



## The Parish of Darfield

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

### Sunday 17th March 2024

*Fifth Sunday of Lent*

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

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

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

### Sunday 24th March 2024

*Palm Sunday*

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

#### The Davidic Covenant and a New Covenant

Samuel was the last of the line of Judges who had been military leaders chosen by God to lead the Israelites in times of danger, generally when they had forgotten their dependence on the Lord. Othniel was the first Judge who brought peace to the Israelites for forty years having delivered them from eight years of oppression by Cushan-Rishathaim, king of Mesopotamia. [Judges 3: 7-11]

When Samuel grew old he appointed his sons Joel and Abijah as leaders of Israel. However, they *'turned aside after dishonest gain and accepted bribes and perverted justice'* [1 Samuel 8: 1-3]

The elders of the people came to Samuel and asked him to appoint a king to lead them so that they would be like the other local tribes. [1 Samuel 8: 4,5]. Samuel was not pleased but took the situation to the LORD in prayer. The comforting response from the LORD emphasised that, as they had done many times since leaving Egypt, they were rejecting the LORD rather than Samuel himself. Through Samuel, the LORD spoke to the people and warned them of the consequences of installing a king, but they refused to listen. [1 Samuel 8: 10-19]

The LORD then chose Saul, son of Kish who is described as *a man of standing in the tribe of Benjamin* [1 Samuel 9: 1,2] and brought him to Samuel. Samuel anointed Saul with oil to signify that he had been chosen to lead the Israelites. The people accepted Saul as king [1 Samuel 10: 23] and, following Saul's defeat of the Ammonites, confirmed Saul as king. [1 Samuel 11: 15]

It would not last. Despite further victories in battle, Saul did not fully follow the LORD during his reign as king which led to his rejection by the LORD. [1 Samuel 15: 26] and the LORD regretted that He had made Saul king of Israel. [1 Samuel 15: 35]

It is at this point that David came on the scene. He was the youngest of the eight sons of Jesse, the grandson of Ruth and Boaz. Samuel was sent by the LORD to Bethlehem where the family lived and anointed David [1 Samuel 16: 13].

Saul was tormented by an evil spirit from the LORD [1 Samuel 16: 14] and David was recruited to be with Saul and play music on a lyre to sooth Saul's torment [1 Samuel 18: 23]

Some time later after what could be described a rocky relationship, Saul was being chased by the Philistines and, during fierce fighting, Saul was critically wounded and *'fell on his sword'* and died [1 Samuel 31: 4].

David was anointed as king of the tribe of Judah [2 Samuel 2: 1] and Saul's surviving son, Ish-Bosheth, was appointed king over the remaining tribes. A state of war was established between the two factions which lasted for a long time. [2 Samuel 3: 1] During this time David's influence grew and that of Ish-Bosheth declined to such a state that Ish-Bosheth became disheartened. Ish-Bosheth was assassinated and the tribes of Israel came to David to ask him to become their ruler. David made a covenant with them before the LORD at Hebron and became king over all the tribes of Israel.

The LORD established a covenant with David that *"Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever."* [2 Samuel 7: 16] This covenant became the basis of the hope for a Messiah and with the earlier Covenants with Noah, Abraham and Moses establish a context for the various writing in our Bible and are fundamental to our understanding of them.

In this week's Old Testament reading we read *"The days are coming,' declares the LORD, 'when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel'"* [Jeremiah 31: 31] This new Covenant is fulfilled in the blood of Christ. In the account of the last meal that Jesus shared with his disciples He said **"This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."** [Matthew 26: 28]

## Fifth Sunday of Lent Collect

Gracious Father, you gave up your Son out of love for the world: lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion, that we may know eternal peace through the shedding of our Saviour's blood, Jesus Christ our Lord.

### Readings

Jeremiah 31: 31-34  
Psalm 51: 1-13 or  
Psalm 119: 9-16  
Hebrews 5: 5-10  
John 12: 20-33

### Readings for this week March

**17th** Daniel 4: 1-14  
**18th** Luke 8: 40-56  
**19th** Luke 9: 1-17  
**20th** Luke 9: 18-27  
**21st** Luke 9: 28-36  
**22nd** Luke 9: 37-50  
**23rd** Luke 9: 51-62  
**24th** Luke 10: 1-16

## Prayer Square

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

Church Street  
Rodes Avenue  
Old Hall Walk  
Pinfield Close  
Manor Fields  
Hallcroft Gardens

### Prayer:

Forward any prayer requests to our Prayer Ministry team through

**Carol Hunter: 07542 527 331**

## Electoral Roll and Annual Meetings

Forms are now available to accept new entries to our Electoral Roll, our basic membership list. You can join the Roll if you are over sixteen, and live in the Parish or have attended worship over the past six months.

**Today, 17th March 2024 is the last day on which applications can be accepted before the Annual Meeting**

**Nomination forms** are now available for Churchwardens, Assistant Wardens, one Deanery Synod representative and four members of the Parochial Church Council

## Community Shop on the Go brings high quality food to our area...

Choose six food items for £3 or 12 items for £6

### Darfield Church Hall Car Park

**Thursdays between 9:30 a.m. and 12 noon**

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 Thursdays, 21st March and 4th April**

**An Urgent Appeal...** The Goldthorpe Salvation Army Food-bank has a high level of demand for the following items...

**Long-life milk: rice: sugar: coffee: tuna:  
porridge: jam: custard and toilet rolls**

A box is set up at the back of All Saints to collect these items for delivery to Goldthorpe for distribution.

If you have other items to donate they will be accepted as will cash donations.

**Flowers:** There are still vacancies on the Flower Rota for 2024 and we are still accepting donations towards the Easter decorations in Church.

*Rota on notice board, Cash to Kay or Peter*

## Lent 2024: The Prayer Course:

*Eight Sessions based on the Lord's Prayer*

**Wednesday 20th March: Your will be done**

### Unanswered Prayer

12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. at Ardsley:

7.30 p.m. to 8 :30 p.m. at Great Houghton

the  
**prayer**  
course

## Psalm 51: 1, 2, 3, 10

- 1 *Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.*
- 2 *Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.*
- 3 *For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.*
- 10 *Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.*

## 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](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



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