



The Parish of Darfield
All Saints, Darfield and St Michael, Great Houghton
Saturday 20th December 2025
4:00 p.m. Carol Service *Great Houghton*
Sunday 21st December 2025
10:45 a.m. Morning Worship *Darfield*
6:00 p.m. Carols by Candlelight *Darfield*
Christmas Eve: Wednesday 24th December 2025
3:00 p.m. Crib Service *Darfield*
11:30 p.m. Midnight Communion *Great Houghton*
Christmas Day: Thursday 25th December 2025
10:00 a.m. Christmas Family Communion *Darfield*
Sunday 28th December 2025
10:45 a.m. Pick a Carol *Darfield*

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]

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Isaiah 7: 10-16
Psalm 80: 1-8, 18-20
Romans 1: 1-7
Matthew 1: 18-25

Christmas Eve

Almighty God, as we prepare with joy to celebrate the gift of the Christ-child, embrace the earth with your glory and be for us a living hope in Jesus Christ our Lord.

2 Samuel 7: 1-5, 8-11, 16
Psalm 89: 2, 19-27
Acts 13: 16-26
Luke 1: 67-79

Christmas Day

Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth: accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you, our Saviour and our eternal God.

Isaiah 9: 2-7
Psalm 96
Titus 2: 11-14
Luke 2: 1-20

Stephen

Good King Wenceslas looked out on the Feast of Stephen 1853,

John Mason Neale 1818-1866

This carol, which is set to a 13th Century melody, is based on a legend about Wenceslaus I, otherwise Václav the Good, who was a Prince of Bohemia. In 935 AD he was assassinated by his younger brother, Boleslaus the Cruel. His popularity and martyrdom led to Wenceslas being posthumously canonised and declared King and Patron Saint of the Czech state. The carol relates his journey to bring relief to a peasant. This is said to be on the **Feast of Stephen** which is one of the Feast days which are very rarely mentioned in our current pattern of Worship. It occurs on 26th December, the day after Christmas Day which we would recognise as Boxing Day from the custom of donating gifts to those in need.

But what of Saint Stephen. The early church was growing to such an extent that disagreements broke out about apparent unfair daily distribution of food. The twelve Apostles decided to recruit seven men to take over this role so that they could concentrate on the Ministry of the Word [Acts 6: 1-4]. Stephen who is described as "a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit" was amongst the chose seven. [Acts 4: 5]

Stephen went on to perform great wonders and signs among the people, to such an extent that he came into conflict with the Jewish authorities. Stephen defended himself and his activities against the ruling Sanhedrin with an exposition of the divinity of Jesus [Acts 7: 1-53] This was to no avail as the dragged him out of the city and stoned him to death [Acts 7: 54-60] Thus he became the first recorded Chrystian Martyr. A young man named Saul was present with the task of guarding the coats. He was to go on to persecute the growing Church but following an encounter with the Risen Jesus on the road to Damascus was set to spread the Gospel throughout a large part of the Roman Empire and through writing letters to the churches he established, formed most of our New Testament.

First Sunday of Christmas

God in Trinity, eternal unity of perfect love: gather the nations to be one family, and draw us into your holy life through the birth of Emmanuel, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Isaiah 63: 7-9
Psalm 148
Hebrews 2: 10-18
Matthew 2: 13-23

Readings for this period December 2025

21st Philippians 1-11
22nd Philippians 1: 12-26
23rd Philippians 1: 27-30
24th Proverbs 26: 13-28
25th Proverbs 27: 1-9
26th Proverbs 27: 10-19
27th Proverbs 27: 20-27
28th Proverbs 28: 1-9
29th Proverbs 28: 10-19
30th Proverbs 28: 20-28
31st Philippians 2: 1-11

January 2026

1st Philippians 2: 12-18
2nd Philippians 2: 19-30
3rd Philippians 3: 1-6
4th Philippians 3: 7-14

Prayer Square

**At this time we are praying
for everyone including**

... essential workers
... those travelling to see their families
... shops and businesses in our parish
... the staff in GP and Dental surgeries
... care staff in residential homes
... the housebound and their carers
... those mourning loved ones

Prayer:

Forward any prayer requests to our Prayer Ministry team through

Carol Hunter: 07542 527 331

The Parish of Darfield

All Saints, Darfield and St Michael, Great Houghton

Sunday 28th December 2025

First Sunday of Christmas

10:45 a.m. Pick a Carol! Darfield

Sunday 4th January 2026

Second Sunday of Christmas and Epiphany

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion Great Houghton

10:45 a.m. Morning Worship Darfield

Advent 4 The Coming of the Kingdom

Lo He comes with clouds descending, once for favoured sinners slain...
1758 Charles Wesley 1707-1788



Most of the prophecies in the Old Testament refer to a future leader who would be descended from King David and would restore Israel, bringing peace, and establishing justice. In many ways they remind us that the birth of Jesus in humble surroundings marks the fulfilment

of these prophecies.

The Coming of the Kingdom is a present reality and a future hope. This week we will be celebrating the arrival of Jesus into the history of our world. We should take some time out to prepare for and actively anticipate the appointed time that, as we say week by week in our Creed, *Jesus will return to judge the living and the dead*. This will be the complete victory over evil and the completion of God's redemptive plan.

The elements of the Nativity will be familiar to us. A country under subjection to the Roman Empire. The call for an Empire-wide census which meant a hazardous seventy-mile journey for a young, pregnant girl. The lack of suitable lodgings and a birth in a modest stable. Angels appearing over the surrounding fields telling a group of shepherds that a Saviour had been born to them who is the Messiah, the Lord. Their hasty visit to the stable and, returning to their daily routine, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed [Luke 2: 17-18]. We should follow their example.

Thank you to all who have provided content or inspiration for our News Sheets during the past year. There is always room for more contributions...

Next issue 4th January 2026

May The Peace of the Prince of Peace be with you all this Christmas

Peter

Resources and Contacts

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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).