

St Andrew's Church Kildwick

News and Views from Kildwick, Farnhill and Cross Hills

*Available each month from Kildwick Church, Cross Hills Library,
Kildwick & Farnhill Institute, the Health Centre, Thornton's,
and other local outlets*

December 2015

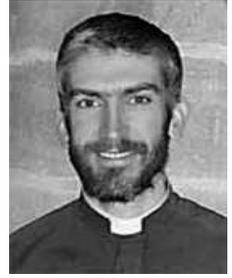
Parish Mission Statement

Called to be the body of Christ,
we are here to share God's love with all people,
through outreach and service,
in our community and in the world,
through the power of the Holy Spirit

**Church Website: www.kildwick.org.uk
Twitter: @Kildwick1 Facebook: St Andrew's Church, Kildwick**

Dear friends,

November ended with a wonderful weekend for us here at St Andrew's as we enjoyed another excellent St Andrew's Fair (see report on page 8), services to begin the season of Advent, and a very special St Andrew's Day service with our Bishop (see report on page 7). All three days served to remind us of the blessings we enjoy as a community of God's people who gather for worship, fellowship and service.



As we celebrated the life of Andrew, our patron saint, Bishop Toby reminded us that God is a God who takes the initiative and comes to us to meet us just where, and as, we are. God does not demand that we jump through certain hoops in order to know that we are loved by God; God comes to us and loves us simply because God is Love and it is Love's very nature to come and include all.

We are now in the season of Advent, the time of preparation for the great celebration of Christmas when we remember that moment in history when God came to reveal God's self in the human face of Jesus

The story of God in Jesus is a story of God sharing fully in our humanity, the good and the bad, the highs and the lows. In a world that is still, in too many ways and in too many places, tearing itself apart God comes to offer a new vision; a vision of a new way of being.

In Advent we meet John the Baptist, whose call was to 'prepare the way of the Lord'. John himself saw that human beings have a terrible problem. They desire what they think the other has and then they grasp for it and fight amongst themselves or with those they consider their enemy. This thing they do destroys the very community they need and certainly their peace. If this could be washed out of them, if they would renounce their desire to have and surpass what they see their neighbour having, peace could return and the way of the Lord be opened.

John preached a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sin. He called people to change their hearts and minds by renouncing the desires that only get you into trouble.

But John wasn't able to change hearts. We know that now. He could change minds but they didn't stay changed. They always reverted. Something more powerful was needed.

In Advent we prepare for the one coming is able to change hearts. Now we know that he will do this by changing our hearts for we are our own enemy: "I have seen the enemy and he is us." But Jesus comes to us as a saviour not a warrior and he will "guide our feet into the way of peace."

What do we do about our desires gone awry and how do we control the violence on this planet? These are the issues with which we humans struggle and have struggled no matter what the generation. Knowledge and insight about these realities that drive us must overflow more and more.

We must come to more clarity on how it is that we are the problem and that Christ untied the knot that we ourselves knotted. The more clearly we see we are the problem and it is not our neighbour, the closer we are to the way of peace. And the sooner we see that we are loved and forgiven even though we are the problem, the sooner we will see the truth about ourselves. This is the knowledge and the insight that helps us determine *"what is best so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and*

blameless.” Without it we will never be pure or blameless.

We have a chance at real knowledge and insight on how the world works - the real world, not the one in our imagination or the one we wish were real. We have a chance to understand politics, psychology, economics and history or even ourselves and our next door neighbour because we are beginning from the right place; an acknowledgement of our own culpability. Our salvation begins when “*by the tender mercy of our God; the dawn from on high breaks upon us, to give light to us who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.*”

I hope you will come and join us at our Christmas services this year as we think again about the message of God’s radical, inclusive, transforming love for all of Creation and all humankind.

May Jesus find a place in your heart this Christmas.



The Gospel according to Luke

The pattern of readings from the Bible for use in Christian worship is known as the lectionary. Each Sunday three bible readings are prescribed: a passage from the Old Testament, the Apocrypha, or the Acts of the Apostles; another from either the Book of Revelation or the Epistles; and finally a passage from one of the four Gospels.

The pattern of readings runs in three-year cycles; the gospel readings in the first year (Year A) are taken mainly from the Gospel according to Matthew, those in the second year (or Year B) mainly from the Gospel according to Mark, and in the third year (or Year C) come mainly from the Gospel according to Luke. Portions of the Gospel according to John are read at certain festivals every year.

On Advent Sunday (29th November) we began Year C, so the gospel readings in the coming year will be mainly from Luke. Here is a guide to this Gospel.

Who wrote Luke?

The gospel was written by a doctor called Luke, who was a friend and colleague of the apostle Paul. Luke himself was not an eyewitness of the life of Jesus. Tradition tells us that he was a gentile who lived until he was age 84.

Why was the Gospel written?

Luke had several purposes:

1. He wanted to record the beginnings and development of Christianity, which he did in two parts. The Acts of the Apostles is the second volume. Luke shows how God has been at work in history and especially in the way the followers of Jesus rapidly spread from Galilee to Rome.
2. He wanted to demonstrate that Jesus was a Saviour for all types of people and not just for a select group.
3. He wanted to show the Roman authorities that Christianity was not a threat to good political order.

Who were Luke’s readers?

