



# The Parish of Darfield

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

**Sunday 14th January 2024**

*Second Sunday of Epiphany*

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

**Sunday 21st January 2024**

*Third Sunday of Epiphany*

**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**

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**'I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End'.**

There are two books in our Bible which start "*In the beginning...*". The first chapter of the book of Genesis gives an account of Creation. In six stages, we move from an earth formless and empty with the Spirit of God hovering over the waters [Genesis 1: 2] to a world populated with all types of plants, animals and mankind, and described as '**very good**'. [Genesis 1: 31] The Gospel of St John begins with an explanation of the true identity of Jesus, **the Word**, who **in the beginning was with God and was God**. [John 1: 1].

By searching our Bibles, we can discover many other names which are used to describe Jesus. At His baptism God described Jesus as His **beloved Son** [Matthew 3: 13-17, Mark 1:9-11, Luke 3: 21-23]. Jesus often referred to Himself as the **Son of Man** [e.g. Mark 8: 31] which is derived from one of the visions of Daniel where "**there came one like a son of man**" who was given power over all peoples by the Ancient of Days [Daniel 7: 13,14].

This Sunday's Collect identifies The Eternal Lord as "**our beginning and end**". In John's vision, recorded in the book of Revelation, the term '**Alpha and Omega**', appears three times in the words of Jesus transmitted by the trusted Angel [Revelation 1:8, 21: 6 & 22: 13]. Jesus introduces Himself as '**Him who is, and who was, and who is to come**'. Alpha and Omega are symbolic as the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet signifying a beginning and an ending. Jesus was present at the beginning of Creation and will be present at the end when all the divine mysteries will be revealed.

## **Making Disciples.** [John 1: 35-50]

The term disciple can be used to describe a pupil or follower of any teacher who accepts their doctrines and attempts to spread them to others.

John the Baptist began his mission at a time described very clearly in Luke's Gospel [Luke 3: 1, 2]. He preached a Baptism of Repentance as he prepared the way for Jesus and had attracted some disciples. On the day after John had baptised Jesus, John was talking to two of his disciples when Jesus walked past. John described Jesus as the **Lamb of God**. The two disciples immediately followed Jesus and spent the rest of the day with Him. One of these disciples was Andrew who was Simon Peter's brother. He went and told Simon Peter that '**we have found the Messiah**' [John 1: 41] and brought him to Jesus.

The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee and found Phillip and called him to follow. Phillip then fetched Nathaniel who was initially sceptical about anything good coming from Nazareth but was urged to come to Jesus anyway.

As we contemplate these first Disciples we should remember that, around three years later, they were to witness at first hand the events of Holy Week, Good Friday and Easter Sunday and become, at Pentecost, the beginnings of the Christian Church. It is our duty, as members of that same Church, to enable others to meet with Jesus.

## **Annual Report and Annual Church Meetings:**

As the new year starts, your PCC must look back at the events of 2023 and produce its Annual Report to be presented, in due course, to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. Do you have any contributions to make to this report? Have you been involved in the organisation of any events or group activities during the year? If so, then we need a report from you!

This report also has to be lodged with the Charity Commission to fulfil their requirements. This will be available online along with reports from previous years.

**But what of 2024?** How can **you** contribute to the life of our Churches? There are many small tasks that need to be done to ensure the smooth running of our services and activities. Most of these tasks have devolved to a small group of individuals who are in danger of becoming overloaded.

**What will you do to help?**

## Second Sunday of Epiphany Collect

Eternal Lord, our beginning and our end: bring us with the whole creation to your glory, hidden through past ages and made known in Jesus Christ our Lord.

### Readings

1 Samuel 3: 1-10 [11-20]  
Psalm 139: 1-5, 12-18  
Revelation 5: 1-10  
John 1: 43-51

### Readings for this week January

**14th** Mark 16: 9-20  
**15th** Proverbs 24: 17-34  
**16th** Proverbs 25: 1-12  
**17th** Proverbs 25: 13-20  
**18th** Proverbs 25: 21-28  
**19th** Proverbs 26: 1-12  
**20th** Proverbs 26: 13-28  
**21st** Proverbs 27: 1-12

## Prayer Square

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

*Bellbrooke Avenue  
Bellbrooke Close  
Bellbrooke Place  
Rose Avenue  
Tempest Avenue*

### Prayer:

Forward any prayer requests to our Prayer Ministry team through

**Carol Hunter: 07542 527 331**

**Community Shop on the Go** brings high quality food to areas where people may be struggling to access good food for either financial or geographical reasons. 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 25th January and 8th February 2024: See Jo to join the rota**

## Boardgames Club

**Saturday 20th January in the Church Hall**

**6:30 p.m. for 7:00 p.m. start.**

Please bring CAKES and/or FRUIT if you can

Why not bring and share your own games?

**A date for your new Diary** and a promise of Spring on the horizon

**Saturday 10th February: Snowdrop Day**, All Saints Darfield

Plan now to visit the churchyard to see the snowdrops, join us in church for refreshment, and serve refreshments to and talk to our visitors



### A question for you and a challenge to you:

Week by week, excepting one week at Christmas, you will find this News sheet in Church, on our 'A Church near You' pages and on our Web site. The question to you is, How many people are involved in its production? The challenge is, Will you provide something written to fill a space like this in around sixty words?

### A Prayer for Growth:

*Lord Jesus, as a Church Family in All Saints' and St Michael's, it is our mission to know You and proclaim You.*

*We want to connect with our community and see Your Kingdom grow. Send Your Holy Spirit to renew, invigorate and inspire us in our work for You.*

*Give us grace, wisdom and joy as we seek to hold out Your Word. Make us strong, powerful and courageous witnesses and grant that we grow in faith and in numbers, to the honour of Your Name, Amen*

**Coat appeal.** The Salvation Army at Goldthorpe (which helps people our area too) are hoping to be able to ensure that everyone has a warm coat this winter.

If you have one which you no longer require, please bring it to church and pop it in the Tower Room and it will be collected ready to be given to someone in need.

**A chance to make a big difference !**

### Psalm 139: 1-5

- 1 O LORD, You have searched me and known me.
- 2 You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off.
- 3 You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways.
- 4 For there is not a word on my tongue, But behold, O LORD, You know it altogether.
- 5 You have hedged me behind and before and laid Your hand upon 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)



### 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



All Saints PCC Darfield is a Registered Charity (no. 1185316).