



The Parish of Darfield

All Saints, Darfield and St Michael, Great Houghton

Sunday 11th December 2022: Third in Advent

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion: *Great Houghton*

10:45 a.m. Service for Sunday: *Darfield*

6:00 p.m. Carols at St Michael's *Great Houghton*

Sunday 18th December 2022 Fourth in Advent

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

6:00 p.m. Carols by Candlelight *Darfield*

Preparing the Way...

It's not very often that we are knowingly visited by angels. Angels are the spiritual beings who act as God's messengers and there are many references throughout our Bible of them visiting God's people.

The first recorded appearance is to Hagar who had run away from her mistress, Sarai, the wife of Abram. [Genesis 16: 7,8]. Hagar was told to return with the promise that her soon to be born son, Ishmael, would have descendants too numerous to count [Genesis 16: 10].

Among the final reports in the New Testament was of an appearance to St Paul. He was under arrest on a boat crossing the sea heading towards Rome for trial before the Emperor. A severe storm arose and battered the boat for many days. The angel appeared to Paul to tell him that all the 276 people on the boat would be safe. [Acts 27: 23, 24]. The boat eventually ran aground on the island of Malta and was wrecked but all on board survived.

Five related visits are recorded in our Gospels in preparation for the births of John the Baptist and Jesus.

The first visit was to Zechariah who with his wife Elizabeth was 'advanced in years' and childless. The Angel Gabriel appeared to Zechariah and promised the birth of a son to be called John who would "bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God." [St Luke 1: 5-25].

The second was to Mary when the Angel Gabriel appeared and promised her a son to be called Jesus who would be "great and will be called the Son of the Most High" [St Luke 1: 26-38]

The third was to Joseph when an Angel of the Lord reassured Joseph that Mary, his betrothed, was bearing a child of the Holy Spirit who would 'save His people from their sins' [St Matthew 1: 20-25]

The fourth was to Joseph following the visit of the Wise Men to Jesus. Joseph was told to take his family to Egypt to escape the wrath of King Herod as he ordered the deaths of all boys under 2 years old in Bethlehem [St Matthew 2: 13-15]

The final appearance of this group was also to Joseph following the death of King Herod. Joseph was told to take his family and return to the land of Israel [St Matthew 2: 19-21]

John and Jesus then reappear in the Gospel narrative around 30 years later. John's mission being to prepare the way for Jesus. In his preaching, John criticised King Herod for divorcing his wife and marrying his brother's wife. Herod had John taken captive and locked him up in prison [St Luke 3: 19].

Whilst in prison, John heard of all the deeds of Jesus and sent his disciples to Jesus to ask "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?". Jesus listed His miracles and sent them back to John. [St Matthew 11: 4].

Jesus then went on to question the crowds as to why they went out to see John and told them that John fulfilled the prophesy 'I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' [Malachi 3: 1].

How are we preparing the way?



Church Hall Administrator: The countdown

The deadline of 1st January 2023 is fast approaching with only twenty-one days to go...

There is still a desperate need for an individual or group to take on the routine tasks needed in conjunction with the use of our Church Hall.



Christmas Communion Services in the Parish

Saturday 24th December 11:30 p.m. *St Michael's Great Houghton*

Sunday 25th December 9:00 a.m. *St Michael's Great Houghton*

Sunday 25th December 10:00 a.m. *All Saints, Darfield*

3rd Sunday of Advent

Collect

God for whom we watch and wait,
You sent John the Baptist to
prepare the way of Your Son: give
us courage to speak the truth, to
hunger for justice, and to suffer for
the cause of right, with Jesus Christ
our Lord.

Readings

Isaiah 35: 1-10
Psalm 146: 4-10
James 5: 7-10
Matthew 11: 2-11

Bible Readings for this week December

11th	Psalm 113
12th	Psalm 114
13th	Psalm 115
14th	Psalm 116
15th	Psalm 117
16th	Exodus 13: 1-16
17th	Exodus 13: 17-22

Prayer Square

This week we are praying for
our Schools

... All Saints Academy
... Upperwood Academy
... Outwood Primary Academy
... Sandhill Primary
... Netherwood Academy

Prayer:

Forward any prayer requests to our
Prayer Ministry team through

Carol Hunter: 07542 527 331

A Prayer for Growth:

Lord Jesus, as a Church Family in All Saints' and St Michael's, it is our mission to know You and proclaim You.
We want to connect with our community and see Your Kingdom grow. Send Your Holy Spirit to renew, invigorate and inspire us in our work for You.
Give us grace, wisdom and joy as we seek to hold out Your Word. Make us strong, powerful and courageous witnesses and grant that we grow in faith and in numbers, to the honour of Your Name Amen

Children's Society Boxes

Please bring any boxes that need emptying to Church or contact Kay or Peter for collection.

The Children's Society

Thankyou to those who joined with representatives of TWIGGS and children from All Saints' Academy as our contribution to the Queen's Green Canopy, a rowan tree, *Sorbus aucuparia*, was planted in the Rectory Cottage grounds.



Do you receive any stamps on your mail?
The Leprosy Mission will accept them to raise funds for their work.
Pass them on via Peter



The Leprosy Mission
England and Wales

Prayer Meeting: December's Zoom Prayer Meeting is cancelled

Next meeting: Monday 9th January 2023: 8:00 p.m.

Contact Carol Hunter for the Zoom link

Funerals:

Monday 12th December 2022: 10:45 a.m.

Harry Fisher: All Saints Darfield and Darfield Cemetery

Tuesday 13th December 2022: 10:15 a.m.

Rapp Smith: All Saints Darfield

Monday 19th December 2022: 12:15 p.m.

Hilda Jobling: All Saints Darfield and Darfield Cemetery
Afterwards at the Cross Keys: Family flowers only please

Psalm 146: 1,2,10

¹ Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord, my soul.
² I will praise the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.
¹⁰ The Lord reigns forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations.
Praise the Lord.

KNIT and NATTER: Will be back in January 2023

St Michael's Great Houghton

Resources and Contacts

Churchwarden
Parish Admin
Clergy

Peter Robinson
Jo Darlison
Rev Fiona Kouble

01226 753 572
07469 857 315
01226 950 643
07817 167 386

Safeguarding contact Jo Darlison
jo.darlison@sheffield.anglican.org 07469 857 315

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



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