Luke addresses his Gospel to Theophilus, probably an upper-class Gentile convert to Christianity. In addition Luke would have had a wider circle of readers in mind which would have included other Gentiles and perhaps Roman officials in particular.

When was it written?

Luke must have written his Gospel before he wrote his second volume and since the last event mentioned in Acts took place around 62 CE, it is a fair guess that Luke itself was written between 60-65 CE.

Special Features.

1. Luke's story-telling is second to none. He writes in a very good Greek style.
2. He is more interested in the human life of Jesus and tells us more about this early life and childhood than others.
3. Luke is more complete than the other Gospels and records more parables, more news about people and more about Jesus' resurrection than others.
4. He shows more interest in individuals than the other Gospel writers, particularly children, women and social outcasts.
5. He has other special interests, for example, prayer, the Holy Spirit and the theme of joy.

The principal divisions of the Gospel according to Luke are the following:

- I. The Prologue (Luke 1:1-4)
- II. The Infancy Narrative (Luke 1:5-2:52)
- III. The Preparation for the Public Ministry (Luke 3:1-4:13)
- IV. The Ministry in Galilee (Luke 4:14-9:50)
- V. The Journey to Jerusalem: Luke's Travel Narrative (Luke 9:51-19:27)
- VI. The Teaching Ministry in Jerusalem (Luke 19:28-21:38)
- VII. The Passion Narrative (Luke 22:1-23:56)
- VIII. The Resurrection Narrative (Luke 24:1-53)

Christmas shopping with a difference

If you are still looking for that special present for someone here are some ideas that will really help to a positive difference in someone's life! The interest in "alternative" gifts has increased greatly which is very good news for people in the developing world. So why not investigate the following Charities and their range of gifts.

OXFAM. Their scheme is called 'Oxfam Unwrapped'.
The website is at www.oxfamunwrapped.com



WORLD VISION. One of the first to offer a scheme they have 'the alternative gift catalogue'. The website is at www.worldvision.org.uk

CHRISTIAN AID. Their scheme is called 'Present Aid'.
The website is at www.presentaid.org

Present Aid

Ronan Keating, the pop star, said, "I have seen the value small-scale farmers get from keeping goats. So it's the kind of gift I would be really happy to give. To help transform someone's life in one of the world's poorest countries is the right thing to do."

Real gifts that are wanted, not wasted.

Service of Baptism, Confirmation and Affirmation of Baptismal Faith with Bishop Toby Howarth, 30th November - St Andrew's Day

It was a great joy to welcome Bishop Toby Howarth, the Area Bishop of Bradford, to St Andrew's recently to officiate at our St Andrew's Day service. The service was particularly special this year as it included baptism, confirmation and affirmation of baptismal faith.

There were five candidates from St Andrew's: Alison Roland, who was baptised and confirmed; Adam Lee, who was confirmed; Shirley Hoskins, Helena Lee and Janine Pickard, who each affirmed their baptismal faith. There was also one candidate for baptism and confirmation from St Paul's Church, Manningham; this person is a member of the small Iranian community living in Manningham who has chosen to follow the Christian faith.



From L to R: Adam Lee, Helena Lee, Alison Roland, Bishop Toby, Janine Pickard, Shirley Hoskins

It was wonderful to welcome the group from St Paul's and have the opportunity to hear, at first hand, something of the challenges, and dangers, faced by those who choose to convert from their inherited religion to follow Jesus and profess the Christian faith. We hope we may build on the friendship began between our two church communities.

For each of the candidates the decision to take the step of making a public declaration of faith was the response to a growing awareness of God's presence in their life and a desire to affirm this in the presence of the local Christian community.

St Andrew's Day is a day when the Church thinks especially about the mission work of the Church, picking up the theme of being called by God as Andrew the Apostle was called by Jesus to follow him and tell others about him.

In his sermon Bishop Toby reminded the candidates and everyone present that for each of us our story of faith begins with God's call to us; the initiative is God's, not ours. God reaches out to us and loves us just as we are; God calls, God invites, and we respond with our 'Yes'.

At the end of the service Bishop Toby led the whole congregation in re-affirming our commitment to a life of worship and service. The final words of this part were the prayer: 'May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith, that you may be rooted and grounded in love and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.'

For several candidates it was the experience of taking part in the *Pilgrim* course that prompted them to choose to renew their 'Yes' to God through being confirmed or affirming their faith. This shows the blessing that comes from shared reflection and conversation as a way to explore the Christian faith.

St Andrew's Fair

Thank you everyone who supported our Fair on Saturday 29th November. We had a very successful event and even the very heavy rain did not put off people coming.

This year the soup and roll lunch proved very popular, possibly as a way of keeping out the cold and damp!!

There was something for every one, Libba's amazing craft stall, cards, jewellery, the ever popular cake stall, the vicar's stall and bricabrac. The children (and some adults) enjoyed colouring their own bags and a blacksmith, who has his forge in a canal boat, came with some his unusual iron work.

We have raised approximately £800 for the mission and ministry of the church.

Thank you once again to everyone who helped in any way.



We had a donation of a very nice mahogany occasional table on castors which we are hoping to sell by a sealed bid auction.

The reserve price is £50, if you would like to place a bid or see the table please contact Lesley Hudson.



