



The Parish of Darfield

All Saints, Darfield and St Michael, Great Houghton

Sunday 21st April 2024

Fourth Sunday of Easter

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

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

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

Sunday 28th April 2024

Fifth Sunday of Easter

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

Sheep and Shepherds

The account of day six of creation as recorded in the Book of Genesis tells us that the land, on God's command, produced '*living creatures according to their kinds*'. [Genesis 1: 24, 25] These creatures were later brought to Adam who named them [Genesis 2: 19, 20].

Abel, the son of Adam and Eve is described as a *keeper of flocks* [Genesis 4: 2]

Whilst Abram and his family were in Egypt, sheep were among the many gifts that he received from Pharaoh. [Genesis 12: 10-17]. Eventually Abram was forced to leave Egypt but took all his possessions with him.

Sheep came to be an essential support system. Their skins provided primitive clothing and as skills developed their wool provided woven cloth. Their meat provided food and, particularly the lambs, provided for sacrificial offerings. A nomadic life style developed as they needed to seek pasture for the sheep. The number of sheep in their flocks became a status symbol of their prosperity.

Despite God's promise to Abram of being a father of a great nation, [Genesis 15: 5] he and Sarai were childless until the birth of Isaac [Genesis 21: 2]. Some time later Abram had been renamed Abraham by God and was put to the test. God told Abraham to take Isaac to the region of Moriah an offer Isaac up as a sacrifice. Abraham obeyed and brought Isaac to the place which God showed him. [Genesis 22: 1-13]. Abraham prepared the place and was about to sacrifice Isaac when God spoke to him to stop him continuing. A ram was provided as an alternative as God had seen Abraham's faith.

As we read through the rest of the Bible we find over five hundred references to sheep. **Jacob** was a shepherd for his father-in-law Laban and was given every speckled or spotted sheep from Laban's flocks, [Genesis 30: 31-34]. **Moses** was tending the flocks of his father-in-law Jethro when he encountered God in the burning bush on Mount Horeb. [Exodus 3: 1-3]. **David**, the youngest son of Jesse was tending the family sheep flocks when Samuel visited and anointed him as the next King of Israel to succeed Saul. In perhaps his most well-known psalm, David describes the Lord as his shepherd with all the advantages that brings.

Isaiah comforts his listeners by showing that the Sovereign Lord '*Tends His flock like a shepherd*'. [Isaiah 40: 11].

In our New Testament, the Bethlehem Shepherds were the first to hear about and see the newly born Jesus who is described as Saviour and Messiah. [Luke 2 2: 8-20]. In His teachings, Jesus made many references to sheep and shepherds which would have been familiar to the crowds. The **Parable of the Lost Sheep** describes an owner who had one hundred sheep who, when one was lost, left the others to their own devices to look for it. Great was the rejoicing when it was found and returned to the flock. [Luke 14: 3-7]. Jesus often described the Jewish people as **sheep without a shepherd**. [Matthew 9:36] This echoed statements made by the prophet **Micaiah**, [1 Kings 22: 17] **Ezekiel** [Ezekiel 34: 5] and **Zechariah**. [Zechariah 10:2].

In one of the last encounters between Jesus and his Disciples before the Ascension, Jesus asked Simon Peter three times '*Do you love Me?*' The responses to Peter's positive answers were '**feed my lambs**', '**take care of my sheep**' and '**feed my sheep**'

Then we your people, the sheep of your pasture, will praise you forever; [Psalm 79: 18]

Fourth Sunday of Easter Collect

Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep: teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command, that all your people may be gathered into one flock, to the glory of God the Father.

Readings

Genesis
7: 1-5,11-18; 8: 6-18; 9: 8-13
Acts 4: 5-12
Psalm 23
1 John 3: 16-24
John 10: 11-18

Readings for this week

April

21st Luke 13: 18-30
22nd Daniel 10: 1-14
23rd Daniel 10: 15-21
24th Daniel 11: 1-13
25th Daniel 11: 14-28
26th Daniel 11: 29-35
27th Daniel 11: 36-45
28th Daniel 12: 1-13

Prayer Square

This week we are praying for the residents of Darfield

Vicar Crescent
Vicar Road
Springbank
Springfield Close
Springfield Crescent
Norcross Gardens

Prayer:

Forward any prayer requests to our Prayer Ministry team through

Carol Hunter: 07542 527 331

Community Shop on the Go and Warm Space

Thursday 2nd May from 9:00 a.m. Darfield Church Hall

Next Date: May 16th

This week...

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

Mindful Monday: 6:00 p.m. Great Houghton

Knit and Natter: Tuesday: 1:00 p.m. Great Houghton

A Personal Note:

A big thankyou to all who have supported me over the last year as I have waited for my cataracts to be removed. Particular thanks to Jo, Kay, Chrissy, Fiona, Roger & Justine and Olive for lifts to and from various places.
Peter

Suitable foodstuffs can be left in the box in All Saints Church for delivery to the Goldthorpe Foodbank: see previous news sheets for details - on line on our web site

Companions in Daily Prayer

Join members of the team on weekdays

8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer 9:00 p.m. Night Prayer

Go to Facebook.com and search for *Companions in Daily Prayer*

From the Parish Registers

Monday 16th March 2024: Funeral

Leonard Holling aged 88 Barnsley Cemetery

Psalm 23

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,
- 3 he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.
- 4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
- 6 Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the House of the Lord forever.

Resources and Contacts

Churchwarden Peter Robinson 01226 753 572
Parish Admin Jo Darlison 07469 857 315
Clergy Rev Fiona Kouble 07852 316 796:
Note new contact number

Safeguarding contact Peter Robinson
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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

