



# The Parish of Darfield

All Saints, Darfield and St Michael, Great Houghton

## Sunday 2nd January 2022

### Second Sunday of Christmas

### Feast of the Epiphany

**10:45 a.m. Holy Communion, Darfield**

**COVID:** Face Masks are compulsory in Places of Worship unless medically exempt.

#### Epiphany: a moment of sudden realisation

Twelfth Night or the Eve of Epiphany generally marks the end of our Christmas celebrations when we remove our Christmas decorations, although in some traditions they remain until Candlemas at the end of the Epiphany period, 40 days after Christmas.

The Feast of the Epiphany on 6th January marks a second group of visitors to the infant Jesus.

**“Behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, ‘where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship’” [St Matthew 2:1-2]**

Their visit and the consequences are only recorded in St Matthew’s Gospel. Over the centuries different translations and traditions have added to the original description. These include describing them as Kings, that there were three of them to match the three gifts and that they had names. The gifts of gold frankincense and myrrh [2: 11] were very expensive.

**Gold** was often seen as a gift for a king – the Queen of Sheba brought “very much gold” as a gift for King Solomon [1 Kings 10: 2] It was also specified as the covering for the wood of the Israelite’s Altar of Incense [Exodus 30: 3]

**Frankincense** is a tree resin which creates a strong and beautiful aroma when burnt. It had been specified by the LORD as part of the recipe for incense that was to be solely used in ceremonial worship. [Exodus 30: 34]

**Myrrh** which is derived from a tree sap, was the main ingredient in the anointing oil used to ceremonially prepare the priests and equipment before sacrifices could be made. [Exodus 30: 23]. It was later used by Nicodemus to prepare the body of Jesus for burial [St John 19: 39-40]

**What of the practicalities of these gifts?** King Herod was enraged by the failure of the Wise Men to return to him with details of where Jesus was. [St Matthew 2: 12,16] and gave orders to kill all the boys under two years old in Bethlehem. Joseph had been warned by an Angel of the Lord and took Mary and Jesus to safety in Egypt.

Is it reasonable to assume that the gifts would have financed this?

**Wise men**, sometimes translated as **Magi**, served as advisers in many of the royal courts in the Middle East and as astronomers and astrologers. Daniel had encountered such men in Babylon [Daniel 2: 2,24]. They would have studied many sacred writings which would have included the Hebrew Scriptures and identified all the prophecies that a “King of the Jews” had been predicted for centuries. The appearance of **a star**, however we may describe it today, was enough to trigger their quest.

#### Forthcoming Services for January 2022

<b>2nd January:</b>	<b>9:00 a.m. Thurnscoe [HC]</b>
<b>2nd January:</b>	<b>10:45 a.m. Darfield [HC]</b>
<b>9th January:</b>	<b>9:00 a.m. Great Houghton [HC]</b>
<b>9th January:</b>	<b>10:45 a.m. Darfield</b>
<b>16th January:</b>	<b>9:00 a.m. Thurnscoe [HC]</b>
<b>16th January:</b>	<b>10:45 a.m. Darfield [HC]</b>
<b>23rd January:</b>	<b>9:00 a.m. Great Houghton [HC]</b>
<b>23rd January:</b>	<b>10:45 a.m. Darfield</b>
<b>30th January:</b>	<b>9:00 a.m. Thurnscoe [HC]</b>
<b>30th January:</b>	<b>10:45 a.m. Darfield [HC]</b>

#### The Feast of the Epiphany

##### Collect:

Creator of the heavens, who led the Magi by a star to worship the Christ-child: guide and sustain us, that we may find our journey’s end in Jesus Christ our Lord.

##### Readings

Isaiah 60: 1-6  
 Psalm 72: [1-9]10-15  
 Ephesians 3: 1-12  
 St Matthew 2: 1-12



## Prayer Requests

### Please pray for

Olive & Raymond Shaw  
Pat Bentley  
Steve & Val Myers  
Stella and Raymond Firth  
Barry & Joan Bramall  
Linda and her family  
Carol, Stuart and Philip Ogley

### Our Bereaved Families

The families of  
Adele Whysall  
Jack Skelland  
Brian Ogley

### Prayer Contact:

Carol Hunter: 07542 527331

## Monthly Prayer Meeting

**Monday 3rd January 2022: 8:00 p.m.**

Join us on Zoom for half an hour to pray for all things needful.

Contact **Carol Hunter** for the Zoom link.

**Mothers' UNION**  
Christian care for families

Next Meeting

**Wednesday 5th January 2022**

2:00 p.m. in the Church Hall



## Second Sunday of Christmas

### Collect

God our Father, in love you sent your Son that the world may have life: lead us to seek him among the outcast and to find him in those in need, for Jesus Christ's sake.

### Readings

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Psalms 147: 13-21

Ephesians 1: 3-14

John 1:[1-9]10-18

Bible Readings for this week

### January:

2nd Psalm 119: 1-16

3rd Psalm 119: 17-24

4th Psalm 119: 25-32

5th Psalm 119: 33-40

6th Psalm 119: 41-48

7th Psalm 119: 49-56

8th Psalm 119: 57-64

**Upperwood Academy** held their Christmas Service in All Saints on Thursday 16th December. In preparation for the service the pupils produced art work which was displayed during the service as their readings and carols reminded us of the events in and around Bethlehem.

**Thankyou** to the pupils and staff for leaving some of their productions to contribute to our seasonal decorations.

**Thankyou** also to Wendy and her team for their hard work in decorating our Church.

## From the Parish Registers

**Monday 20th December 2021**

**Adele Whysall** aged 52

**Funeral:** All Saints Darfield and Darfield Cemetery

**Wednesday 23rd December 2021**

**John (Jack) Skelland** aged 82

**Funeral:** All Saints Darfield and Gorton Cemetery

**Wednesday 29th December 2021**

**Joyce Roughley** aged 92

**Funeral:** All Saints Darfield and Darfield Cemetery

## 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

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

**Email** [Allsaintschurchdarfield@gmail.com](mailto:Allsaintschurchdarfield@gmail.com)

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



**Safeguarding** contact Peter Robinson

[pdrobinson@live.co.uk](mailto:pdrobinson@live.co.uk) 07910 728 581

### DEADLINE for Content

Items, preferably via e-mail, to

[pdrobinson@live.co.uk](mailto:pdrobinson@live.co.uk)

**Tuesday 5:00 p.m.**

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All Saints

St Michael



All Saints PCC Darfield is a Registered Charity (no. 1185316).