NEWS FROM THE CROSS HILLS & DISTRICT FELLOWSHIP OF CHURCHES



Christmas in the Park An Outdoor Nativity 4.00pm Sunday 13th December

Come along and enjoy this re-telling of the wonderful Christmas story. The date of the presentation is Sunday 13th December at 4pm, starting at The Bay Horse pub in Sutton and moving via The Kings Arms and The Black Blue to Sutton Park.

All are welcome to join in the procession. If possible come in simple biblical costume and bring a torch.

Mince pies and mulled wine will be served afterwards at South Craven Baptist Church



Christmas Crib Service 4.00pm Christmas Eve at St Andrew's Church, Kildwick

A short child-friendly
all age service
Come and help gather the
characters for the
Christmas crib.

Editor: Paul Hardingham continues his look at the Top 10 Bible Stories. This is the third in the series.

The top 10 Bible stories: Who is the Baby?

A little girl was examining a Christmas crib with her grandmother and commented, 'Grandma, it's really nice, but there's one thing that bothers me: is the baby Jesus ever going to grow up? He's the same size he was last year!!' As we continue with the top ten Must Know Stories, the birth of Jesus must be the most well-known. However, are we really growing in our understanding of this story?



God sent his own Son.

The angels announced, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.' (Luke 2: 10,11). The birth of a baby is a time of great joy and excitement and Jesus' birth is good news for all people! He is none other than the king of the universe, who has come as our Saviour. To experience this joy, we must let go self-centredness and living as our own saviour. His deliverance and wholeness is a real cause for joy!

'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.' (Luke 2:14). We may feel anything but peace with God, ourselves, or even with those closest to us at Christmas. How can a Jewish infant born to a peasant family in first century Palestine be the source of peace between God and man in the twenty first century? Jesus came to establish such peace through his death on the cross. Trusting the Prince of Peace in our lives brings peace with God. If we ignore this message of Christmas, we won't benefit from it. As the carol says, 'Joy to the world, the Lord has come, let earth receive her king.'

Smiles Lines

Keep it a surprise

Three-year-old Lily was helping her mother wrap a present for her father. While wrapping, her mother told Lily about keeping the present a secret so it would be a surprise. After the present was wrapped, Lily proudly put it under the tree.

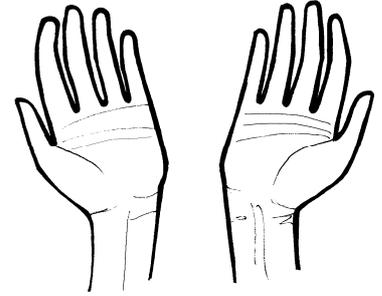
When her father asked her if he could shake it and guess what's inside, she said, very seriously, "No, T-shirts don't rattle."

Santa's sleigh

I remember when Father Christmas nervously went for his sleigh-driving test. He came rushing back in a thunder of reindeer, and pulled up in front of the toy factory. 'Have you passed?' I asked.

Father Christmas pointed to the front of the sleigh. 'See for yourself!' he called proudly. 'No-el plates!'

Prayer page



Dear God
 Thank you for the gift of your son Jesus
 Help us to share his message of good news to all.
 Thank you for our talents and abilities
 Help us to use them wisely and generously.
 Thank you for your message of freedom and liberty for all
 Help us to stand firm for justice and truth.
 Thank you for your peace and hope
 Help us to speak words of encouragement to others.
 Thank you for making us a gift to others
 Help us to show them acts of kindness and compassion.
 Thank you for your messengers
 Help us to share your love boldly and confidently.
 Amen.

Lord who calls us to repentance,
 in the sharing of our wealth,
 the rejection of greed
 and the bearing of good fruit;
 Help us to be a light in your world,
 through reckless generosity,
 selfless service,
 and a desire to be good news
 to all your children.
 Amen.



Jesus, the Light of the World, as we celebrate your birth
 may we begin to see the world in the light of the understanding you give us.
 As you chose the lowly, the outcasts, and the poor to receive the greatest news the
 world had ever known,
 so may we worship you in meekness of heart.
 May we also remember our brothers and sisters less fortunate than ourselves in this
 season of giving.
 Amen.

THANK YOU, LORD,
 for the gift of Your love.
 May I be a shining
 example of that love to others.
 Amen.

Church Rotas

	Sidespersons	Intercessor	Communion
6 December Second Sunday of Advent	Eleanor Eastwood Sandie Walton June Whitaker	Lesley Bannister	Sue and Peter
13 December Third Sunday of Advent	Marie Stinson Peter McNeill	Di Halliday	Di and Christine
20 December Fourth Sunday of Advent	Ann Mosley Christine Anderton Michael Baxter	Marie Stinson	Sandie and John
Thursday 24 December Christmas Night		Peter Bannister	Christine and Tim
Friday 25 December Christmas Day		Sue Hargreaves	
27 December John, Apostle and Evangelist	Kath Morris Lesley Hudson	Lesley Hudson	Sue and Sandie

Flower Rota ADVENT

Brass Cleaning November/December

Sandie Walton and Lesley Bannister

Sunday morning Tea and Coffee Rota

- 1st:** June Whitaker and Sylvia Ackroyd
- 2nd** Joyce Bonham (vacant)
- 3rd** Elaine Carter and Alison Roland
- 4th** Ann Mosley and Christine Anderton
- 5th** Maureen Vink and Katharine Morris



