

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 and other local outlets

DECEMBER 2017

Parish Mission Statement

Called to be the body of Christ,
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through the power of the Holy Spirit

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Loving, Living and Learning in Bradley, Cononley and Kildwick

I'm writing this a couple of days after being licensed as the interim priestin-charge for St Andrew's, Kildwick, and also for St John's Cononley with St Mary's, Bradley. The licensing service was held at St Andrew's, Kildwick, and it was a wonderful, Mary joyful occasion. It was amazing to see so many people there. I felt both supported by members of my family, friends and churches who have been important in my journey so far, and welcomed by people from the two parishes and three churches where I will

So who am I? I'm the Reverend Julie Bacon. I'm 52, married to Matt, and we have two adult children. Jack graduated this summer from King's College London, where he read History, and is currently living at

be serving for the next three years.

home, and working for a company that provides administrative services to the NHS. He has a committed public service ethos, and in the longer term would love to work for the Civil Service. Kate started at Lancaster University this Autumn, where she is also reading History.

rather enthusiastically) and gets us out walking. Matt currently works as Marketing and Communications Director for a Paris-based company called Actility, who work in the field of the 'internet of things'.

I read PPE at St Hilda's College, Oxford in the 1980s, before spending 4

Deadline for next month

We'll try to get the January edition of The Bridge out as soon as possible but the Editor will be away over the New Year. That means the deadline for all material will be on **Sunday 31st December**

... and we'll hope to have a magazine ready for 7th January

years working at the Stock Exchange. I then qualified as a solicitor, and practised in London and Yorkshire for a number of years, before realizing that God was calling me in another direction. I worked for a spell as a church administrator, during which I trained for ordination on the Mirfield-based Yorkshire Ministry Course. I was ordained deacon at Petertide 2014, and priested a year later, and until now have been serving as a curate at St Peter's, Shipley.

l've reconnected recently with an earlier love of embroidery and knitting. I've always been passionate about singing – I've sung with many choirs, and I love Gilbert & Sullivan, and have been in many productions, both

in principal roles and in the chorus. I also love walking and the countryside, and have felt a lifelong deep connection with Yorkshire, fostered by my Hull-bornand-bred maternal grandparents. I also enjoy spending time with my family and friends, particularly over good food and wine, or just watching TV together – particularly during the 'Strictly Come Dancing' season!

It's hard in a short written piece to do more than share a few facts about who I am; I hope that I will have the chance for you to get to know me, and for me to get to know you, properly, in person. And what am I here to do? If you were at the licensing service, you'll have heard Bishop Toby speak about the 'new thing' that is interim ministry in the Church of England. Interim ministry is about appointing a person for a specified period of time to come into a parish or parishes to do one or more particular tasks, as well as the usual things that you'd expect a vicar to do. So I'll be leading and preaching at services; I'll be baptizing and marrying people, and taking

funerals. I'll be teaching and nurturing people

in the Christian faith,
supporting them
as Jesus's disciples,
and caring for
them pastorally.
And I'll be out in
the communities,
meeting people,
introducing them to
Jesus and finding out how
we can serve the world that he

loves and died to save. But I'll also be helping the three churches to think about the following things, and to discern where God is leading us:

- The future relationships between the two parishes and three churches – what sort of relationship there might be, and what it looks like;
- Strengthening and growing lay ministry in each church, as we help everyone to discern what God is calling them to be and to do;
- Developing a pattern of services

across the three churches that is workable and sustainable with one ordained incumbent;

- Looking at our buildings the opportunities and challenges that they give us in pursuing God's mission in the world;
- Thinking about how we can connect with more people in our communities, particularly families, children and young people;
- What kind of person you will need as your vicar once the interim period comes to an end.

What the church is about in the diocese of Leeds is summed up as "Loving, Living and Learning".

Loving – our experience of God compels us to love God, the world and our neighbour, to be compassionate and outward-looking.

Living – we celebrate the abundance of life and human flourishing; we engage with the world and seek to transform it, challenging injustice and caring for creation, now and for the future.

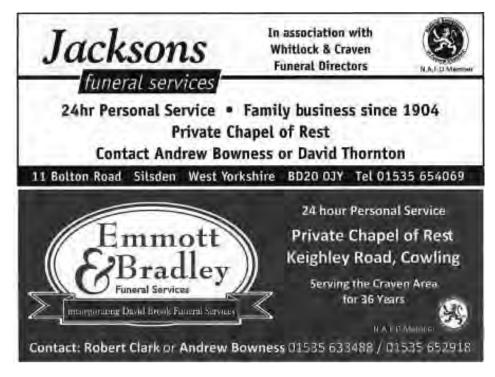
Learning – confident in our faith in the good news of Jesus, we continue to listen to God, the world and each other, alert to Christ's call and looking for the new thing that the Spirit is doing.

