



## The Parish of Darfield

*All Saints Darfield and St Michael Great Houghton*

**Sunday 7th December 2025**

*Second Sunday of Advent*

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

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

**Sunday 21st December 2025**

*Third Sunday of Advent*

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

### Advent – the Old and New Testament:

*On Jordan's bank the Baptist's Cry, announces that the Lord is nigh*

*Charles Coffin 1676-1749 MP 538*

To fully understand the significance of this period of Advent, we need to explore its roots within the Old and New Testaments of our Bible. Whilst the Bible makes no direct mention of the word Advent, the theme of waiting and expectation for God's promised deliverer runs throughout. In the first chapters of the Book of Genesis we read that "*God created mankind in his own image; male and female he created them*" [Genesis 1: 27] Chapter 2 goes on to describe Adam and Eve who had a special relationship with God. This was soon to be spoilt when the Serpent persuaded Eve to eat the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil which God had forbidden. Their easy, sheltered life in the Garden of Eden quickly came to an end.

As we read on we learn of individuals like Noah, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob who also had special relationships with the LORD and received covenants which gave promises that their descendants would become a great nation which would be blessed by God. This takes us on to Egypt where the families of the twelve sons of Jacob grew to such numbers that Pharaoh saw them as a threat to his kingdom. We then read of the Passover Lamb and the Exodus from Egypt and their wanderings in the wilderness. They reached and settled in Canaan, the Promised Land, where they faced opposition from the other local tribes. The demand for a king to make them like the other tribes led to a split in the kingdom and a series of kings, some better than others but mostly described as doing "*evil in the sight of the Lord*". The eventual exile and dispersal of the Northern Kingdom of Israel was followed by the exile of the Southern Kingdom of Judah. The eventual return of the Judeans to Jerusalem brought a period of over 400 years where the Temple based religion became hide bound in rules and rituals.

It was into this background that we can place the writings of the Prophets. We find many references to the expectation of a **Messiah**, a deliverer sent from God, who would be a liberator and saviour for the Israelites. In 1741, George Frideric Handel used several of the references in his Oratorio Messiah. Amongst these is '*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders, and he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace*'. [Isaiah 9: 6]

As we move into the New Testament, we find the fulfilment of these prophecies. The first reference is to John the Baptist who described himself as "*the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'*" [John 1: 23 quoting Isaiah 40: 3] This is followed by the accounts of the Birth of Jesus. Matthew fixes his account into the prophecies by quoting "*The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.*" [Matthew 1: 23 quoting Isaiah 7: 14].

The first Advent celebrates the Incarnation, Immanuel, God with us in the person of Jesus, with the Nativity accounts highlighting Hope and Joy. We look forward to the Second Advent when Jesus *will return in glory to judge the living and the dead*. [2 Timothy 4: 1]. As we make our preparations for this Christmas we should also prepare for the second Advent.

\*\*\*\*\*  
 \* **Thankyou** \*  
 \* A big thankyou to the team who recently spent \*  
 \* their time in clearing foliage, leaves and other \*  
 \* rubbish from the areas around the Rectory \*  
 \* Cottage \*  
 \* \*\*\*\*\*

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 ~~~~~ **Carols by Candlelight Sunday 21st December** ~~~~~  
 ~~~~~ Your PCC has identified a number of tasks ~~~~~  
 ~~~~~ which will be needed to ensure that the All ~~~~~  
 ~~~~~ Saints service runs smoothly. ~~~~~  
 ~~~~~ Don't leave Church without volunteering! ~~~~~  
 ~~~~~ ~~~~~

## Second Sunday of Advent

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour, we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God.

### Readings

Isaiah 11: 1-10  
Psalm 72: 1-7, 18, 19  
Romans 15: 4-13  
Matthew 3: 1-12

### Readings for this week December

**7th** Ephesians 4: 17-32  
**8th** Ephesians 5: 1-7  
**9th** Ephesians 5: 8-20  
**10th** Proverbs 24: 1-9  
**11th** Proverbs 24: 10-20  
**12th** Proverbs 24: 21-34  
**13th** Proverbs 25: 1-10  
**14th** Proverbs 25: 11-20

### Prayer Square

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

*Shroggs Head Close  
Park Hill  
School Street  
Queen Street  
Victoria Street  
Coronation Street*

### 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 11th December** from 9:30 a.m.

*Warm Welcome Space is open  
every Thursday between 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.*

### Christmas Fair:

Thankyou for all who helped with arrangements for our Christmas Fair last weekend. We welcomed over 130 visitors and raised £1045.28

## New Year Resolutions

As we approach the end of another calendar year, the thoughts of the PCC include the production of the Annual Report and the Annual Meetings which have to take place in the early part of 2026. These include the election of the variety of posts needed to ensure that our activities can continue. Please make your first New Years Resolution to listen out for the vacancies which will be detailed in the new year and see how **YOU** can contribute to the life of our Churches.

## St Michael's Great Houghton is open for...

**Craft and Natter** on Tuesdays between 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.  
**Thoughtful Thursdays** between 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon

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

## Resources and Contacts

**Churchwarden** Peter Robinson

01226 753 572

**Safeguarding**

contact Peter Robinson  
07910 728 581

**PCC Secretary** VACANT

**Parish Safeguarding Officer** Sue Holden

### Our Web Site

<http://www.darfieldallsaintschurch.org.uk/>

**Email** [Allsaintschurchdarfield@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:pdrobinson@live.co.uk)

**Tuesday 5:00 p.m.**

All Saints



St Michael



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