Readers Rota

6 December Second Sunday of Advent	<i>Malachi 3.1-4</i> <i>Philippians 1.3-11</i> Luke 3.1-6	<i>Reading not used</i> <i>Reading not used</i> Lesley Hudson
13 December Third Sunday of Advent	Zephaniah 3.14-20 Philippians 4.4-7 Luke 3.7-18	Tim Littler/Kathryn Taylor Kathryn Morris Jill Wright
20 December Fourth Sunday of Advent	Micah 5.2-5a Hebrews 10.5-10 Luke 1.39-55	Sylvia Clark Brenda Brock Marjorie Gee
Thursday 24 December Christmas Night 11.30 pm	Isaiah 52.7-10 Hebrews 1.1-12 John 1.1-14	Christine Anderton Chris Wright Tim Littler/Kathryn Taylor
Friday 25 December Christmas Day 10 am	Isaiah 9.2-7 Luke 2.1-14	Glyn Evans Peter Bannister
27 December John, Apostle and Evangelist	Exodus 33.7-11a 1 John 1 John 21.19b-end	Glyn Evans Lesley Bannister Marie Stinson



Christmas Carol Service by candlelight
4.00pm Sunday 20th December
St. Andrew's Kildwick

Traditional service of carols and readings
for Christmas
with a children's nativity tableau

*(all children are invited to come dressed as
shepherds, angels, wise men or nativity animals
and join in the tableau)*

Regular Events at Kildwick

Monday 2.00-3.30pm	5 Beanlands Drive	Informal Bible study and fellowship, all welcome.
Tuesday 10.00-11.30am	Chuffs (not in school holidays) in the Parish Rooms	Fun for pre-school children and their grown-ups!
Tuesday 7.30-8.30 pm	Choir practice in the parish rooms	
Wednesday 10.15 am-12.30pm	NottheKnot Group in the Parish Rooms	Stitching and fellowship group.
Wednesday 7.30 pm	Bell ringing	



Mon 7 th	6.30pm	Glusburn School KS2 Carol Service
Tue 8 th	2.30pm	Kildwick School KS1 Christmas play
Wed 9 th	2.30pm	Kildwick School KS1 Christmas play
Thu 10 th	6.30pm	Kildwick School Christmas concert
Fri 11 th	2.45pm	Kildwick School Christingle service
Sun 13 th	4.00pm	CDFC Christmas in the Park (Sutton village & park)
Tue 15 th	1.30pm	Glusburn School KS1 Christingle service
Sun 20 th	4.00pm	Christmas Carol Service by candlelight
Thu 24 th	4.00pm	Crib Service
Thu 24 th	11.30pm	Midnight Communion
Fri 25 th		CHRISTMAS DAY
	8.15am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Family Communion
Sat 26 th		STEPHEN, DEACON, FIRST MARTYR
	9.30am	Holy Communion (Parish Rooms)
Sun 27 th		JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST
	10.00am	Parish Communion
Mon 28 th		THE HOLY INNOCENTS
	9.30am	Holy Communion (Parish Rooms)
Sun 3 rd		THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD
	10.00am	Family Communion
Sun 10 th		THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

Sunday Services at Kildwick

Morning Prayer will be said in church at 8.30am Monday to Wednesday & Friday
Midweek Eucharist on Wednesdays at 9.30am (in the Parish Rooms)

6 December Second Sunday of Advent	8.15 am 10.00am	Holy Communion Parish Communion with baptisms
13 December Third Sunday of Advent	8.15 am 9.45 am	Holy Communion Parish Communion
20 December Fourth Sunday of Advent	8.15 am 10.00am 4.00pm	Holy Communion Parish Communion with prayer for healing Carol s by Candlelight
Thursday 24 December Christmas Eve	4.00pm 11.30 pm	Crib Service Holy Communion
Friday 25 December Christmas Day	8.15 am 10.00am	Holy Communion Parish Communion
27 December John, Apostle and Evangelist	8.15 am 10.00am	Holy Communion Parish Communion

From the registers

Baptisms

Sunday 1st November Rex Musgrove, son of Thomas & Laura of Grange Road, Kildwick
 Maisie Taylor, daughter of Matthew & Shannon of Greenway, Glusburn
 George Willis, son of Jason & Jane of Clayton Hall Road

Funerals

Wednesday 4th November Yeormin (Khan) Yun, formerly of Kirkgate, Farnhill
 Monday 9th November David Craven, formerly of Cononley

Burials of cremated remains

Sunday 15th November Michael Baumber, formerly of Main Street, Sutton-in-Craven



Messy Church - Sunday 8th November

We had another very successful Messy Church in St Andrew's last month. 18 children and their parents gathered to find out about Zacchaeus and how his encounter with Jesus changed his life. We had fun making handprint leaves for tree, creating a very cute hedgehogs both in paper and with very sticky chocolate cake! We sang songs and listened to the story of Zacchaeus.

As it was Remembrance Sunday we also made a beautiful poppy out of wool which is still in the church and has been admired by lots of people. We finished with a delicious tea.

Everyone had a great time and we look forward to another Messy Church in the spring.

Jill Wright's thought on her first Messy Church.

I've been doing one or two things for the first time just recently – and Messy Church in November at Kildwick was one of them! I've done lots of different kinds of worship in my time, but I've never been to Messy Church, so when I was invited to come along, I thought "Why not?"

