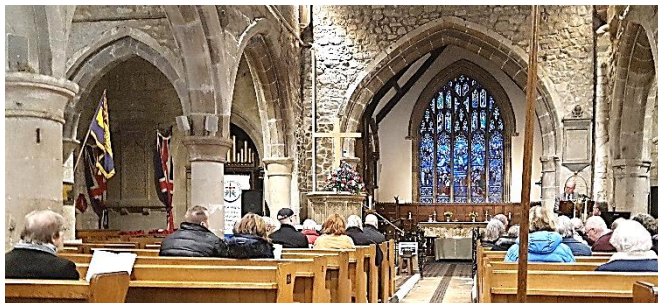


St Helen's Church Magazine

February 2025



**Worship and
prayer – service
details on back
page**

**Coffee morning – 8th February 10.00am to 12noon
Home-made cakes. Do come and join us.**



**Valentine's Day –
Friday 14th February**



but don't forget.....



**£We do not charge for our magazine but a regular donation
would be appreciated£**

Revd. Stephen Monk - Rector of St. Helen's



10 Normanhurst Park, Darley Dale, Matlock DE4 3BQ Tel. 734257
Email: rev.stephenmonk@btinternet.com

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01629 55863

Chris Long



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David Wills (Treasurer)

Chris Townsend

Ann Bradley (Verger)

Susan Young (Deanery Synod)

Sharon Hawkins (Safeguarding) sjhsafeguarding@yahoo.com

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Roz Woodley 733033

Sandra Brown

Chris Townsend 56622

Penny Dakin

Stephen Monk 734257

Jan Rickinson

Please feel free to contact any member of the PCC or Social Committee if you have a question or suggestion.

www.darleydale-southdarley-winster-churches.org.uk

A Thought for February

Isaiah 43.19 “See, I am doing something new! Now it springs up; do you not see it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.”



I’m writing this after the coldest weather in quite some time, yet my mind turns to Spring. The world around us will seem to come alive again. For us living in the countryside it’s evident in the buds on the trees, the flowers blooming and sharing their scent. The days lengthen and the warmth of the sun makes us feel more alive. February and March are reminders that all we’ve dealt with in the harshest winter, the death of plants and the early darkness of the evening time does come to an end. So, Spring isn’t just a physical reality of change and renewal but it’s also a sign of a spiritual reality. It reminds us how God works in our lives. Whatever is happening in our lives God can always make things new. Someone once wrote with a touch of poetry, “Just as a barren tree begins to bud or the ground that was once hard and cold becomes soft and fertile, so does God work in our lives to restore what was lost, broken or dead.”

The prophet Isaiah reminds us that God is always doing something new. But like in so many facets of our lives we need ‘eyes to see, and ears to hear’. Despite our personal winters or our own spiritual winters – times of struggle, loss, spiritual dryness etc. – we can be confident that God never leaves us. Never!

During this past Christmas time I was mourning the death of my dad and all that that entails. And, even in the pain and tears I still felt that God was with me. God so often works through family, friends, parishioners etc. but we need to be aware. Just as God is very much with us in our pain (whatever that pain may be for you or me) sometimes we don’t feel aware of it. But like the change from Winter to Spring, God renews His work in our heart. So as Spring gives us hope

in the future let us finish with a question: What are the areas in your life that need renewal? What parts of your 'heart' seem cold, or dormant?

Trust that God, the creator of the Seasons, is at work in your lives; God is making all things new. As we hope for renewal in our churches and our communities, remember hope isn't just wishful thinking. No, hope is rooted in the faithfulness of our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. As the seasons are held in the love of God so are we.

God bless you all,
Love & Prayers.



Rev. Stephen Monk

The New Website

As many of you will know our new website for the three churches in our benefice is up and running. The address is:

www.darleydale-southdarley-winster-churches.org.uk

Please don't let the lengthy address put you off. If you type in the name of any of our churches you will (hopefully) be taken to the website. Do have a look at it.

I make sure that our services are on the website by passing the information to Viv Dorian who very kindly edits the website for us. If you would like any other information to go onto the website, please send it to me in the form you would like it to appear and we will try our best to put it on. Please do not assume that anything will go on automatically apart from services. We need, and would really appreciate, your help to make sure the website is up to date and displays the information required.

