



The Parish of Darfield

All Saints Darfield and St Michael Great Houghton

Sunday 4th January 2026

9:00 a.m. Morning Worship *Great Houghton*

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

Sunday 11th January 2026

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

Christmas roundup

A big **thankyou** to all who contributed in any way to our Christmas services across both Churches. The cleaners who made the churches ready. Flower arrangers and tree decorators. The candle teams who set out, lit and put out the candles, and removed the remains. The service leaders, readers and prayer leaders. Sidesmen and torch bearers, refreshment and mulled wine preparers and servers, mince pie suppliers and eaters. Those who dressed up as Mary, Joseph, shepherds, kings and angels for our Crib Service and Nativity but not forgetting the polar bear and giraffe! The organists and pianists and the Dearne Valley Singers.

A congregation of over fifty supported the Carol Service at Great Houghton with the Great Houghton Youth Group Nativity and over 180 attended Carols by Candlelight. The offering at Carols by Candlelight was **£370.22** which has been split equally with the Dearne Valley Singers and All Saints. The Dearne Valley Singers portion, **£185.11** has gone to Barnsley Youth Jazz Association who are supported by and receive donations and fees raised by the Singers.

Epiphany

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold ...

1859; William Chatterton Dix 1837-1898, MP 39

The Feast of the Epiphany is celebrated on 6th January, just twelve days after Christmas. It traditionally ends the Christmas celebrations and is the day by which Christmas decorations are meant to be removed. The name derives from the Greek word *epipháneia* meaning manifestation or appearance. It is generally linked to the record, in Matthew's Gospel, of the visit of the Wise Men to worship the new King of the Jews. Otherwise called Magi or Kings, these visitors are thought to be Zoroastrian Priests from the region around modern-day Iran. They were well known for their studies of astronomy, astrology, alchemy and other types of esoteric knowledge. They would have had access to the various Jewish scriptures and through their studies would have found the many references to a Messiah who would come to save Israel. The appearance of a new object on their star maps was enough to prompt them that Isaiah's prophecy "*For unto us a Child is born...*" [Isaiah 9: 6] had been fulfilled. We do not know how many of them set off on their journey to Jerusalem to worship the new King of the Jews but tradition has it that there were three to line up with the three gifts.

After following the star to Jerusalem, they arrived at the Court of King Herod with the question "*where is He that is born King of the Jews*" [Matthew 2:2] Herod's advisors point them towards Bethlehem [Matthew 2: 5; Micah 5: 2]. The star leads them on to a house in Bethlehem where they find Jesus and present their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. These symbolize the roles of Jesus as King (gold), Priest (frankincense), and Sacrificial Saviour (myrrh), foreshadowing his life, deity, and death. The Wise Men left without returning to Herod who became very angry and ordered his guards to kill all young boys in Bethlehem who were two years old and under. Joseph had been warned in a dream to flee to Egypt with Mary and Jesus to escape this massacre. [Matthew 2: 13-18]. The family stayed in Egypt until King Herod died and an angel told Joseph in a dream to return to the land of Israel. They actually were guided in another dream to return to Nazareth to be out of the reach of Herod's son, Herod Archelaus.

Second Sunday of Christmas

God our Father, in love you sent your Son that the world may have life: lead us to seek him among the outcast and to find him in those in need, for Jesus Christ's sake.

Readings

Jeremiah 31: 7-14
Psalm 147: 13-21
Ephesians 1: 3-14
John 1: 10-18

Readings for this week

4th Philippians 3: 7-14
5th Philippians 3: 15-21
6th Philippians 4: 1-9
7th Philippians 4: 10-23
8th Proverbs 29: 1-9
9th Proverbs 29: 10-19
10th Proverbs 29: 20-27
11th Proverbs 30: 1-9

Prayer Square

This week we are praying
for residents of Great
Houghton

Mount Avenue
Potts Crescent
Pleasant Avenue
Stonebridge Lane
Oak Haven Avenue
Cross Street
Dearne Street

Prayer:

Forward any prayer requests to our
Prayer Ministry team through

Carol Hunter: 07542 527 331

* **Church Flowers:** *
* The new Flower Rotas for 2026 are now available. If you want to see fresh *
* flowers decorating our church buildings on a week by week basis we need you *
* to sign up. *
* Please contact Wendy or Peter if you would like to make a donation to the on- *
* going costs or see Wendy if you need help in providing and arranging your *
* own flowers. *

Community Shop on the Go

Warm Welcome Space

9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Thursday 8th January 2026

Church Hall

Following the discovery of damage to parts of the suspended ceiling in the upper stair-well of the Church Hall, the decision was taken to close the Church Hall to all activities including those groups which hire the Hall. We are attempting to ascertain whether the Hall can be re-opened but this process has been delayed by holiday closures.

* **Arise Shine** [read Isaiah 60:] *
* The Old Testament reading for the Feast of the Epiphany begins *
* with the words "**Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the** *
* **glory of the Lord rises upon you.**" [Isaiah 60: 1]. Isaiah was *
* active at the time of the return from exile, around 520 BC when *
* Jerusalem and the Temple were in ruins, and there was a lack of *
* resources to re-build. The rest of the chapter is good news in *
* that The LORD promises that more of their number will return to *
* Jerusalem and that the resources for re-building will be *
* provided by the surrounding nations as they come to see the *
* **Glory of the LORD** which will arise on them. *
* This same light is given to us and we should, as our New Year's *
* resolution, aim to shine this light into our communities. *

Thoughtful Thursday at Great Houghton

Resumes on Thursday, 8th January between 11:00 a.m. and noon.

Craft and Natter back after Easter

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).