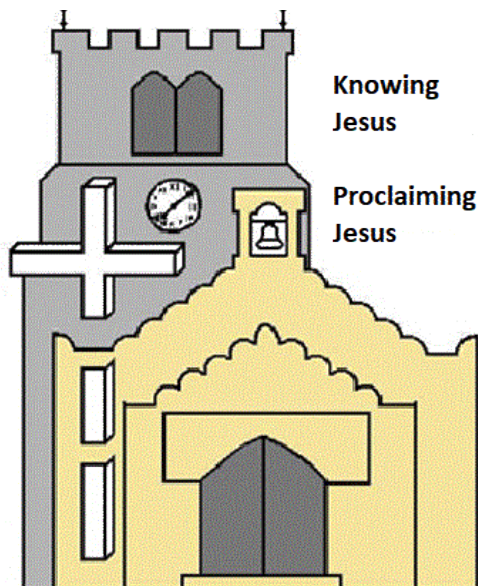




The Parish of Darfield

All Saints Darfield and St Michael Great Houghton

Sunday 16th February 2025

Third Sunday before Lent

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

With Rt Rev Dr Pete Wilcox, Bishop of Sheffield

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

4:00 p.m. Café Church *Darfield Church Hall*

Sunday 23rd February 2025

Second Sunday before Lent

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

4:00 p.m. Farewell Service *Rev Fiona Kouble*

Christ Church Ardsley

Blessings and Woes

Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked [Psalm 1: 1]

The book of Psalms begins with a blessing and there are others scattered through the remaining Psalms [e.g. 65: 4; 84: 4; 112: 1]. A blessing can be described as a favour or gift from God which brings happiness. Among these blessings are salvation, forgiveness, peace, joy, and eternal life. The final chorus of George Frederic Handel's Oratorio, Messiah, picks up a verse from Revelation '*Blessing and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.*' [Revelation 5: 13]

Our New Testament has two records of lengthy teaching sessions. Jesus had called his disciples to follow Him and had performed two miracles of healing [Luke 5:]. After a solitary night spent in prayer Jesus called his disciples to Him and chose twelve of them to be Apostles: Simon Peter, his brother Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James, son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot.

A large crowd of disciples and others from a wide area had gathered to hear Jesus and to be healed of their ailments. Luke records the event as the Sermon on the Plain and opens with a series of four statements beginning with *Blessed*. A similar set of eight sayings are recorded by Matthew in what we know as the Sermon on the Mount. These have collectively come to be called the Beatitudes from the Latin *beati* meaning blessed.

Each statement takes a group of people which would be seen as unfortunate and gives them a blessing. The poor gain the Kingdom of God; the hungry will be satisfied; the weak will laugh, and the hated will gain the reward of Heaven.

The Apostles and disciples were given a series of warnings as they were prepared for what they would face as followers of Jesus. These took the opposites of the blessed as the rich, the well fed, those who laugh now and those spoken well of by everyone and likened them to the false prophets of old.

"Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who draws strength from mere flesh [Jeremiah 17: 5]

"But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. [Jeremiah 17: 7]

We aim to be a visible spiritual presence in our communities as we strive to make Jesus known to all.

Companions in Daily Prayer

Weekdays 8:30 a.m. and 9:00 p.m.

Join our team on weekdays - search for *Companions in Daily Prayer* on facebook.com

A message from Victor Altt of a new non-religious community venture starting on 20th February

MEN'S OVER 50's CLUB

Every Thursday 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Darfield Cricket Club

Free pool table, darts, board games, playing cards, reading, hobbies.
(Please bring your own games.)

A warm welcome awaits

Enjoy a friendly chat and a cuppa

£1.50 entry. Free hot drinks provided

Third Sunday before Lent

Eternal God, whose Son went among the crowds and brought healing with his touch: help us to show his love, in your Church as we gather together, and by our lives as they are transformed into the image of Christ our Lord.

Readings

Jeremiah 17: 5-10
Psalm 1
1 Corinthians 15: 12-20
Luke 6: 17-26

Readings for this week

February

16th Acts 15: 22-41
17th Acts 16: 1-15
18th Acts 16: 16-40
19th Acts 17: 1-9
20th Acts 17: 10-15
21st Acts 17: 16-34
22nd Psalm 104: 27-35
23rd Psalm 105: 1-15

Prayer Square

**This week we are praying
for the residents of
Darfield**

Doncaster Road
Fitzwilliam Road
Balkley Lane
Howard Street
Cover Drive
Norville Crescent
Middlewood Hall

Prayer:

Forward any prayer requests to our Prayer Ministry team through

Carol Hunter: 07542 527 331

Community Shop on the Go and Warm Welcome Space

Darfield Church Hall

Thursday 20th February from 9:00 a.m.

Community Shop - Next Dates: 6th and 20th March

Although the Community Shop on the Go continues on its fortnightly rota, the Warm Welcome Space is open every Thursday between 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

What's in a Book?

Nahum

Nahum identifies himself as an Elkoshite, a native of Elkosh in Judah [Nahum 1: 1] with a name derived from the Hebrew for comfort. The target of his prophesy was the Kingdom of Assyria which over time had grown into the strongest and largest Empire of the time. Its capital, Nineveh, is described by the Lord as *a great city* [Jonah 1: 1] and was built on the banks of the River Tigris on the site of the modern city of Mosul in Iraq. On foot it would have taken three days to cross Nineveh [Jonah 3: 3] Jonah's prophesy had been heeded, and the city was saved from its impending destruction. It was not to last since the people returned to their former ways and they continued to inflict cruelty on the Israelites and it became a major threat. Nahum's prophesy predicted the destruction of their capital and of their Empire. His writings can be dated to the seventh Century BC as there is a reference to the destruction of Thebes by the Assyrians in the middle of that century [Nahum 3: 8-10]. Nahum goes into detail as to the fate of Nineveh which came to pass when the Medes and Babylonian Empires conquered Nineveh in 612 BC and became the major force in the area.

Nahum's words were also intended to give comfort to the Israelites. He stated that *'The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble.'* [Nahum 1: 7] Nahum foretells the coming of the Messiah. *'Look, there on the mountains, the feet of one who brings good news, who proclaims peace!'* [Nahum 1: 15] This same comfort is echoed by the Prophet Isaiah as *"How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news"* [Isaiah 52: 7] who also includes a reference to the Assyrian oppression [52: 4].

St Paul in his letter to the Romans uses the same quote [Romans 10: 15] as he attempts to spur his readers into action by asking *'how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard?'* [Romans 10: 14]

Ash Wednesday - 5th March 2025: 10:30 a.m.

Holy Communion [Book of Common Prayer]

All Saints Darfield

Annual Meetings - Sunday 6th April 2025: 10:45 a.m.

Resources and Contacts

Churchwarden
PCC Secretary
Clergy

Peter Robinson
Jo Darlison
Rev Fiona Kouble

01226 753 572
07469 857 315
07852 316 796

Safeguarding

contact Dr Roland Kouble
07896 025 780

DEADLINE for Content

Items, preferably via e-mail, to

pdrobinson@live.co.uk

Tuesday 5:00 p.m.

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

All Saints



St Michael



The PCC of Darfield is a Registered Charity (no. 1185316).