



The Parish of Darfield

All Saints, Darfield and St Michael, Great Houghton

Sunday 24th December 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent: Christmas Eve

10:45 a.m. Holy Communion Darfield

4:00 p.m. Crib Service Darfield

11:30 p.m. Midnight Communion Gt Houghton

Monday 25th December 2023

Christmas Day

10:00 a.m. Christmas Family Communion Darfield

Sunday 31st December 2023

First Sunday of Christmas

10:45 a.m. Pick a Carol! Darfield

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace [Isaiah 9: 6]

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord.

2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16

Magnificat or Psalm 89: 1-4, 19-26

Romans 16: 25-27

Luke 1: 26-38

Christmas Eve

Almighty God, as we prepare with joy to celebrate the gift of the Christ-child, embrace the earth with your glory and be for us a living hope in Jesus Christ our Lord.

2 Samuel 7: 1-5, 8-11, 16

Psalm 89: 2, 19-27

Acts 13: 16-26

Luke 1: 67-79

Christmas Day

Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth: accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you, our Saviour and our eternal God.

Isaiah 9: 2-7

Psalm 96

Titus 2: 11-14

Luke 2: 1-14 [15-20]

Thank you to all who have provided content or inspiration for our News Sheets during the past year. There is always room for more contributions...

Next issue
7th January 2024
May The Peace of the Prince of Peace be with you all this Christmas
Peter

Prophecies fulfilled.

If you have followed the occasional series in these News Sheets on the Prophets, you will know that a prophecy is a prediction that a specified event will happen. Scattered throughout the Old Testament are many prophetic references to the birth and ministry of Jesus with some online sources giving figures up to 500. A mathematician would try to convince you that the chance of all these prophecies being fulfilled is almost impossible. Fortunately, we are dealing with a Supreme God who inspired all these prophecies which attempted to guide His chosen people back to Him.

The events leading up to that momentous birth in Bethlehem were predicted from the days of Abraham with the promise that *"all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."* [Genesis 12: 3]. We then follow the chain through Isaac, Jacob and his sons to Moses and King David. All these had flaws, as we do, but the promise was continued. The prophets from Isaiah to Malachi made many references to the coming of the Messiah with Micah predicting that *"out of Bethlehem will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."*

Magnificat [Luke 1: 46-55]

⁴⁶ And Mary said:

"My soul glorifies the Lord ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,

⁴⁸ for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, ⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me, holy is his name.

⁵⁰ His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; He has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

⁵² He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.

⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful

⁵⁵ to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors."

First Sunday of Christmas

God in Trinity, eternal unity of perfect love: gather the nations to be one family, and draw us into your holy life through the birth of Emmanuel, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Isaiah 61: 10 – 62: 3
Psalm 148
Galatians 4: 4-7
Luke 2: 15-21

Readings for this period December

24th Proverbs 22: 17-29
25th Mark 13: 32-37
26th Mark 14: 1-11
27th Mark 14: 12-26
28th Mark 14: 27-31
29th Mark 14: 32-42
30th Mark 14: 43-52
31st Mark 14: 53-65

January

1st Proverbs 23: 1-8
2nd Proverbs 23: 9-14
3rd Proverbs 23: 15-21
4th Proverbs 23: 22-28
5th Proverbs 23: 29-35
6th Proverbs 24: 1-9
7th Proverbs 24: 10-16

Prayer Square

At this time we are praying for...

... those who received a blessing along with their knitted angel
... those separated from their families
... essential workers at this holiday time

Prayer:

Forward any prayer requests to our Prayer Ministry team through

Carol Hunter: 07542 527 331

The Parish of Darfield

All Saints, Darfield and St Michael, Great Houghton

Sunday 31st December 2023

First Sunday of Christmas

10:45 a.m. Pick a Carol! Darfield

Sunday 7th January 2024

Epiphany

9:00 a.m. All Age Holy Communion Great Houghton

10:45 a.m. Service for Sunday Darfield

Missed days of Christmas.

We have celebrated the long promised birth of our Lord Jesus by joining in with the singing of carols and other seasonal songs and are maybe looking to sing some of the less familiar carols from our carol sheets as we join in to 'Pick a Carol' in preparation to celebrate the New Year of 2024.

What have we missed? We very rarely hear about those days between Christmas and Epiphany which have been selected to remember relevant events or people.

Stephen: 26th December: The tenth Century Bohemian 'Good King Wenceslas', forever remembered in the 1853 carol, set out to perform a good deed on the Feast of Stephen. We know this day as Boxing Day. In it we should remember Stephen, the first Christian Martyr, who was chosen in Acts chapter 6 to be one of the Deacons tasked with overseeing the daily welfare distribution. Brought before the High Priest and condemned on false charges he was stoned to death and saw **"Heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."** [Acts 7: 56].

St John the Evangelist: 27th December: John is thought to be one of the original Disciples and is attributed as the writer of the Gospel that bears his name and the Acts of the Apostles as well as three Epistles and the Book of Revelation. John, as one of the closest disciples to Jesus, was present at the Transfiguration [Luke 9: 28-36] and was the first disciple to look in the empty tomb [John 20: 4-5]

Holy Innocents: 28th December: The wise men turned up in Jerusalem after following the star which they had seen. They saw King Herod to find out where the King of the Jews was so that they could worship Him. The priests and Scribes identified Bethlehem as His birthplace according to the prophesy of Micah [5: 3]. As the carol puts it *"Herod then with fear was filled: "A prince," he said, "in Jewry!" And all the little boys he killed At Bethl'hem in his fury"*. [Unto us a Boy is Born, a Latin carol first published in 1582 and translated in 1928 by Percy Dearner [1867-1936]. Two dreams warned the Magi not to re-visit Herod and to send Joseph, Mary and Jesus to safety in Egypt.

Resources and Contacts

Churchwarden Parish Admin Clergy

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DEADLINE for Content

Items, preferably via e-mail, to

pdrobinson@live.co.uk

Tuesday 5:00 p.m.

All Saints



St Michael



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