And I'm very glad I did, because I enjoyed myself a lot! The story focus was Zacchaeus, and we began with the idea that Jesus knows us all by name – as individual people whom He loves. There was a gathering activity as families arrived and decorated bags to take home the crafts they were going to explore. Gradually we got ourselves organised at the front of church for some singing before we settled down to some interactive story-telling. Elizabeth kept us enthralled as she told the story of Zacchaeus, complete with actions which kept both children and adults listening hard!

Then came the messy bit! There were several different tables set up with different crafts: hedgehog making (paper **and** chocolate!), decorating the tree that Zacchaeus climbed and the figures of Jesus and Zacchaeus, drawing hands to go on a tree, writing a prayer on a poppy, using sponge shapes and paint to create pictures, weaving a poppy and decorating a door hanger! There was something for everyone to do and lots of creating going on!

Back together again for another sing (more actions!) and our closing prayer, before we demolished Libba's beautifully prepared tea! The atmosphere all the way through our two hours plus was lovely and relaxed and even the shyest child enjoyed herself.

It was a really well-organised, well resourced and well-led session. If you haven't been before, do consider coming along to the next one: you will have a ball!

(Mind you, when we were clearing up at the end, we did wonder whether the story focus should have been Noah's Ark, such was the torrential downpour we were treated to!)



All in the month of DECEMBER

It was:-

- ◆ 500 years ago:- on 24th Dec 1515, that Thomas Wolsey was appointed Lord Chancellor of England.
 - ◆ 150 years ago:- on 4th Dec 1865, that Edith Cavell was born. This British nurse and WW1 heroine saved the lives of injured soldiers regardless of which side they were on, and was eventually shot by the Germans.
 - ◆ Also 150 years ago:- on 6th Dec 1865, that The Thirteenth Amendment to the US Constitution was officially adopted, abolishing slavery in the USA.
 - ◆ 100 years ago:- on 8th Dec 1915, that the war poem In Flanders Fields, by Canadian physician Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, was first published in Punch magazine in the UK.
 - ◆ 75 years ago:- on 12th Dec 1940, that the Sheffield Blitz began. The city was devastated by German bombs. More than 660 people were killed, 1,500 injured and 40,000 made homeless.
 - ◆ Also 75 years ago:- on 29th Dec 1940, that Germany dropped thousands of incendiary bombs and high explosives on the City of London, causing the worst fire damage since the Great Fire of 1666.
 - ◆ 70 years ago:- on 27th Dec 1945, that The World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development were formally founded.
 - ◆ 65 years ago:- on 14th Dec 1950, that The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (or UN Refugee Agency) was established.
 - ◆ 60 years ago:- on 1st Dec 1955, that African American civil rights activist Rosa Parks refused to give up her bus seat to a white man in Montgomery, Alabama, violating the city's racial segregation laws. This incident led to the birth of the modern American civil rights movement.
 - ◆ 50 years ago:- on 8th Dec 1965, that The Race Relations Act (1965) went into effect in the UK. It banned racial discrimination in public places.
 - ◆ Also 50 years ago:- on 22nd Dec 1965, that Richard Dimbleby died. This pioneering British journalist and radio/television broadcaster became the BBC's first war correspondent. He is reckoned one of the greatest figures in British broadcasting history.
 - ◆ 30 years ago:- on 2nd Dec 1985, that Philip Larkin, British poet, librarian and jazz critic, died.
 - ◆ 25 years ago:- on 1st Dec 1990, that construction workers on the Channel Tunnel broke through the last wall of rock separating the two halves, and Britain and France were linked for the first time in tens of thousands of years.
 - ◆ 20 years ago:- on 21st Dec 1995, that the city of Bethlehem passed from Israeli to Palestinian control. On 26th Dec Israel also handed dozens of West Bank villages over to the Palestinian authorities
 - ◆ Also 10 years ago:- on 13th Dec 2005, that US President George W Bush admitted that much of the intelligence used as a basis for invading Iraq had been wrong. But he defended the invasion because it had led to the removal of Saddam Hussein.
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Saints and Such

On the Feast of Stephen - by David Winter

Everyone knows that it was on the feast of Stephen that 'good king Wenceslas looked on'. After all, it's in a Christmas carol - but why? There's nothing about Christmas in it: a splendid young page who rustled up some flesh, wine and logs, an old man out in the snow ('deep and crisp and even') and a kindly monarch. But Christmas?

The clue is in 'the feast of Stephen', which falls on 26th December, or 'Boxing Day', as we know it. That, too, has nothing to do with Christmas, beyond the fact that in the past people put a contribution in tradesmen's boxes as a kind of Christmas present for their services during the year.

The Stephen whose feast day falls on the day after Christmas was the first Christian martyr. (You can read his story in the book of Acts). He was a member of the church in Jerusalem in its very early days, and found himself involved with six others in administering the allocation of food to those in need. The apostles, who were the leaders of the church, felt that it wasn't appropriate for them to abandon preaching and 'serve tables', so they selected these seven to do the job for them. Stephen, however, quickly revealed hidden gifts as an eloquent spokesman for the Christian cause.

The Temple authorities, who had already had trouble with the apostles, were soon alerted to this new and hitherto unknown evangelist. They decided to make an example of him, thus firing a warning shot, as it were, across the bows of the apostles themselves. So they arrested Stephen and accused him of speaking against the two central elements of their religion - the 'holy place' (the Temple) and 'the customs Moses handed down to us' (the Law). It's always dangerous to criticise a monument or a custom!