Thank you,

Penny Dakin

Annual Church Report

The PCC has decided that the Annual Church Report should be distributed by email this year. If I have your email address you will have received an email from me about this. If you haven't and would like to receive the report via email, please let me have your email address. For those who do not communicate in this way and would like a printed report please let me or one of your church leaders know as soon as possible but no later than Friday 7th March and I will arrange to have one printed for you. The report will be shorter this year with only brief comments about activities which take place in our parishes and only those reports required according to Church Representation Rules. The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place on Sunday 6th April after the mid-morning service at St. Helen's. Please make a note in your diary, it would be good to see as many people there as possible. If you would like to put forward a motion for consideration at the APCM please let me have the wording by Friday 7th March.

With my thanks and best wishes to you all,

Penny Dakin

PCC Secretary

Bill Richmond



You probably know that Bill died peacefully on 31st January His funeral is at St Helen's on Monday 17th February at 11.00am. His daughters, Julie, and Elizabeth, and all the family have extended a welcome to all his St Helen's friends to attend the funeral and the buffet in the church hall. This will be

available when family and close friends return from the Crematorium. Bill and Pat, who died two years ago, were longstanding members of St Helen's and much loved for their kindness and warmth.

February Diary

Open Door 2nd February 2.00 -3.00pm



Chill and Chat with Coffee Toddler Group
in St Helen's Church Hall
Thursdays 9.30am to 11.00am
term time only

Coffee bar open for tea, coffee, toast and biscuits throughout the morning. Toys, activities, and snacks for the children.

Thursday Coffee Social – most Thursdays
12noon to 2.00pm In St Helen's Church Hall –
but you can come for a cuppa from 11.00am



a space and time to relax and enjoy good company.
Everyone is welcome. We are now serving soup with bread.
For more information contact **Ann Bradley**.

Prayer Meeting Saturday 8th February 9.30am (in the church unless it's too cold).

You can pray as you feel led or prepare something in advance. You don't need to pray aloud at all, other than an Amen at the end of a prayer. Also, don't forget there's coffee/tea and cake afterwards at the Coffee Morning! Feed the soul, mind and body!



The Saturday Coffee Morning

Saturday 8th February 10.00am to 12noon

Home-made scones and cakes and a time to relax with friends. Take time out from Saturday chores and come and join us! Bring a friend or neighbour! Or both!

If you are a baker, a cake contribution would be great!



Ecumenical Holy Communion

Friday 14th February 11.00 a.m.

at Darley Methodist Church

Come if you can for a time of worship and fellowship with our Methodist brothers and sisters.

Home Groups

Thursday Ecumenical Home Group meets fortnightly on a Thursday evening.

For more details contact Margaret on 735778



Thursday Group led by Diana Wills will now be meeting monthly in the afternoon.

For details of when and where contact Diana on:

dwills@doctors.org.uk

The Worship Group meets most Wednesdays 6.00pm in church, as arranged. Contact Dea Ayling or Stephen and Jayne Walker for more information and if you are interested in joining.



To book the church hall for any event or activity and availability and charges please contact Steve Walker on 01629 55863 or yourlifeyourchoice2013@gmail.com

Looking at God

Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham considers true love...

Love in Action!

'Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.' (1 John 3:18).

The writer Gary Chapman describes how love can be expressed in 5 different 'languages': words of encouragement, quality time, gifts, acts of service and touch. Do you have a preferred language of love? As we think about St Valentine during this month, let's consider how God's love language is expressed in the word *agape*. This is exclusively found in the New Testament and is uniquely defined by Jesus: *'This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.'* (1 John 3:16). Jesus' giving of His life on the cross provides the model for how we can demonstrate God's love in our relationships with others.

It is self-giving: are we ready to put the other person first, as Jesus did when He died for us in our place. Are we generous with our time, words, money and service, whatever the cost?

It takes the initiative: are we ready to show love to those who don't deserve it or who we find hard to love?

Do we have eyes of compassion to see their needs and a heart to love and serve them?

It is intentional: are we ready to get close to those in need around us, irrespective of the time we have or how we feel?

