

Plans were drawn up by Mr William Jeffery Hopkins, diocesan architect for Worcester and the work was carried out by Messrs Rudd and son builders of Grantham. The nave and chancel were rebuilt and the roof was tiled. The restoration was reputed to cost £954, there was however a shortfall of £150.

After the restoration work the church was consecrated on 28th November 1876 by The Bishop of Lincoln Christopher Wordsworth (nephew of the poet William Wordsworth). During the service of consecration the Bishop urged the congregation to "be liberal in their offerings towards wiping off a debt upon the work completed of about £150" (*Grantham Journal* 2nd December 1876).

The tower holds a single bell. From the inscription on the bell it was founded in the 14th Century by Johannes De Stafford of Leicester.

The bell was restored and rehung by Pembletons of Chesterfield as a village Millennium project in 2000 at the cost of £2831. The traditional toll for Death Knell or Passing Bell at Doddington is thrice three tolls for a male and thrice two tolls for a female. (*The Church Bells of Lincolnshire - North*).

St James Church contains a memorial to a No. 49 Squadron RAF Avro Lancaster that crashed near the village on 26 November 1944.



St James Church Dry Doddington

History Leaflet



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Village History

The village of Dry Doddington was mentioned in the 1086 Domesday Book where the name is given as Dodintune. Whilst there is no reference to the church, a mill and 230 acres of meadow are mentioned. "Dry" is unlikely to refer to the village being waterless as 4 miles of the parish boundary are on the River Witham. The church is dedicated to St James, the patron saint of pilgrims.

The Church

Standing on the village green St James' Church is the oldest building in the village and was Grade II * listed in 1966.

Until it was consecrated after restoration in 1876, the church was a Chapel of Ease to All Saints Church in Westborough. The parishes have always shared a rector and as there

is no burial ground at Dry Doddington the church yard at Westborough serves both villages.

The church is built predominantly of Limestone Ashlar and Blue Lias with plain tiled roofs. The early 14th Century tower is of coursed rubble with ashlar quoins.

Whilst the church dates back to the 12th Century most of what we currently see today was from major restoration work in 1876.

The doorway is the oldest part of the church being early 12th Century and has a chevroned round headed arch and jambs, a hood mould and mast head label stops.

The nave interior has four late 13th Century bays with plainly moulded pointed arches and octagonal piers and responds. The south arcade capitals have beaded decoration. The arcades have hood moulds and foliated label stops.

The early 14th Century tower has squat buttresses in the north east and south east corners. There is a string course below bell openings on all four sides, each opening has two ogee cusped lights with quatrefoil above.

There is a squat broach spire with four large lucarnes (gabled openings) alternating direction with four very small ones above.

The tower and spire lean towards the west and the angle of lean has been recently authenticated as being 4.8 degrees; this is a greater lean than that of the Leaning Tower of Pisa. From information found in the archives it seems that by 1875 the church had fallen into decay and an appeal was made for funds to contribute to its restoration.