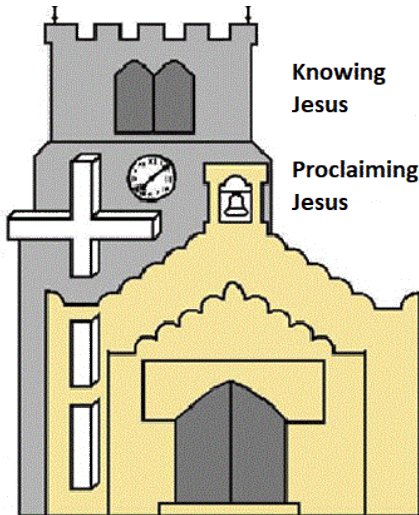


The Parish of Darfield

All Saints Darfield and St Michael Great Houghton



Sunday 17th May 2026

Seventh Sunday of Easter

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

10:45 a.m. Morning Worship *Darfield*

Sunday 24th May 2026

Pentecost

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

Restoration

Ezekiel was a Priest in Jerusalem at a time when the remnant of the Israelites in the Southern Kingdom of Judah were being oppressed by Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon. Eventually Jerusalem was surrendered and the Israelites taken into exile in Babylon. Jerusalem and its Temple of Solomon were all but destroyed. Ezekiel was amongst those relocated and his ongoing prophesies were aimed at giving the people hope for the restoration of their independence. The passage chosen for this Sunday [Ezekiel 36: 24-28] comes from a section titled **Israel's Restoration Assured**. Through Ezekiel, the LORD promises to gather them from all nations and re-establish them in their own land, given to them following the Exodus from Egypt at the time of Moses and Joshua. They would be cleansed from their impurity and idolatry with a new heart and spirit instilled in them. Some seventy years after the exile the Israelites were able to return to Jerusalem, re-build the city and Temple and settle back into their Promised Land.

The next external influence came with Alexander the Great, king of Macedon who spent much of his time on military campaigns throughout Asia and Egypt and built up one of the largest empires in history, stretching from Greece to India and Egypt. The Jewish nation came under Greek influence with, in cultural terms, perhaps the biggest threat to their distinct Jewish identity.

On Alexander's death the empire fragmented and the Jewish area now named Judea became a buffer zone between the Greek influence to the north and the Egyptian to the south. The Maccabean revolt, 167-160 BC established the independence of Judea and a new regime. first of High Priests and then kings. was established. As the Roman Empire grew in influence over the Greeks during the first century BC, Judea became a target and in 63 BC, the defences of Jerusalem were easily defeated by the Roman General Pompey and Judea became a Roman Province. The Romans allowed the High Priests to remain and several puppet kings were installed. Among these were Herod the Great and his son Herod Antipas who were to feature in the accounts of the birth of Christ and His Crucifixion.

We can now turn to the days between the Resurrection and the Ascension where the risen Jesus met with his disciples and spoke to them at length about the kingdom of God. [Acts 1: 3] and the Disciples were promised baptism with the Holy Spirit. In their last recorded conversation, the Disciples asked Jesus if He was going to restore the kingdom to Israel. The Disciples were told that it was not their place to know the times or dates set by the Father. However they would, in the power they would gain with the Holy Spirit, become His witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth. With that, Jesus was taken up and a cloud hid Him from their sight [Acts 1: 9]

Church Explorer Day

On **Saturday 23rd May** we will be joining in celebrating Church Explorer Week with other Churches in the Sheffield Diocese. All Saints Church will be open between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Rotas are on the Church Notice Board ready to add YOUR name to the lists for meeting, greeting and refreshing our visitors.

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Risen, ascended Lord, as we rejoice at your triumph, fill your Church on earth with power and compassion, that all who are estranged by sin may find forgiveness and know your peace, to the glory of God the Father.

Readings

Ezekiel 36: 24-28

Acts 1: 6-14

Psalms 68: 1-10, 32-35

1 Peter 4: 12-14; 5: 6-11

John 17: 1-11

Readings for this week

May

17th	Ruth 2: 1-13
18th	Ruth 2: 14-23
19th	Ruth 3: 1-8
20th	Hebrews 8: 9-13
21st	Hebrews 9: 1-10
22nd	Hebrews 9: 11-15
23rd	Hebrews 9: 16-28
24th	Hebrews 10: 1-18

Prayer Square

This week we are praying for residents of Darfield

Edderthorpe Lane
High View Close
Saltersbrook Road
Highfield Range
Crook House Lane
Crook House Court
Low Farm Court

Prayer:

Forward any prayer requests to our Prayer Ministry team through

Carol Hunter: 07542 527 331

Community Shop on the Go and Warm-Space

Next Community Shop: Thursday 28th May

Warm Space: Every Thursday 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

BOOK THE DATE: Saturday 6th June - All Saints Garden Party

How can YOU contribute to the success of this event?

Thoughtful Thursday at Great Houghton

Thursdays between 11:00 a.m. and noon.

Craft and Natter Tuesday 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Twelve:

Twelve or twelfth occurs just over two hundred times in the Bible and had deep significance to the Israelites. Their origin was with the twelve tribes named after the twelve sons of Jacob. Their calendar, based on the movement of the sun and moon, has twelve months. In Leviticus the Lord instructed Moses in the rituals to be observed in worship. Their best flour was to be used to make twelve loaves of bread which were to be placed on a table of perfect gold before the Lord. This had to be done for each Sabbath Day. [Leviticus 24: 5-8] Solomon appointed twelve district governors who had to supply provisions for the King for one month in the year. If we look to the New Testament and the Book of Revelation, we can find many references to twelve. In chapter 7 we read of one hundred and forty-four thousand who were sealed, twelve thousand for each of the twelve tribes of Israel. A woman representing the Church as the Bride of Christ appeared with twelve stars on her head. [Revelation 12: 1]. The Holy City, the New Jerusalem, has twelve gates, walls 144 cubits high [12x12] and is 12,000 furlongs square [Revelation 21: 12, 16-17] If we think back to the start of the Ministry of Jesus, we read that He chose twelve of his followers to become his closest Disciples. These twelve were sent out by Jesus with authority over impure spirits. [Matthew 10:]. However, at the crucial time, one of the Twelve, Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus to the authorities for thirty pieces of silver. On learning that Jesus was to be crucified, Judas unsuccessfully attempted to return the money and went out and killed himself. In the days after the Ascension, the eleven Disciples met for continuing prayer. On Peter's prompting they set out to replace Judas Iscariot. It had to be someone who had been with them for the whole of the time during the ministry of Jesus and who had witnessed the Resurrection. Joseph called Barsabbas and Matthias were nominated and lots cast to decide the outcome. The lot fell to Matthias and he was added to the eleven to restore their number to twelve.

Resources and Contacts

Churchwarden
PCC Secretary

Peter Robinson
Karen Walton

01226 753 572

Safeguarding

Contact Peter Robinson
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).