

The Parish of Darfield

All Saints Darfield and St Michael Great Houghton

Sunday 11th May 2025

Fourth Sunday of Easter

10:45 a.m. Holy Communion Darfield

Sunday 18th May 2025

Fifth Sunday of Easter

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion Great Houghton

10:45 a.m. Morning Worship Darfield

4:00 p.m. Café Church Darfield Church Hall

Faith in Action

The Oxford English Dictionary defines Faith as '*complete trust or confidence*' and '*firm belief especially without physical proof*'. The definition in our Bible is '**faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.**' [Hebrews 1: 1]. St Paul in his letter to the Church at Ephesus tell us that "*we are saved through faith freely given to us by the free gift of the grace of God.*" [Ephesians 2: 8, 9]

People of Faith: Abel [Genesis 4: 1-16]

Cain and Abel were the first two sons of Adam and Eve. [Genesis 4: 1,2] Cain grew up to become an arable farmer whilst Abel became a shepherd. In due Time, both brought the first fruits of their labours as offerings to the Lord. Abel's offering was looked on with favour by the Lord, but Cain's was not. In the description of the gifts, Cain brought 'some of the fruits of the soil' whilst Able brought the best of his efforts in the fat portions from some of the first-born lambs. Cain was angry and developed a jealous hatred for his brother which resulted in Cain killing Abel. The Lord then sentenced Cain to become a wanderer. In his anger with the Teachers of the Law and Pharisees, Jesus tells them that they will be held to account for all the righteous blood that has been shed on Earth, including that of Abel [Matthew 23: 35]

People of faith: Enoch [Genesis 5: 21-24]

Enoch was the son of Jared and is listed as the sixth generation on from Adam and who '**walked faithfully with God**' [Genesis 5: 22]. He was the father of Methuselah who was the oldest of the ten generations described in Genesis 5. Enoch is listed in Luke's Gospel among the genealogy of Joseph [Luke 3: 23-38]. Out of the ten Patriarchs Enoch must have been special as. where the descriptions of the others end with '*and then he died*', Enoch "*walked faithfully with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.*" [Genesis 5: 24]

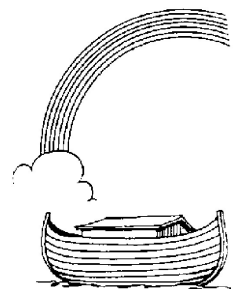
People of Faith: Noah [Genesis 6: to 9:]

The life of Noah must be one of the most well-known accounts in the Old Testament. He appears at a time when "The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth" [Genesis 6: 5] and had decided to wipe the human race from the earth. [Genesis 6: 7] Noah was and exception in bring a righteous man who walked faithfully with God [Genesis 6: 9] and who had found favour with God.

Noah was commanded to build an Ark, a large boat, measuring three hundred cubits long, fifty cubits wide and thirty cubits high. [in modern Measurement about 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high or about 135 metres long, 23 metres wide and 14 metres high which is around half the size of a modern cruise liner] [Genesis 6: 15]. Noah was to enter the ark with his wife and his three sons, Shem Ham and Japheth, with their wives. Pairs of every kind of animal and bird were to be loaded along with enough food for all. Noah followed the Lord's instructions, loaded the ark and waited.

Seven days later it rained so much that the earth flooded, and all living creatures were drowned. The rain continued for forty days. The ark continued to float for a further 150 days before the Lord remembered Noah and et a wind to blow and dry up the water. Some weeks later the land dried completely and the inhabitants of the ark could regain the land. Noah built an altar to the Lord who vowed never to destroy all living creatures again, even though He recognised that the inclination of the human heart was evil.

God blessed Noah and his children and established a covenant with them and their descendants using the sign of a rainbow as a reminder that the destruction of life by the flood would never be repeated.



Fourth Sunday of Easter

Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep: teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command, that all your people may be gathered into one flock, to the glory of God the Father.

Readings

Genesis 7: 1-5, 11-18;
8: 6-18; 9: 8-13
Acts 9: 36-43
Psalm 23
Revelation 7: 9-17
John 10: 22-30

Readings for this Week May

11th Romans 3: 9-20
12th Romans 3: 21-31
13th Romans 4: 1-13
14th Romans 4: 14-25
15th Romans 5: 1-11
16th Romans 5: 12-21
17th Psalm 119: 153-160
18th Psalm 119: 161-168

Prayer Square

**This week we are praying for
the residents of
Darfield**

Snape Hill Road
Owram Street
Havelock Street
Hill Street
New Street

Prayer:

Forward any prayer requests to our Prayer Ministry team through

Carol Hunter: 07542 527 331

Community Shop on the Go and Warm Welcome Space

Darfield Church Hall

Thursday 15th May from 9:00 a.m.

Community Shop - Next Dates: 29th May & 12th June

Although the Community Shop on the Go continues on its fortnightly rota, the Warm Welcome Space is open

every Thursday between 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

Boardgames Club

Saturday 17th May in the Church Hall

6:30 p.m. for 7:00 p.m. start.

Please bring CAKES and/or FRUIT if you can

Why not bring and share your own games?

Sheep

The first indirect reference to sheep in our Old Testament is the description of Abel as a shepherd. Sheep were seen as an important and treasured possession to the Israelites and were a status symbol. They had many uses. Their skins and wool were used for clothing and their flesh was used for food and for the ritual sacrifices [Leviticus 1:10]

Any of you who have travelled across unfenced moorland roads will no doubt have seen sheep in the most awkward places usually wandering along the road, oblivious of the traffic around them. In Biblical times the sheep were tended by hired shepherds who guided them in a nomadic existence as they searched for fresh pastures.

The Psalmist described the Israelites as '**His people, the sheep of His pasture**'. [Psalm 100: 3]. This relationship was not always valid. In His encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well, Jesus described Himself as being sent "*only to the lost sheep of Israel.*" [Matthew 15: 24]

The references to sheep and shepherds in the teachings of Jesus would have been familiar to His audiences. Jesus clearly described Himself as the Good Shepherd who would lay down His life for the sheep [John 10: 11]

Jesus was in the Temple on the Feast of Dedication, also known as Hanukkah, which celebrated the re-building of the Temple following the return from exile. Some of the Jews tried to persuade Jesus to identify himself as the Messiah [John 10: 24] They were described by Jesus as being 'not My sheep' [John 10: 26].

We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. [Isaiah 53: 6]

Companions in Daily Prayer

Join members of the team on Monday to Thursday

8:30 a.m. for Morning Prayer 9:00 p.m. for Night Prayer

Go to Facebook.com and search for *Companions in Daily Prayer*

Resources and Contacts

**Churchwarden
PCC Secretary**

Peter Robinson
Andrea Harrison

01226 753 572

Safeguarding

contact Peter Robinson
07910 728 581

Our Web Site

<http://www.darfieldallsaintschurch.org.uk/>

Email Allsaintschurchdarfield@gmail.com

Facebook [@darfieldallsaints](https://www.facebook.com/@darfieldallsaints)



Find us on A Church Near You

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

Search your current location or Postcode

DEADLINE for Content

Items, preferably via e-mail, to

pdrobinson@live.co.uk

Tuesday 5:00 p.m.

All Saints



St Michael



The PCC of Darfield is a Registered Charity (no. 1185316).