

FoSP

St. Peter's Church Neatishead

March 2021 – Issue 3.

Dear Friends of St Peters

COVID – 19

As I write this edition, we are almost at the first anniversary of the lockdown imposed on us on March 23rd 2020. Time has passed both quickly and slowly depending on our individual circumstances, however, it looks as if we can now begin to hope and plan. Plan to see our families, our friends, returning to church and look to resuming some sort of normality. Hope as we each receive our vaccines and feel safe in the public domain of shops, pubs, restaurants and maybe even a holiday. In the meantime, as we pass each stage of the governments roadmap for lifting the lockdown, please keep safe and well.

CHURCH NEWS

Our Rector David has continued to record a weekly broadcast (with grateful assistance from our retired clergy, lay ministers and members of our congregations) via St Peter's 'A Church Near You' website on a Sunday morning. From Christmas Eve our services in church were once again suspended on the advice of our Bishop but St Peter's Church has remained open on a Tuesday for private/individual prayer between the hours of 10am and 3pm.

We welcome Revd Taylor Wilton- Morgan on a 3-month curacy placement – do please make yourself known to him. Taylor was ordained deacon last summer and comes to us from the churches of Thorpe St Andrew and Thorpe.

HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE

I look forward to welcoming you back to St Peter's on Easter Sunday for a short Holy Communion Service at 11am. Grateful thanks to Jane Fowle for organising flowers for this service and Irene Thompson for keeping our church clean and dust free throughout the winter.

Our weekly Holy Communion Service will resume on Tuesday April 13th at 10am

Both of the above will mean continuing to observe social distancing, the wearing of masks and using hand gel from the dispenser on the noticeboard to your right as you enter the church.

The Church Council has met once by zoom as has the Standing Committee. We currently are planning for our Annual meeting (date t.b.a), and assembling all the documentation that has to be prepared in advance of this for presentation and approval.

My licence as a Lay Minister expires this June and permission from each of the Benefice Church Councils has been sought to renew this licence. I am grateful to each of the Councils for their support and approval for my licence to be extended.

FoSP (Friends of St Peters)

Despite the pandemic, maintaining the fabric has to be ongoing in respect of health and safety, however without an injection of funds, further planned projects have to stay on hold. There are however some fundraising ideas in the pipeline as soon as we can begin to mix more socially but we do have to remain cautious for a few months yet.

PLANNED EVENTS – NIB Entry - April 2021

St Peter's Church Neatishead – 'Walk and Shop' – May Bank Holiday 1st – 3rd

During the year long lockdown many of us have taken to walking round our villages for exercise and a breath of fresh air. On the first May Bank Holiday of 2021 I am inviting you to continue to take your walks but to look out for some stalls along your route. These stalls will have items for sale to raise some much-needed funds for St Peter's Church which has been without a source of income for over a year due to its closure caused by the pandemic. There will be a plant stall outside the home of Nick and Jane Fowle at The Paddock, Hall Road, Neatishead and others (books, cakes, cards, bric a brac etc), locations with a map to be confirmed. Draw tickets will also be available to purchase on the weekend.

This is where I hope that the FoSP members may be able to help. Jane Fowle has started the ball rolling by agreeing to have a plant stall and I will have a stall outside my home in King Street (cards and other items). Would anyone else consider joining us? – it doesn't have to be for the whole weekend, just one day would be great. Perhaps a book stall, cake stall – there could be more than one of each! Could you supply a cake? I also intend to hold a raffle – a donation of a raffle prize would be most gratefully received. Do let me know if you can help in any way. Thank you.

If the roadmap out of lockdown makes it safe for us to meet in larger groups and the New Victory Hall reopens, please note the following date in your diary:

THURSDAY AUGUST 12th 2021

An evening of musical entertainment with professional musicians with supper included – more details to come!

Churchyard Work Party

Individual members of the work party have kept an eye on the churchyard clearing debris over the winter months and it is hoped that the group will recommence their monthly get togethers in April. As always, the PCC is very grateful for all they do. New signage has replaced the previous ones with regard to the wildlife conservation area.

Christmas cards 2020

Approximately £250 was raised from the sale of our Christmas and greeting cards, thanks to your generosity. Greeting cards are available at all times and orders are welcomed hand made for any occasion. Please contact me for details.

BELL TOWER REFURBISHMENT

Further to surveys carried out on St Peter's bell tower (following an architectural inspection), estimates have been obtained for work to be carried out accordingly. Applications for grants have been made to organisations that specifically consider bell restoration funding. A minimum of £12000 is required!

Please keep well and safe everyone and do contact me if you can help with the May Bank Holiday weekend fundraiser or anything else!

Best Wishes – Pauline Simpson (Church Warden) – 07818 599303