



## The Parish of Darfield

*All Saints, Darfield and St Michael, Great Houghton*

**Sunday 2nd July 2023**

*Fourth Sunday after Trinity*

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

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

**Sunday 9th July 2023**

*Fifth Sunday after Trinity*

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

### The Feast of Purim

This is a Jewish festival known for lavish costumes, feasting, and the giving and receiving of gifts. It was established as a reminder of events during the exile in the Persian Empire. Its origins are recorded in the Book of Esther. If you have been keeping up with the daily readings, you will, during the past week, have read the first chapter and will complete the remaining chapters in the coming days.

Between 486 BC and 465 BC, Xerxes, known in Hebrew as *Ahasuerus*, was the ruler of the Achaemenid Empire which at its peak was the largest empire of its time. It stretched from the Balkans and Egypt in the west to central Asia and the Indus Valley in the east covering some two million square miles. It was founded around 550 BC and lasted until 330 BC when it fell to Alexander the Great.

The empire had over-run the Israelite Kingdom and exiled most of the people from Jerusalem and their homelands.

Such was the wealth generated by the Kingdom that Xerxes was able to host an extravagant celebration feast which lasted for six months. The final banquet lasted seven days. Queen Vashti, the first wife of Xerxes had, at the same time, hosted a similar seven-day banquet for the women. Xerxes summoned Vashti to show off her beauty to his guests but she refused. Vashti was permanently exiled, and Xerxes began the search for a new Queen.

Esther, also known as Hadassah, was the cousin and adopted daughter of Mordecai, one of those Jews exiled from Jerusalem. Part of a group of chosen young women, Esther found favour with Xerxes and became his second wife. Mordecai uncovered a conspiracy against Xerxes by two of the palace guards. He passed his information on to Queen Esther who told King Xerxes and the plot was foiled.

One of the royal nobles, Haman, who had been elevated to the highest position in court, was annoyed by Mordecai's refusal to bow down before him and urged Xerxes to kill Mordecai and all the other Jews within the Kingdom. The actual date for this massacre was set by casting lots. Mordecai passed on the fears of the people to Queen Esther who, despite the personal risk of approaching the King without being invited, was able to persuade Xerxes to reverse his edict.

This new edict gave the Jews the freedom to assemble and protect themselves against their enemies which they did. Xerxes remembered Mordecai's part in the foiling of the earlier conspiracy but had received no recognition for it. Mordecai became more prominent in the court and eventually became second only to the King.

The feast of Purim commemorates the saving of the Israelites from potential destruction and takes its name from the Persian word *pur* meaning to choose by lot.

### What's on at St Michaels' Great Houghton

*A peaceful place for all...*

**Mindful Mondays: 6:00 to 7:00**

**Thoughtful Thursdays: 11:00 to 12:00 noon**

*The church will be open for times of peace, stillness, quiet reflection and prayer:*

**Tuesdays 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

**Knit and Natter**

*A time to share your knitting skills and experiences*

### Beware—

**Angel bombing in December  
Join us in our great angel  
campaign:**

Are you willing to start knitting  
angels NOW???

Patterns from Carol or Sheila

## Fourth Sunday after Trinity Collect

Gracious Father, by the obedience of Jesus You brought salvation to our wayward world: draw us into harmony with Your will, that we may find all things restored in Him, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

## Readings

Jeremiah 28: 5-9  
Psalm 89: 1-4, 15-18  
Romans 6: 12-23  
Matthew 10: 40-42

## Bible Readings for this week July

1st Matthew 15: 1-10  
2nd Matthew 15: 11-20  
3rd Esther 1: 13-22  
4th Esther 2: 1-11  
5th Esther 2: 12-23  
6th Esther 3: 1-15  
7th Esther 4: 1-17  
8th Esther 5: 1-14  
9th Esther 6: 1-14

## Prayer Square

This week we are praying for  
Darfield and the residents of

Upperwood Road  
Palermo Fold  
Marsala Walk  
Sorrento Way  
Belvedere Drive  
Lugano Grove  
Genoa Close

## Prayer:

Forward any prayer requests to our  
Prayer Ministry team through

**Carol Hunter: 07542 527 331**



**Sunday 16th July 2023: 4:00 p.m.**

**Café style—Darfield Church Hall**



## A Date for your Diary...

**Wednesday 2nd August 2023**

**11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

**We need volunteers for  
'pick-a-stick'  
and to talk to the visitors**



## Thursday 20th July

**6:30 p.m. at All Saints Darfield**

*Darfield Mothers' Union Closing Service  
and a Celebration of the life of Hilda Jobling*

## 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*

## All Saints Toilet project: four years on

Recently, a small group met with Josh Hunter, the Diocesan Church Buildings Officer to review progress on this important project:

We need **YOUR** assistance to help seek out potential grant sources and ideas to raise funds so that this project can progress...

**Talk to Peter, Kay or Jo.**

## Psalm 89: 1, 2, 18:

- 1** *I will sing of the Lord's great love forever; with my mouth I will make Your faithfulness known through all generations.*
- 2** *I will declare that Your love stands firm forever, that You have established your faithfulness in heaven itself.*
- 18** *Indeed, our shield belongs to the Lord, our King to the Holy One of Israel.*

## Resources and Contacts

**Churchwarden**  
**Parish Admin**  
**Clergy**

Peter Robinson  
Jo Darlison  
Rev Fiona Kouble

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01226 950 643  
07817 167 386

**Safeguarding** contact Peter Robinson  
[pdrobinson@live.co.uk](mailto:pdrobinson@live.co.uk) 07910 728 581

## Our Web Site

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

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

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



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All Saints

St Michael



## DEADLINE for Content

Items, preferably via e-mail, to

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

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