The story is told of Jesus asking a little child, *‘how much do you love me?’* The child replied *‘lots and lots and lots!’* Then they asked Jesus how much He loved them. Jesus stretched out His arms wide and said *‘I love you this much’*, as they nailed Him to a cross.

Editor: It can be hard to pray sometimes, and most of us need all the help we can get! This new series continues. By the Revd Dr Herbert McGonigle, formerly principal of the Nazarene Theological College, Manchester

Prayers of the Bible: Praying in your Discouragements

‘Moses said to the Lord, “...I am not able to carry all this people alone, the burden is too heavy for me...”’ Numbers 11:10-15.

Moses prayed this prayer in a day of dark depression and discouragement. The opening verses of the chapter relate how divine punishment fell on the people of Israel because they complained about almost everything. Moses prayed and the punishment stopped but not the people’s complaints. They wanted meat to eat.

For years they had been sustained by manna from heaven, but now they longed for the fish, cucumbers and melons they had eaten in Egypt (vv.5,6). They forget how the Lord had delivered them from Pharaoh’s bondage. Now they preferred Egyptian food, and the slavery that went with it, to the goodness of the Lord and His provision for them.

Moses was beside himself with despair. Would these ungrateful people never stop complaining? Then the Lord’s anger threatened the people again (v.10). Moses was caught in the middle. On one side of him the



people complained, and on the other side God's wrath was about to fall. Moses couldn't go on.

His frustration broke out in petulant questions to the Lord. 'Why are you dealing so severely with me?' 'Why do you lay this burden on me?' 'Did I conceive these people?' 'Why am I a nursing mother to them?' 'Am I responsible for getting them to Egypt?' 'How can I provide meat for so many?' 'Lord, this burden is too great for me.' 'I'd rather die now than go on like this' (see vv.11-15).

Moses was depressed, irritable and resentful. He poured it all out before the Lord. It was a prayer born of frustration and anger. He was angry with his ungrateful congregation, and he was angry with God. Why did the Lord leave it all to him? After all, it was God's plan to bring the Israelites from Egypt to Canaan. Moses had only gone along with it because God commanded him. But now it was all too much. Worn out with listening to the people's whining and not sure of what God would do next, Moses had had enough. He blamed the Lord for giving him a burden he couldn't carry, and he wanted to die.

But God answered Moses graciously! He understood the frustration, the petulance, the lack of faith and the rebellious spirit that blamed God for it all. He provided Moses with seventy elders who eased the burden of leadership (vv.16, 17). He sent an east wind that brought quails into the camp and provided meat for them (vv.31, 32). In grace and mercy God 'overlooked' the faults of Moses and sent him help and refreshment.

In our deepest disappointments, God understands. In our frustrations, God is merciful. When we lash out at circumstances and even at God Himself, He does not answer in kind. In our deepest discouragement, His love and grace and understanding are with us still.



Smile Lines

Out of the mouths of babes and children.....

Boots

My young daughter needed new boots. When her friend arrived one morning in a lovely pair of new boots, I asked where she had got them. "At the store," she answered. "Which one?" I asked patiently. She looked confused, and then down at her boots. "Both of them," was her reply.

Lion

A Sunday school teacher was telling her youngsters about Daniel and the Lion's Den. To illustrate the lesson, she drew a picture of Daniel standing, brave and confident, with a group of lions around him. Suddenly, one little girl started to cry. The teacher said, "Don't cry. The lions are not going to eat Daniel."

Snuffling back the tears the girl replied: "That's not what I'm crying about. That little lion, over in the corner, isn't going to get anything to eat."

Those notices which didn't come out quite right...

Notice in health food shop window: Closed due to illness.

Spotted in a safari park: Elephants, please stay in your car.

