



The Parish of Darfield

All Saints, Darfield and St Michael, Great Houghton

Sunday 8th January 2023: Epiphany and Baptism of Christ

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

Sunday 15th January 2023: Second Sunday of Epiphany

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

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

4:00 p.m. The Well: *Darfield Church Hall*

Twelfth Night and Epiphany

The usual custom is that we keep our Christmas decorations on display until Twelfth Night which this year was on 5th January. In other traditions, decorations and celebrations continue until the Feast of Candlemas, some forty days after Christmas when we remember the Presentation of Christ in the Temple in accordance with the Jewish ordinances.

The Feast of the Epiphany is celebrated on January 6th, the day after Twelfth Night. The word comes from the Greek for appearance or manifestation. The events described in St Luke's Gospel [2: 1-20] show how the 'Good News of Great Joy' was revealed to the Shepherds on behalf of the Jewish nation. Their response was to "glorify and praise God" and to begin the spread of this news as they returned to their flocks.

St Matthew's account of [2:1-12] the birth of Jesus describes the manifestation to the Gentiles – the non-Jews. The news is spread far and wide by means of a special star. The Wise Men who were prompted by this star to make the long journey to Jerusalem, and on to Bethlehem, were advisors and magicians to the courts of the rulers in what we now call the Middle East. Their study of the religious writings of the day would have included the Hebrew Scriptures. Particularly in the writings of the Prophets, they would have discovered the many references to the promised Messiah. We do not know whether any of their fellow wise man made the connection and the journey to find the Messiah.

The season of Epiphany moves us on from the manifestation of the new-born Jesus to that of the adult Jesus at the very start of his earthly ministry. John the Baptist had appeared in Judea preaching 'a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins' [St Mark 1: 4]. Having spent the past years in relative obscurity in Nazareth, Jesus finds John and insists on receiving Baptism from him. As the next stage in the epiphany, 'the Holy Spirit descended on Him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with You I am well pleased."' [St Luke 3: 22].

Throughout the years of its development, the Jewish nation had a special link to their LORD though the patriarchs, the Books of the Law, the Judges and some of their kings, and the prophets. As far as the rest of humanity, described as Gentiles, was concerned we read of very few individuals who attempted to seek the LORD. Rahab from Jericho assisted the spies that Joshua had sent out. [Joshua 2:] Ruth, a native of Moab, returned to Bethlehem with her mother-in-law Naomi and was an ancestor of King David. Naaman, the Commander of the Army of the King of Syria who after, being cleansed of his leprosy, took two mule loads of earth with him as a reminder of Israel and the LORD and to enable him to pray to the LORD.

As the church developed in the years after the Resurrection, even the Apostles had to come to terms with preaching the Gospel to non-Jews in a society where associating with them was forbidden. Peter was summoned by the Centurion Cornelius to go to Caesarea. [Acts 10:] Just before the servants bearing the summons arrived, Peter was given a vision in which God commanded him to eat of animals which Jewish tradition had declared unclean. This was an epiphany to Peter as he then went on to preach the Gospel to Cornelius and his relatives and close friends. The Holy Spirit came upon all who were there.

'Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.'

[Colossians 3: 11]

The Monthly Service Plan

1st Sunday of the Month:

9:00 a.m. Great Houghton [HC]

10:45 a.m. Darfield

2nd Sunday of the Month:

10:45 a.m. Darfield [HC]

3rd Sunday of the Month:

9:00 a.m. Great Houghton [HC]

10:45 a.m. Darfield

4:00 p.m. The Well: Church Hall

4th Sunday of the Month:

10:45 a.m. Darfield [HC]

5th Sunday of the Month:

Epiphany Baptism of Christ Collects

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.

Heavenly Father, at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son: may we recognize him as our Lord and know ourselves to be your beloved children; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Readings

Isaiah 42: 1-9

Psalms 29

Acts 10: 34-43

St Matthew 3:13-17

Bible Readings for this week January

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| 8th | Psalms 119: 65-72 |
| 9th | Psalms 119: 73-80 |
| 10th | Psalms 119: 81-88 |
| 11th | Psalms 119: 89-96 |
| 12th | Exodus 19: 14-25 |
| 13th | Exodus 20: 1-17 |
| 14th | Exodus 20: 18-26 |

Prayer Square

This week we are praying for those who will be taking part in our occasional services

... families preparing for the baptism of their children

... couples preparing for marriage

... bereaved families mourning the loss of loved ones

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

Zoom Prayer Meeting: Monday 9th January 2023: 8:00 p.m.

Contact Carol Hunter for the Zoom link



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



Annual Parochial Church Meeting and Church Electoral Roll

Over the next few weeks your PCC will be preparing its Annual Report for presentation and approval at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. If you or your group have a contribution to the report and have not been contacted already, please see Peter

In the weeks before the Annual Meeting, the Electoral Roll has to be revised and notices to this effect will be appearing in due course.

Your name may be added to the roll if you are baptised, over sixteen, declare yourself to be a member of the Church of England and live in the Parish.

If you do not live in the Parish your name can be added if you have 'habitually attended public worship in the Parish during the preceding six months'

Funeral

Monday 9th January 2023: 1:45 p.m. Maureen Watson

All Saints Darfield and Darfield Cemetery

Psalms 29: 2,11

² Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendour of his holiness.

¹¹ The Lord gives strength to his people; the Lord blesses his people with peace.

KNIT and NATTER: Will be back in February 2023

St Michael's Great Houghton

Resources and Contacts

Churchwarden Parish Admin Clergy

Peter Robinson
Jo Darlison
Rev Fiona Kouble

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Safeguarding contact Peter Robinson
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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).