These values only find real meaning when they are lived out, applied to our lives and the places where God has put us. What do they look like in practice, in Bradley, Cononley and Kildwick? That's what we will be thinking about over the next three years, as we look at both the interim tasks and our ongoing life together. Are we loving God, our neighbour, and the world? Are we living according to the values of God's kingdom? Are we learning, growing and developing in our ability to discern God's action and leading, open-minded about what the direction might be?

Following God and answering His call

has always been both risky and exciting. It's not about the easy path, but the right one – for us as individuals, and for us as the body of Christ in this place. I am excited at the start of this adventure. I hope that you are too. And I look forward to embarking on it together.

With every blessing

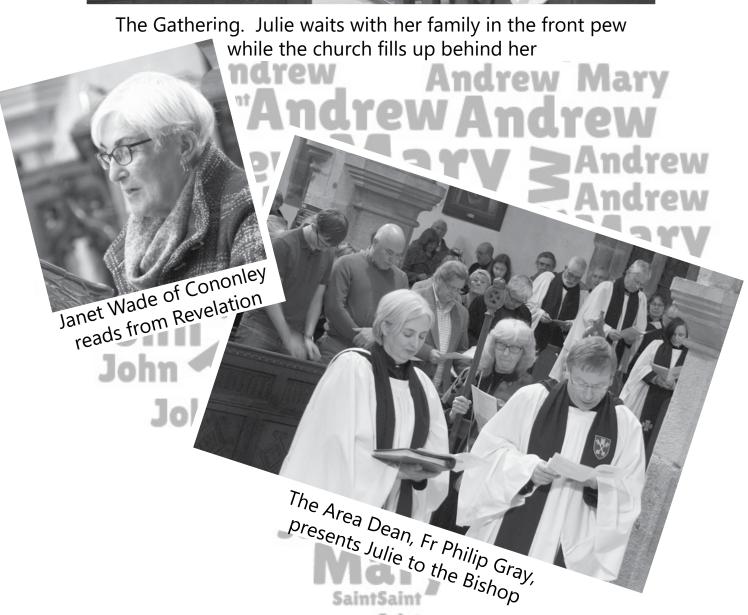


Julie

The Service of Licensing

November 4th was a special day in the lives of Kildwick and of Cononley with Bradley as Julie was licensed as our new Interim Priest-in-Charge. Just a very few photos to try to recapture some of the occasion:





Saint



The key moment of the service as Bishop Toby blesses Julie in her new role



No welcome without cake! An excellent spread was well appreciated...

PCC Meeting – November 28th

This was the first PCC meeting for our new Interim Priest-in-Charge, Julie Bacon, so the main business of the evening was her presentation about what Interim Ministry is, and what it will mean for St Andrew's, St John's and St Mary's.

Julie told us that Interim Ministry is new to the Church of England, but has been around in America for 40 years and in the Scottish Episcopal Church for 20 years. It involves short-term ministerial appointments to help parishes negotiate a time of change. Specific tasks for the interim period are carried out alongside regular parish ministry.

Julie has five interim tasks to pursue over the next three years:

- To establish a coherent, attractive and workable pattern of worship services across the three villages
- To develop, agree and implement a pastoral scheme for the future of the two parishes (and bear in mind opportunities with neighbouring parishes)
- To develop and start to implement a strategy for closer engagement with children, families and schools
- To evaluate the mission potential of church buildings, and develop and agree plans for their future
- To help parishes develop and articulate their identities in new and developing relationships with each other, and identify what they need in a new incumbent

All members of the church are asked to pray for this interim period and process. Julie is thinking about how we can develop opportunities to do this with the other churches.

A support and monitoring group is to be set up with representatives from the three churches to ensure that progress is made on the interim objectives.

We shall see a continuing development of the role of Lay Ministry and Julie drew our attention to events in the Diocese next year which will help us focus on this. Another "beyond the parish boundary" element is the Bradford Episcopal Area Forum: it's a cumbersome name but the pioneering work it's doing, both within the Diocese and in the National Church, excited those from Kildwick who were there.

Did you know we have five First World War graves in the churchyard? The Commonwealth War Graves Commission has contacted us to offer us signage to raise awareness of this fact. We accepted their offer and a sign will appear – probably in the Spring.

In anticipation of a formal Diocesan notification, we placed on record that we have no objection to the selling of the Kildwick Vicarage and the subsequent

Christmas Carols by Candlelight

4.00pm on Sunday 17th December at St Andrew's Church, Kildwick

A 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 the tableau)





Christmas Crib Service

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

A short child-friendly all-age service

Come and help to gather the characters for the Christmas crib

purchase of another property. That also means we have to make arrangements for the safe storage of all the parish records presently above the Vicarage garage; we're in contact with the Diocesan Assistant Archivist about this.

And finally ... we have received our Share request for 2018, which is our contribution to the Diocesan Budget. We are asked for £40,800 and the Finance and Standing Committee will have this on the Agenda for our next meeting.