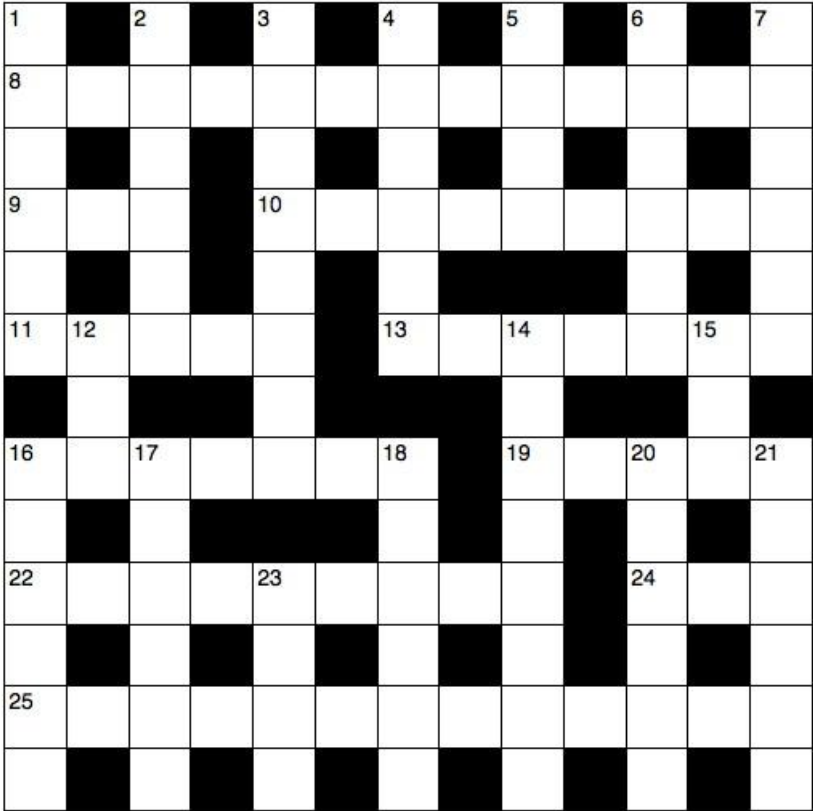
In a Laundromat: Automatic Washing Machines. Please remove all your clothes when the light goes out.

This coming Sunday our special service will be gin at 11:00am.

When parking on the north side of the church, please remember to park on an angel.

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Across

8 Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8)

9 'Burn it in a wood fire on the — heap' (Leviticus 4:12) (3)

10 Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9)

11 Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2)

13 Clay pit (anag.) (7)

16 Went to (John 4:46) (7)

19 'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to — your bodies as living sacrifices' (Romans 12:1) (5)

22 David's plea to God concerning those referred to in 14 Down: 'On — let them escape' (Psalm 56:7) (2,7)

24 Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1) 25 How the book of Ezekiel refers to God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)

Down

1 Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)

2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) (6)

3 Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)

4 'Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but — him as if he were your father' (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)

5 One of Esau's grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)

6 Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)

7 God's instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: ' — salt to — your offerings' (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3)

12 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)

14 'All day long they twist my words; they are always — to harm me' (Psalm 56:5) (8)

15 The crowd's reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow's son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3)

16 Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)

17 How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)

18 What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2)

20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)

21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to — (Genesis 8:5) (6)

23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases (Luke 9:1) (4)

Answers – on page 17



Looking at Church

C of E is “glad to play its part” in the rural economy

So says the Bishop of St Albans, Dr Alan Smith. He was speaking in a recent House of Lords debate.

He said that local churches are “at the heart of many of our rural communities across the country, wanting to contribute to their flourishing and thriving.”

Dr Smith, declaring his interest “as president of the Rural Coalition and as a vice-president of the Local Government Association”, went on to say: “Nearly 20 per cent of the population of this country live in the countryside, and over half a million businesses are registered in rural areas, employing 3.8 million people.

“The rural economy contributes over £315 billion a year to England alone. It is vital, then, that the Government’s missions not only deliver for rural communities but enable the rural economy to play its part in helping to deliver them.”

C of E facing an ‘existential crisis’

The C of E is facing “one of the biggest existential crises ... since the Reformation,” following the Makin review of abuse perpetrated by John Smyth. That is the view of the Bishop of Rochester, Dr Jonathan Gibbs.

He was speaking recently after his diocesan synod had voted in favour of a motion that expressed no confidence in the Archbishops’ Council’s past oversight of safeguarding.

