

**Holy Trinity & St Mary
Dodford
In the Diocese of Worcester**



Dodford

The church of Holy Trinity & St Mary is a village church built in 1908 in the Art and Crafts style. It is a Grade II* listed building featuring much excellent work done by the Bromsgrove Guild. It appears in the book "1,000 Best English Churches" by Simon Jenkins. The nave seats 100 people but additional seating for 50 or more is available in the transept.

The core of Dodford is a Chartist Village, the only one in Worcestershire and one of only five in the country, built over 150 years ago. Whilst many of the original cottages have been altered almost beyond recognition, the original 4 acre plots are largely intact. Recently it has become a conservation area and one cottage has been bought and restored by the National Trust.

The parish as a whole has a population of 700 and there are eight working farms, two plant nurseries and two public houses (one just re-opening) and a restaurant. In addition to those involved in agriculture and horticulture, the village comprises a mixture of commuters, home-based workers and retired folk. Community life is very active, benefiting from a number of thriving clubs and societies, linked either to the church or village hall. The hall is physically and administratively separate from the church.

The village sees itself as a very different community from Bromsgrove town. Its rural nature, strong community spirit and separate identity define its independence. However it has no difficulty in cooperating with others and has worked, for many years, in partnership with the Catshill parish as a joint benefice.

Church Organisation

The PCC meets every two months, the Standing Committee meets a week or two prior to the PCC meetings to agree the agenda and for preliminary discussions.

Dodford Church is opened for an hour each Tuesday for private prayer.



After morning services, coffee and tea are served enabling the congregation to spend time together socially and to welcome newcomers. On special occasions, wine and cheese is provided.

A variety of social events are held throughout the year at which visitors are welcomed. Some of these events are fund-raising but others are held purely for social purposes. Church members are active in many aspects of village life. As a consequence events such as the annual Harvest Festival and Carol service, Harvest Supper and the Church Fete (which raise substantial funds) are strongly supported by the community. Indeed the church is seen by many as an integral part of village life and the village as part of the church's life.

Thus the Parish Magazine, published on a monthly basis covers all parish activities, not just those of the Church and is, in effect, the village newsletter. It brings in revenue for the Church and is distributed throughout the village.

Services at Dodford

One service on each Sunday is held. These are designed as a mixture of services, both informal and traditional, being of central Churchmanship in position. Because of strong links which have been developed with the Village First School (which has 50 pupils) in recent years, the Family Services, including a number who live outside the Parish but are linked to the school, have been of growing popularity.

Average attendances:-

8.00 am	Said Communion (BCP)	20
10.00 am	Morning Communion	27
10.00 am	Family Service	53
6.00 pm	Evensong	20

Where a fifth Sunday arises a joint benefice Communion Service has been held alternating between Dodford and Catshill.

Membership of the roll comprises 74 parishioners.

Services are currently led by the Very Rev. Derek Taylor, a retired but very active and popular clergyman who is proactive in developing church life. The laity are involved in readings and intercessions and there are 7 licensed Eucharist assistants. There are no lay readers at Dodford. Three people are currently attending the Bishop's Certificate course but may not go on to lay readership. Dodford has a permanent organist and a choir is drawn together for major services and, when required, for wedding and funerals.



Planned Giving and Mission

Planned giving is achieved by a combination of standing order payments and weekly envelopes. Great use is made of the Gift Aid Scheme to recover tax where applicable.

The PCC makes annual donations to a number of local and national charities pursuant to its policy of giving 10% of its income. Particular emphasis has been made to supporting aid to the less developed parts of the world.

Dodford is fortunate to have been the recipient of two very substantial bequests with funds held in trust for the Church. This helps it to meet its commitments to the Diocese as well as its charitable targets and maintain its particularly fine church.

