



The Parish of Darfield

All Saints, Darfield and St Michael, Great Houghton

Sunday 7th January 2024

Epiphany

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

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

Saturday 13th January 2024

4:00 p.m. Café Church *Great Houghton*

Sunday 14th January 2024

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

Carols by Candlelight 2023

Thank you to everyone who played a part in preparing for this year's Carols by Candlelight – Cleaners, Flower Arrangers, Candle installers, Readers, Singers, Sidesmen, Bell Ringers, Music Makers and of course the Congregation. Peter informed me that around two hundred attended. I've tried to include everyone; sorry if anyone is missed out!!

Also a big thank you to those who prepared coffee, mulled wine and refreshments over in the Church Hall after the Service; really appreciated, especially by those who travelled some distance. All added to an unforgettable evening.

Margaret

All Saints Church Christmas Card

A total of £121 was collected in the Christmas Stocking and has been sent to support the work of the Salvation Army Food Bank in Goldthorpe.

Epiphany, Kings, Wise Men or Magi?

If you look closely at a traditional Christmas Crib Scene, how does what do you see line up with the accounts of the birth of Jesus as recorded in the gospels of St Matthew and St Luke?

St Luke begins with two angelic announcements, to Zechariah about the birth of John the Baptist and to Mary about the birth of Jesus. The Roman Census brought Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem where Jesus was born in a stable and visited by a band of local shepherds summoned by an Angel. Luke then goes on to describe the way that Mary and Joseph complied with the Law of the LORD in circumcision and naming, and presenting Jesus as their first born to be consecrated to the Lord. [Exodus 13: 1]. Luke records that they returned to Nazareth and then tells us of an incident which occurred on one of the family's annual visits to Jerusalem for Passover. Jesus was then twelve years old but was found in the Temple with the teachers, listening to them and asking questions. All who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and answers, [Luke 2: 46, 47]

Matthew's account begins with a listing of the genealogy of Jesus from 'Abraham to Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, and Mary was the mother of Jesus who is called the Messiah.' [Matthew 1: 17]

Joseph and Mary were betrothed, which under Jewish Law was a binding contract which could only be terminated by death or divorce. Mary's pregnancy would have been sufficient grounds for divorce, but Joseph was visited by an Angel of the Lord who persuaded Joseph not to consider divorce but to complete the marriage process. Matthew recalls one of the prophecies of Isaiah. 'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel.' [Isaiah 7: 14,]

Sometime after the birth of Jesus, a group of wise men arrived in Jerusalem looking for 'the one who has been born king of the Jews' [Matthew 2: 2] This group would have been court officials in one of the kingdoms to the east of the Holy Land and would have had access to the Hebrew Bible and would have seen the long string of writings promising a Messiah who would save His people. Their studies of the heavens would have shown what they described as a star which had prompted them to set out on a journey to find the new King. Contrary to their appearance in our crib scenes it would have taken them some time to reach Jerusalem. King Herod's advisors pointed them to Bethlehem, and they followed the star and came to the house where Mary and Jesus were. [Matthew 2: 10, 11]. Herod's reaction to the wise men setting out for home without returning to him was to order the murder of all the boys in Bethlehem and its surrounding area who were under two years old which corresponded to the time that the star had appeared. Joseph was warned of this event and, presumably taking the gifts of the Wise Men as a source of finance, made their way to safety in Egypt. Following the death of King Herod, the family returned to Nazareth.

As early as the 3rd Century the wise men began to be called kings and by the 8th Century had become three in number to match the gifts and had been given the names Balthasar, Melchior, and Casper.

Although the prophetic references to the Messiah were directed at the Jews as the descendants of the LORD's chosen ones since the days of Abraham, the revelation to the Jewish Shepherds and to the Gentile Wise Men, as well as many of the prophetic writings, confirm that the Messianic message is for all of us.

Epiphany

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
Matthew 2: 1-12

Bible Readings for this week

January

7th Proverbs 24: 10-16
8th Mark 14: 66-72
9th Mark 15: 1-15
10th Mark 15: 16-32
11th Mark 15: 33-41
12th Mark 15: 42-47
13th Mark 16: 1-8
Mark 16: 9-20

Prayer Square

This week we are
praying for the residents
of Little Houghton...

Buttercross Drive
Chapel Lane
Ings Lane
Middlecliff Lane

Prayer:

Forward any prayer requests to our Prayer Ministry team through

Carol Hunter: 07542 527 331

Community Shop on the Go brings high quality food to areas where people may be struggling to access good food for either financial or geographical reasons.

The Church Hall will be open between **9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.** to provide light refreshments and a warm space for their customers.

Next dates are 11th and 25th January 2024:

See Jo to join the rota

Boardgames Club

Saturday 20th January 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?

A date for your new Diary and a promise of Spring on the horizon

Saturday 10th February: Snowdrop Day, All Saints Darfield

Plan now to visit the churchyard to see the snowdrops, join us in church for refreshment, serve refreshments to and talk to our visitors



Gold: precious metal and a symbol of kingship: Today: £52 per gram

Frankincense: a perfume and symbol of deity: Today 11p per gram

Myrrh: an anointing oil symbolic of death Today 34p per gram

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

Coat appeal. The Salvation Army at Goldthorpe (which helps people our area too) are hoping to be able to ensure that everyone has a warm coat this winter.

If you have one which you no longer require, please bring it to church and pop it in the Tower Room and it will be collected ready to be given to someone in need.

A chance to make a big difference !

Psalm 29

- 1 Ascribe to the Lord, you heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
- 2 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendour of his holiness.
- 3 The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord thunders over the mighty waters.
- 10 The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord is enthroned as King forever.
- 11 The Lord gives strength to his people; the Lord blesses his people with peace.

Resources and Contacts

Churchwarden
Parish Admin
Clergy

Peter Robinson 01226 753 572
Jo Darlison 07469 857 315
Rev Fiona Kouble 07852 316 796:
Note new contact number

Safeguarding contact Peter Robinson
pdrobinson@live.co.uk 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



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