Given the right to defend himself, Stephen instead launched into an eloquent and at times biting account of Jewish history, culminating in the accusation that they had committed the worst possible sin by killing the Messiah. Inflamed by his words, his hearers abandoned any pretence of legal impartiality, rushing towards him and dragging him out of the city to a place where they began to stone him to death. Stephen, the rank and file Christian, died under a hail of rocks for claiming that Mary's Son was the promised Messiah.

That, I suspect, is the reason why the first martyr is honoured on the day after we celebrate the birth of the Saviour. It's a bit like the myrrh in the gifts of the Wise Men - a reminder, as we celebrate, that the bitter shadow of a cross is never far away from this story.

December 21 Winter Solstice

A Midwinter festival has been a part of life since pre-Christian times. When the hours of daylight are fewest, the warmth of the sun weakest, and life itself seemingly at a standstill, our ancestors, the pagan peoples of Europe and Western Asia, kept festival by lighting bonfires and decorating their buildings with evergreens.

Perhaps they believed that the dying sun could be enheartened by fire, and the life of the buried seed assured by the presence of evergreen branches.

With the advent of Christianity, the Spring gods became identified with Christ, and the birthday of the sun with the birthday of the Light of the World.

The early church father Tertullian did not approve of Christmas decorations. "Let those who have no light in themselves light candles!... You are the light of the world, you are the tree ever green...." But by the time of St Gregory and St Augustine, four centuries later, this had changed. Pope Gregory instructed Augustine not to worry about harmless outward customs, as long as the right God be worshipped through them. And so many Anglo-Saxon customs were never discarded, but simply endowed with a new significance.

By 1598 one John Stow of London wrote how: "Against the feast of Christmas, every man's house, as also their parish churches, were decked with holme, ivie, bayes, and whatsoever the season of the yeare afforded to be greene."

The story of mince pies

Did you know that mince pies have been traditional English Christmas fare since the Middle Ages, when meat was a key ingredient? The addition of spices, suet and alcohol to meat came about because it was an alternative to salting and smoking in order to preserve the food. Mince pies used to be a different shape - cradle-shaped with a pastry baby Jesus on top.

World's oldest fake tree

Did you know that it is a family in Wiltshire, the Parkers, who claim to own the world's oldest artificial Christmas tree? It was bought in 1886, and is still put up every year.

Mistletoe's smelly history

Did you know that the word 'mistletoe' means dung on a tree? The Anglo-Saxons thought that mistletoe grew in trees where birds had left their droppings. Mistletoe means dung, and tan means twig

FARNHILL PARISH COUNCIL SUMMARY OF DRAFT MINUTES

The meeting of Farnhill Parish Council was held on the 3rd November 2015 in Kildwick/Farnhill Institute. Four members of the Council were present plus one member of the public and the Clerk .

The minutes of the meeting held on the 6th October 2015 were approved by the Council and signed as a correct record by the Chairman after one amendment.

A member of the public attended the meeting to put forward her views on work at Lower Arbour. She had safety concerns regarding the area where the wall had been taken down at the top of Lower Arbour for the seating area. The Parish Council assured her that the work was not completed and the wall had been taken down as it was not in a good condition, but will be partly rebuilt. She also remarked that the recent path created at the bottom of Lower Arbour was an improvement, but she would like to see some steps connecting the path to the steps at the bottom by the washing lines. The Parish Council stated that they would be coming to a decision later in the evening on finishing the work and would consider her request.

A sign has been made stating No Parking Turning Area to be placed at the junction of Main Street & Grange Road and will be put in place shortly.

Clerk contacted Alan Sutcliffe to arrange a meeting with him. He was unable to attend the Parish Council meeting but provided a few dates when he would be available. He stated that he was prepared to discuss the matter with the Parish Council, but the Waste Collection Policy had now been implemented and could not be changed. The Parish Council decided that perhaps it would be better to discuss their concerns regarding the way the policy had been implemented with Richard Foster leader of Craven District Council. Clerk to contact him and copy the letter to CDC Representatives Councillor's P Fairbank & P Mulligan.

Craven District Council are to provide funding of £100,000 to support actions aimed at improving the quality of Crosshills village centre. One of the actions was to review the recycling site located in Hall Street Car Park with a view to freeing the space for other uses. They are asking Parish Councils to put forward their views. Farnhill are to reply by stating that they think the recycling centre should either be relocated or reduced in size, but the facility should remain in some form as it is well used and removing the facility altogether would result in more fly tipping.

The Chairman Counc G Harling agreed to attend the service for laying of the wreath at St Andrews Church, Kildwick on behalf of the Parish Council.

After checking the invoice from Gardenmakers it was agreed that the price of the plants and shrubs purchased for Lower Arbour was correct and had been reduced to reflect the reduction in the number supplied. It was also agreed not to purchase the holly which was missing as space was limited.

The clearance of the brush pile at the bottom of the Arbour had been halted due to the presence of a wasps nest. A price had been quoted to remove it for £50.00. Clerk to confirm that we would like to go ahead. Once the nest has been removed Clerk to contact the Contractor regarding finishing the clearance work.

The Parish Council have received a request from a gentleman who used to live in the village saying he would like to contribute to the purchase of the seat at Lower Arbour. Clerk to contact him saying the Parish Council would be pleased to accept his offer and discuss the wording for the plaque.

