please pass this around to your friends with dogs and encourage them to come along. 9.30 am start.
- Moira Kerry will be running a **Quiz Night** in the Church on **Friday 6 May at 7.30pm**. **£1 per head to enter; £25 penalty, and ex-communication, for use of mobile phone; raffle.**
- The next **Roving Dinner** will be on **Saturday 25 June** starting at 6.30 pm. Tickets (limited to 25) £10 a head from Moira Kerry, tel: 696 202.
- Ged and Jane Marsden are proposing to run another **Church Fair** over the weekend of **28 & 29 August**, but if this is going to be viable, **they need contributions of stuff that people want to get rid of**. Please get in touch with Ged and Jane on 694 412.
- **Harvest Supper - Monday 3 October in the Littlehouse**

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 is planned for this summer. Cost indications are currently being obtained to have this done professionally. Further details to follow.

Ordination of Frances Clarke

Frances Clarke will be ordained as Curate to our parishes, in Grantham at 10.30 am on Sunday 3 July. Please advise the Rector if you would like to attend.

Monthly Prayers in Church

Richard Billinghamurst and Frances Clarke hold prayers and bible reading in Church at 10.00 am usually on the 1st Wednesday each month, for 45 minutes. Everyone is very welcome. They are then available in the Farm Shop Café until 12 noon.

The next dates are 9th March, 6th April, 4th May, 1st June, and 6th July.

Email addresses

If you are a regular Email user it would be a great help to the PCC secretary to have your Email address. For people in the Parish this can also be used for Parish notices.