



The Parish of Darfield

All Saints, Darfield and St Michael, Great Houghton

Sunday 28th April 2024

Fifth Sunday of Easter

10:45 a.m. Holy Communion Darfield

Sunday 5th May 2024

Sixth Sunday of Easter

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion Great Houghton

10:45 a.m. Morning Worship Darfield

Thursday 9th May 2024

10:30 a.m. Ascension Day Communion Darfield

Saturday 11th May 2024

4:00 p.m. Café Church Great Houghton

**Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;**

1862: Julia Ward Howe [1819-1910]

Grapes, Vines and Vineyards

The grape, its cultivation and its products would have been a familiar sight to the Jews in First Century Jerusalem. The earliest Biblical reference is of Noah, who, having returned to dry land from the Ark, planted a vineyard and produced wine from the grapes. [Genesis 9: 20]. Other references to grapes and vineyards can be found in the books of Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy in which are recorded the movements of the Israelites after their escape from Egypt, taking them from Mount Sinai to the banks of the River Jordan on the borders of the Promised Land. They also include the various laws and ordinances given to them by the Lord to govern their lives. In the first reference to grapes, they were commanded to leave any second crop of grapes, or those which had fallen to the ground, to the poor and the foreigner to gather. [Leviticus 19: 10] They would be able to enter a neighbour's vineyard and eat all the grapes they wanted but not to put any in their basket. [Deuteronomy 23: 24]

Jesus used a vineyard as a representation of the world in three of his Parables. The first one, described as the Parable of the **Workers in the Vineyard**, [Matthew 20: 1-16] tells of a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire casual labourers to work in his vineyard and promising them one denarius as wages. The denarius was a small silver Roman coin which was the usual daily wage for a labourer. On four occasions later in the day, he employed other workers promising them what was right as wages. At the end of the day the workers were each paid a denarius no matter when they had started work. Those who had been hired in the early morning were annoyed and complained that these late comers had been paid the same despite working for a shorter time. The landowner assured them that he had treated them fairly according to what they had agreed.

The second Parable [Matthew 21: 28-32] describes the owner's sons who were asked to go and work in the owner's vineyard. The first one said he would not but changed his mind and went to work in the vineyard. The second son said he would go but did not. When asked who did the will of the father, The Chief Priests and Elders answered that it was the first son. Jesus then berated them for not believing John the Baptist when the tax collectors and prostitutes did and would enter the kingdom of God before them.

The third Parable of the **Tenants** [Matthew 21: 32-43] describes the actions of those entrusted with the care of a vineyard when its owner moved away. As was the custom at the time, the owner sent servants at harvest time to collect his share of the produce. The tenants abused and killed the servants. More servants suffered the same fate. Finally, the owner sent his son, but the tenants killed him as well. On the return of the owner, the tenants would be removed, and the tenancy given to those who would honour the terms of the lease.

In today's Gospel reading, set after what we call the Last Supper, [John 15: 1-8], Jesus identifies himself as the **True Vine**. He had been making another attempt to tell the disciples what was to happen over the next few hours and days and to comfort them.

The roots and trunk of a vine give support to the branches to allow them to flourish and produce fruit. Jesus described those first Disciples as the branches. If they would remain in Jesus, the True Vine, then they would be able to grow spiritually and to serve Him effectively. Even as we read this two thousand years later that has not changed.

I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. [John 15: 5]

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Risen Christ, your wounds declare your love for the world and the wonder of your risen life: give us compassion and courage to risk ourselves for those we serve, to the glory of God the Father.

Readings

Genesis 22: 1-18
Acts 8: 26-40
Psalm 22: 25-31
1 John 4: 7-21
John 15: 1-8

Readings for this week

April

28th Daniel 12: 1-13
29th Luke 13: 31-35
30th Luke 14: 1-14

May

1st Luke 14: 15-24
2nd Luke 14: 25-35
3rd Luke 15: 1-10
4th Psalm 1
5th Psalm 2

Prayer Square

This week we are praying for the residents of Great Houghton

Rotherham Road
Thurnscoe Lane
John Street
Ebenezer Street
Byron Street
Sandhill Court

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...

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

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

Eloi, Eloi lama sabachthani?"

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

If you take a few moments to read the first two verses of Psalm 22, the Psalm set for this Sunday, you will be transported back to a hill outside Jerusalem on the day when Jesus freely gave up his life to complete the work of salvation. The words of the psalm would have been familiar to Him and would have been carefully chosen by Jesus to show how much this act meant to Him [Matthew 27: 46].

The crowds around the cross and the two criminals crucified alongside Jesus echoed the eighth verse of the Psalm as they taunted Jesus with "*He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, 'I am the Son of God'.*" [Matthew 8: 43]

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*

Psalm 22: 1, 2, 8, 22, 23

- 1 *My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish?*
- 2 *My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, but I find no rest.*
- 8 *"He trusts in the Lord," they say, "let the Lord rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him."*
- 22 *I will declare your name to my people; in the assembly I will praise you.*
- 23 *You who fear the Lord, praise him! All you descendants of Jacob, honour him! Revere him, all you descendants of Israel!*

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

