



The Parish of Darfield
All Saints, Darfield and St Michael, Great Houghton

Sunday 10th January 2021

1st Sunday of Epiphany

The Baptism of Jesus

10:30 a.m. Partnership Service on Facebook
Followed by All Saints Coffee Time on Zoom

A Hard Decision...

On Monday afternoon, this space was scheduled to have a timetable for our move towards meeting more regularly for Services in our Churches. The list included the first opportunities for St Michael's to be open for a Communion Service and for Private Prayer. The table had in its heading—"*Subject to change at short notice*". Three hours later it was in disarray as we moved back into Lockdown.

Following our Christmas Eve Communion Service, our plan was to bring a Weekly Communion Service into each of the three Parishes in our Mission Partnership. This would also mean changes in the times when All Saints' was open for private prayer as we have to leave at least 48 hours between openings to avoid having to undertake rigorous cleaning. This would also give a chance to redeploy our volunteers to allow St Michael's to be open for prayer as well as the Communion Service.

Your PCC has made the hard decision to **suspend Public Worship until mid February** and to review the situation as Government Regulations allow.

We have also suspended access to our Church for Private Prayer to give us time to consider these instructions and guidance and to produce a revised Risk Assessment.

The Baptism of Jesus

The Gospel writers record very little of the early life of Jesus after His birth and His Naming Ceremony. St Luke records one of the regular family visits to Jerusalem for the Passover Celebrations when Jesus was twelve years old. As they were returning home with a group of others, Mary and Joseph realised, after a day's journey, that Jesus was not with the group but had had been left behind. After returning to Jerusalem, they spent three days searching for Jesus. He was found in the Temple listening to the teachers and asking them questions [Luke 2:46]. Jesus responded to Mary's expressions of concern with the statement, "Did you not know that I must be in my Fathers House".

One other thing we know is that He lived in Nazareth and increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favour with God and man. [Luke 2:52]

John the Baptist had been in the region of the Jordan preaching a message of Baptism for the remission of sins. He described himself as one crying in the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord in fulfilment of Isaiah 40:3. [Mark 1:4]

When Jesus was around thirty years old, [Luke 3:23], He came from Nazareth to John for Baptism in the River Jordan. John recognised Jesus as "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" [John 1:29]. After John's initial hesitancy, Jesus was baptised and received a visible sign of the Trinity. The Holy Spirit descending as a dove and the voice of God saying 'Thou art my beloved Son, with Thee I am well pleased' [Luke 3:22]

Jesus then was led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness for forty days where he was tempted by Satan. [Mark 1:12]

Prayer Requests

Please pray for

Olive & Raymond Shaw

The family of Jeanette Damms

Contact the Prayer Ministry Team

Carol Hunter

07542 527331

STAY AT HOME

PROTECT THE NHS

AND SAVE LIVES.

1st Sunday of Epiphany Collect

Heavenly Father,
at the Jordan you revealed
Jesus as your Son:
may we recognize him as our
Lord
and know ourselves to be your
beloved children;
through Jesus Christ our
Saviour.

Readings

Genesis 1:1-5

Psalm 29

Acts 19:1-7

St Mark 1:4-11

Bible Readings for this week

10th St Luke 18:1-8

11th St Luke 18:9-17

12th St Luke 18:18-30

13th St Luke 18:31-43

14th St Luke 19:1-10

15th St Luke 19:11-27

16th St Luke 17:22-39

Spotlight on... The Prayer Ministry Team in Lockdown

2020 started normally for our group of seven Prayer Warriors as they continued to meet regularly on Thursday afternoons and to offer support after every Sunday morning service.

Then came March, when over a few days we tumbled into Lockdown1. New ways of continuing this essential ministry had to be found and developed. On line apps and telephones became their life-line to cope with the increasing numbers of prayer requests from the parish and beyond.

As restrictions were lightened and during the warmer weather, they could be found in the Rectory garden, socially distanced of course, as they continued their vital ministry. The onset of colder weather and increasing restrictions caused a return to online, social media and Zoom meetings.

The team coordinated the leaving presents for David and Hilary and the Harvest Collection for the Goldthorpe Salvation Army Food Box Ministry. Members have been involved with our Buddying Scheme, distribution of these News-Sheets and our Christmas Goody Bag.

Their work will continue to support our church family and friends by prayer and encouragement as we look towards a time when we can all meet together in our churches

Team Members: Andrea Harrison: Irene Barraclough: Wendy Chorlton: Pam Emson: Sue Lee: Karen Walton: Carol Hunter.

Missions we Support

The Leprosy Mission

Leprosy defeated; lives transformed

Mathew chapter 8:1-3 records Jesus healing a leper with the words "be clean". Leprosy is still potentially devastating to the individual but is a preventable and treatable disease. The Leprosy Mission's Global Fellowship works in 28 countries where there are high rates of the disease and a lack of local services and aims to transform the lives of affected people and to work towards the ending of the disease's transmission.

Ethiopia has the second highest population in Africa, mostly reliant on subsistence farming with poor access to services which we take for granted. The Leprosy Mission Ethiopia encourages vocational training and collaborative working to enable those with the disease to control their symptoms and to become more self sufficient.

<https://www.leprosymission.org.uk/>



Resources and Contacts

Churchwarden Peter Robinson 01226 753572

Parish Admin Jo Darlison 07469 857315

Clergy Rev Fiona Kouble 01226 950643
07817 167386

Our Web Site

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DEADLINE for Content

Items, preferably via e-mail, to

jodarlison94@gmail.com

Wednesday 5 p.m.

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<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/>

Search your current location or Postcode

All Saints



St Michael



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