Dr Gibbs said: “In many people’s views, and I think I would share it, this is one of the biggest existential crises that the C of E has faced since the Reformation. There is a real need for what I would call a pastoral response, acknowledging that hurt and pain, particularly of victims and survivors, that so many people are feeling.”

The bishop said there should also be “a call to prayer and repentance across the Church, leading to a period of deep reflection on the kind of cultural change that is needed at all levels.”

Tearfund in action in the Middle East



As conflict in the Middle East continues, millions of people across Gaza, Lebanon and the wider region are still in urgent need of food, shelter, and medical care.

One British Christian charity in the region is Tearfund, working through a variety of local churches and partners.

In Gaza, Tearfund International Health Partners provide medicine and healthcare. In Lebanon, Tearfund provides food, mattresses, and other essentials through local churches. In the West Bank, Tearfund works with the Diocese of Jerusalem in healthcare and education.

But Tearfund says: “This is only possible with your support. Please, join us in prayer and give if you can, to help us respond to the growing need.”

<https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/middle-east-emergency-appeal>

Looking at you

How many minutes of walking might help you avoid a heart attack?

It seems that keeping your heart reasonably healthy may not take a lot of time.

Researchers at the University of Sydney have found a link between short but intense bursts of activity and a significant drop in heart disease among people who otherwise engage in little activity.



Sedentary women who did just 3.4 minutes of “vigorous intermittent” exercise, such as brisk walking or climbing the stairs, each day, suffered 67 per cent fewer cases of heart failure, with an overall reduction in heart disease of 45 per cent, compared to those not exercising at all.

Sedentary men who did 2.3 minutes of exercise, which could include carrying heavy shopping or heavy garden work, saw an 11 per cent reduction in heart attacks and strokes.

National Nest Box Week – 14th to 21st February

Where can family-minded birds raise their young these days? As our gardens and parklands become smaller and tidier, too many natural nest sites – such as holes in trees, old buildings, and unkempt hedgerows – are rapidly disappearing



No wonder that our sparrows, greenfinches, and swifts are in precipitous decline, and that one in four of our UK bird species are now under serious threat.



This makes it more important than ever to care for our remaining birds. By feeding, providing water, and putting up nest boxes we can give them a safe space to raise their chicks.

The National Nest Box Week initiative encourages bird conservation across the UK, and it's easy to get involved, whether you're a teacher, part of a local wildlife group, or just wanting to boost the bird numbers in your own garden.

Visit: <https://www.countryfile.com/wildlife/birds/national-nest-box-week-how-to-help-birds-in-your-garden>

Answers to Crossword Page

ACROSS: 8, Cross-examined. 9, Ash. 10, Apocrypha. 11, Sci-fi. 13, Typical. 16, Visited. 19, Offer. 22, No account. 24, RAC. 25, Sovereign Lord. **DOWN:**

1, Oceans. 2, Hophni. 3, Islamist. 4, Exhort. 5, Omar. 6, On spec. 7, Add all. 12, CBI. 14, Plotting. 15, Awe. 16, Vanish. 17, Starve. 18, Daub it. 20, Furrow. 21, Recede. 23, Cure.

Ed's Endings

Just an apology from me for the lateness of the magazine. Apart from the ongoing health issues (being sorted but would be glad of your prayers), winter is never my best time.

And now some reflections on love as we head towards Valentine's Day.

Observations on Love...

Marriage is more than finding the right person; it is being the right person. - *Anon*

Our love for God is the root; our love for others is the fruit, expressed through patience, kindness, courtesy, humility, unselfishness, good temper, gentleness, and sincerity. - *UCB Word for Today*

Let us make God the beginning and end of our love, for He is the fountain from which all good things flow and into him alone they flowback. Let Him therefore be the beginning of our love. - *Richard Rolle*

The purpose of this world is not to have and to hold, but to forgive and to serve. – *Wilfred Grenfell*

Salt is like love; it can heal, purify preserve and enrich, but it's useless if it's not sprinkled around. The truth is that all of life is tasteless without love. - *UCB Word for Today*

And ***Miscellaneous observations on our Christian life...***

It has become popular to preach a painless Christianity and automatic saintliness. It has become part of our 'instant culture'. "Just pour a little water on it, stir mildly, and you are on your Christian way." - A W Tozer