A discussion took place on the work which had been carried out at Lower Arbour and further work which is to be completed. It was agreed to finish off the seating area by adding three courses of stone and top stones and infilling with cement the wall which had been taken down. The base to be completed by having an area of cement at the back to fasten the seat to and the rest being stone flagged and the border stones bedded in with cement. Following requests from members of the public to retain stone steps by the washing line and join up to the new path, the Parish Council discussed whether it would be suitable. It was agreed to ask the Contractor to take out the old steps and infill and to use his discretion to re-align the steps as gradual as possible to meet with the new path.

The hole by the new light at Parson's Bridge has now been filled in and a couple of branches trimmed from the tree, but there are still a couple of branches left to trim. This will be carried out shortly.

Clerk provided copies of a draft budget account to be considered before discussing further items that need to be included in the budget for the year 2016/2017 at the next meeting.

A member of the public kindly provided the Parish Council with a few pictures for the website. Clerk to pass them to Counc R Bramley.

The annual inspection has been carried out by ROSPA and the overall risk for the site has been reduced from medium to low. Areas which could be improved upon are the edges of the wet pour surfacing which have shrunk away from the edging and the surface by the play panels but these are considered to be low risk.

Clerk informed the Parish Council that Craven District are carrying out a consultation inviting applicants to designate local green space as part of their new local plan. Applications to be submitted over a six week period from Wednesday 21st October to Wednesday 2nd December. The Parish Council resolved to propose that the land on either side of the canal be identified as a green space.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING TUESDAY 1ST DECEMBER 2015 IN KILDWICK/
FARNHILL INSTITUTE AT 7.30PM
All members of the village are welcome to attend**



The Birds in Your Garden

The Nuthatch



Do you feed the birds in your garden? I certainly do, and according to the BTO, so do around two thirds of us. But have you ever wondered what long term effect all this feeding might have?

For the first time, thanks to data collected by Garden BirdWatch behaviour. Since the 1950s, Blackcaps breeding in southern Germany and Austria members, we have robust proof that it can make a significant change in a bird population's have increasingly migrated towards Britain for the winter rather than taking their traditional route to southern Spain. Research has shown that this new migration strategy is genetic, not learned, being confined to this specific population, with birds from other European countries still heading south. For birds wintering in the UK it means less distance to travel with added advantage that they can get back to their breeding grounds earlier.



Blackcap – Mike Dawson

Early observations of wintering Blackcaps in British gardens coincided with the wider availability of commercial wild bird foods. However, it is unlikely that this will have been the only factor driving the change as at the same time winter conditions in Britain have become milder. But which is the more important?

Unravelling this conundrum required the long-term collection of data over a wide area of the UK, allowing statisticians to work out which factor has had the most effect. If garden feeding had influenced Blackcap migration, you'd expect Blackcaps to be seen more frequently where there was a long term reliable source of garden bird food. If climate changes had limited the Blackcap's winter range, you'd expect Blackcaps to be seen more often at sites where the winter was warmer.

So the BTO had to look at temperature changes over several years, at urban heat effects (towns are warmer than the countryside due to waste heat etc.), at local habitat variations and at a whole host of other factors.

What came out of all this is that whilst wintering Blackcaps do prefer the warmer south and west, they are most widely found where garden food has been put out regularly for a significant period of time, and that this is particularly so during colder winters.

For the first time we have solid evidence that our feeding of garden birds can modify the behaviour of a large population even more than climate change; showing just how valuable the reports sent in by Garden BirdWatch can be.

As an interesting adjunct, close examination has shown that the beak shape of the UK wintering population has changed, becoming longer and narrower, adapting them to a more generalised diet!

If you find the lives of our garden birds to be of interest, and would like to join in and count the feathered occupants of your garden, please contact me or visit the BTO Garden BirdWatch website (www.bto.org/gbw). If you know of a local organisation who would like a talk on garden birds call: Mike Gray 07596 366342 or mikegbw@btinternet.com.

Editor: Here is a quiz for Christmas

1. According to the 1st chapter of Matthew, 'Immanuel' is interpreted to mean _____.
2. The Moabite widow, Ruth, is mentioned by name only 12 times in the book named after her, and not again until Matthew 1:5. What makes this woman's life so significant to the birth of Jesus Christ?
3. An angel of the Lord told Joseph, Mary's betrothed, 'Do not _____ to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.'
4. What caused Elizabeth's unborn baby to leap for joy in her womb, when he was visited by her relative Mary?
5. What was the angel's name who visited Mary to tell her she had been chosen to be the Mother of our Lord Jesus Christ?
6. What does Bethlehem mean?
7. Why did Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem?
8. What did the angels say to the shepherds?
9. What did the chief priests tell Herod that worried him so much?
10. Why was 'a voice heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning?'

The Village Pump

A meeting Place for over 50's Every Wednesday 2.00-3.30 pm

*All very
informal*

In the Kildwick and Farnhill Institute

Enquiries to Joyce

Come and Enjoy:-

Wood

*Quoits or Table Skittles *A group quiz*

Tel. 635880

*Boxed Games * Shuffleboard * Table Tennis*



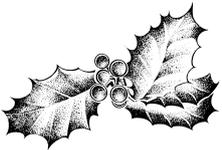
HOLLY

We sing about the 'Holly and the Ivy' and prickly green leaves and red berries are everywhere in Christmas decorations.