We live in a world of conflicting stories trying to shape our identity and our understanding of who we are and how we are to live. These cultural stories offer us fulfilment found in success, family, love and acceptance. The God story often jars and conflicts with our culture, but it offers us all a beautiful, true and compelling vision. We are invited into this story of mercy, grace, forgiveness and transformation. – *Peter Lynas*

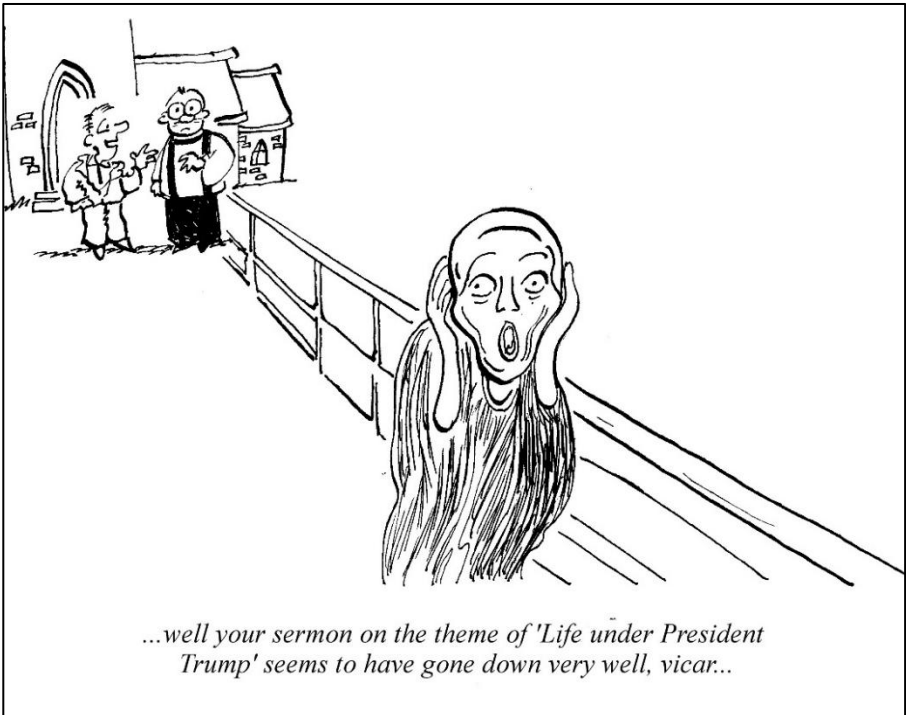
Look back, and remember He was with you. Stand still, and realise He is with you. Walk forward, and trust: He will be with you always. – *Margaret Silf*

We talk about heaven being so far away. It is within speaking distance to those who belong there. - *D L Moody*

Our prayers must mean something to us if they are to mean anything to God. - *M D Babcock*

And finally.....

Many of us might have concerns about this. Let's keep praying for wisdom and compassion to prevail in all American governing bodies (and our own too!).



All items for the march magazine to be with me by 15th February: christownsend2@sky.com

Services in February

St Helen:

2nd February: 11a.m. Holy Communion at St. Helen's Darley Dale
2 p.m. Open Door at St. Helen's Darley Dale

9th February: 8 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP) at St. Helen's Darley
10 a.m. Family Service at St. Mary's South Darley

**Friday 14th February 11.00 a.m. Ecumenical Holy Communion
at Darley Methodist Church**

16th February: 11 a.m. Holy Communion

23rd February: 11 a.m. New Beginnings at St. Helen's,
Café open 10.30 a.m.

Friday 28th February: 11.00am Holy Communion

St Mary:

2nd February: 10 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Mary's South Darley

9th February: 10 a.m. Family Service

16th February: 10 a.m. Holy Communion Service at St. John's

23rd February: 10 a.m. Morning Worship

St John:

2nd February: 4 p.m. Informal Service at St. John's Winster

16th February: 10 a.m. Holy Communion Service

Monday Evening Zoom Service 7.00pm to 7.30pm.

Contact Chris Townsend for information and access invitation:
christownsend2@sky.com

For information on all the above please visit:

www.darleydale-southdarley-winster-churches.org.uk