In Scandinavian countries the holly is even known as the 'Christ-thorn' and it seems that the name of the holly actually came from the word 'holy'.

The holly reminds us of the death of Jesus - the sharp prickles on the leaves are like the crown on thorns that Jesus was forced to wear on the cross. The red berries remind us of the drops of blood that came where the thorns hurt his head.



Holly is an evergreen, which means that it does not lose its leaves in the autumn, but keeps them all year round. And because its leaves are always green it is a symbol of eternal life.

SHARP PRESENTS

A quick way to make little presents for all your class and friends.

You will need nice pencils, glue (spray glue is best) and Christmas wrapping paper with a small pattern on it. Choose round pencils rather than the hexagonal type.

Cut a strip of wrapping paper wide enough to wrap around the pencil and as long as the pencil. Put glue on the back of the paper and wrap it around the pencil. When the glue has dried; trim away any excess paper with small scissors.



ZZZZZZZZZZZZZZ

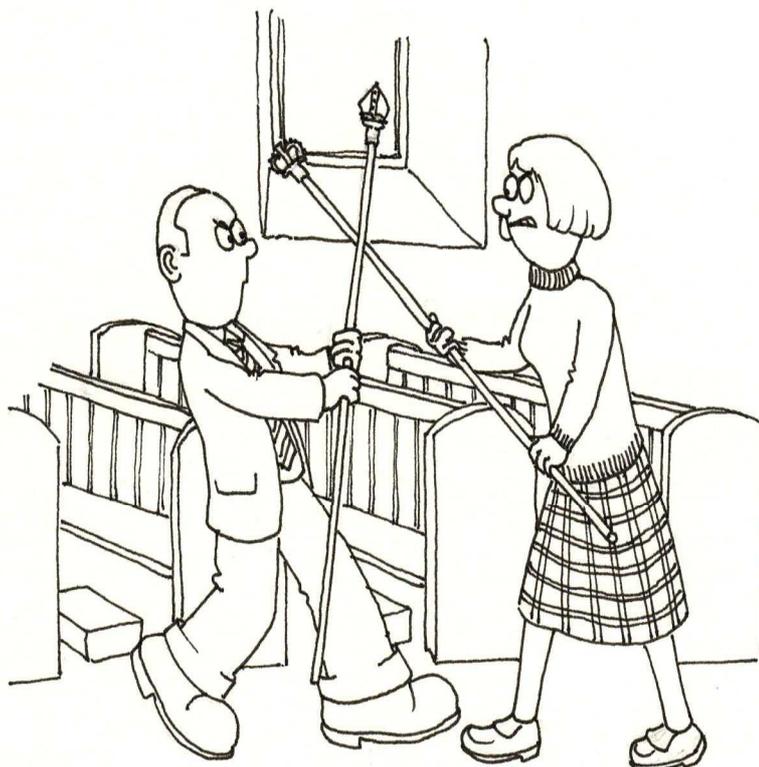
What did the werewolf write on his Christmas cards?

Best vicious of the season.

What do elves sing to Santa?

Freeze a Jolly Good Fellow!

**b
a
c
k
p
a
r
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e**



In a tradition dating back to 1977, the churchwardens re-enacted "Star Wars"

Answers to the quiz

1. God with us – Matt 1:23
2. Her child is in Christ's lineage – Matt 1:5
3. 'Be afraid/fear' Matt 1:20
4. Mary's greeting/ the Holy Spirit
5. Gabriel – Luke 1:26
6. The House of Bread. It was the city of David – Luke 2:4
7. To be registered in a Roman census
8. 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy....' Luke 2:10
9. 'But you Bethlehem, in the land of Judea... out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.' Matt 2:6
10. Massacre of the Innocents by Herod – Matt 2:18



Key Contacts for day to day Church Activities

VICAR (Day off Thursday)	The Revd Robin Figg, The Vicarage, Kildwick, Keighley, BD20 9BB	01535 633307 vicar@kildwick.org.uk
CHURCH WARDENS	Mrs Lesley Hudson	01535 523291 churchwarden@kildwick.org.uk
PCC VICE CHAIRPERSON	Mrs Lesley Hudson	01535 523291 churchwarden@kildwick.org.uk
PCC SECRETARY	Dr Marie Stinson	01535 662450
TREASURER	Dr Marie Stinson	01535 662450 treasurer@kildwick.org.uk
PLANNED GIVING & GIFT AID SECRETARY	Mrs Brenda Brock	01535 633938 brenda@bbrock.wanadoo.co.uk
BELL RINGERS	Mr Peter Ford	01535 655441 bells@kildwick.org.uk
CHUFFS (Church for the under 5's)	Mrs Lesley Hudson	01535 523291
CHURCH MAGAZINE	Mrs Lesley Hudson	01535 523291 lesley.hudson@kildwick.org.uk
CDFC Representative	Mrs Christine Anderton	
FLOWER ROTA	Mrs June Whittaker	01535 655320
MUSIC GROUP	Mr John Hudson	01535 523291 musicgroup@kildwick.org.uk
ORGANIST/CHOIR LEADER	Miss Glyn Evans	01535 630735
PARISH ROOMS & CHURCH BOOKINGS	Mrs Libba Utley	01535 631631 Urgent calls only 07740772361
PASTORAL CARE	Mrs June Whittaker	01535 655320