It was a good, purposeful meeting, which was all done and dusted in two hours. If you have questions or comments, then don't sit and imagine the worst - please ask someone!!

The Church That Refused To Die

There is something wonderful about Sudanese church names. In English parishes we are used to almost solely a diet of saint's names, with the odd 'Holy Redeemer' added in for variety. We are not always sure which St James or which St Margaret our church is dedicated to, but that only serves to give a choice of dates for patronal festivals.



The saint's name is supposed to evoke

faith and sanctity, signifying our call to join in the communion of saints, but church names in Sudan tend to be more vivid, more from the heart than the head. Bulus and Butrus (Paul and Peter to us) are honoured, but at a united service for East Omdurman Archdeaconry they paled in comparison to some of the other dedications.

During the second collection (yes, second) the Church of the Cornerstone led, followed by the Vine Church. Then came Fardous (Paradise) Church, and Church of Sakhara (the Rock) and Ruhia (Revelation) Church. Sometimes we hear of them by their Arabic name, and sometimes in English translation -and only then grasp what the hand of faith has written, and what beats in the heart of the congregation as it gathers.

The names speak of a simpler, more direct Bible faith than some of the exotic names of West African congregations we encounter in this country e.g. the "Miracle Church of God in Christ", or the "Mountain of Fire and Miracles; Cherubim & Seraphim Movement Church." Some of those are influenced by the health and wealth preaching originating in the USA, but that has no hold in ECS churches.

There are eleven parishes in the East Omdurman Archdeaconry, and all were represented at the united service. St Peter's Church were there from Thowra #29, where our Diocese has given grants to improve the ECS school. Emmanuel Church from Thowra #47 was also present, along with Dongola Parish Church which seems to be known only by the name of the township it serves. Others were Ephraim Church, named after Ephraim Natana, a loved church leader from Khartoum Cathedral in the 1990's, and the Church of the Saviour, the original CMS mission church in Omdurman centre.

The service itself was held at Gamair, close to the Nile, north of Omdurman. In the 1980's visitors from Bradford used to visit Gamair church. At that time it had a large compound and was a strong centre for teaching, evangelism and distribution of help. In the early 90's the centre was bulldozed by municipal authorities, who declared "You are not my people, and are not wanted" (Hosea 1v9).

Now twenty-five years later a parish church is again embedded in the community, an ECS building shared by a Methodist congregation and a Sudan Church of Christ congregation.

It felt good to be there at worship with 600 people, most sat under canopies outside the building, to remember the history, and reflect on the irrepressible potential of God's people who rejoice in their Redeemer. The authorities tried to scrape the Christians away, to cleanse the earth of their presence, but the seed has sprung up again.

It instinctively feels good that the building is shared with other denominations, until you realize that the main reason for their sharing is that other buildings have been bulldozed too. In this township, only this shelter remains for Christians to assemble, to hear the Word, pray and encourage one another.

And there was opportunity to give during the third collection! A total of about

£700 was collected during the service, most of which was given to St James's, Gamair, for capital works, to fit it better as a home for mission and ministry.

John Poole





All the Fun of the Fair!



There was a great scurrying-around on 25th November. The church – as well as various lamp posts – were bedecked with bunting for the annual St Andrew's Fair.

A good time seemed to have been had by all. Especially welcome were the warming bowls of soup, served in the Parish Rooms. Very welcome funds of over £500 ywere raised for church funds.

Tower News

Short bellringers need boxes to stand on – particularly when the ropes aren't easily adjusted (like ours). David Pearson got tired of sorting through an ungainly pile of mis-matched boxes and arrived one day with a beautiful "chest of boxes" with neatly fitted 'drawers' of graduated boxes. They are a wonderful improvement! Thank you, David!

The Western Branch Quarter Peal Fortnight passed without any spectacular successes for the Kildwick band – but, at the finishing social event, Ed Askew was awarded his certificate as a fully qualified member of the Yorkshire Association. Hopefully, by the time you read this, he will have rung another quarter on what we call "a working bell" and shortly after, Gill Berry will have rung her first quarter so she will qualify for full membership too.

The MiniRingers are rehearsing hard for their appearance at the Christmas Carol Service on 17th December. The team now has its own set of handchimes so we no longer need to borrow them from Bingley. They have also been working quite hard on learning to handle a "proper" bell. At the moment, they are using the mini-bell in the parish rooms but some of them are expecting soon to transfer to the big (scary!) bells in the tower.

Our Monthly Prayer Calendar

A pull-out-and-keep supplement!

prayer for many people; at home and in the intecessions during our worship. We have a regular cycle of prayer that has been printed each week in our weekly news sheet. It acts as a focus for

prepare your intercessions. Pull this central sheet from the booklet. The prayer Calendar will be on one side and the month's rotas on the other. It is felt that this may be more accessible in a "poster" format that you can keep where you pray at home and where you

12 Rotas for

Date	Time	Service	Readings
3 December First Sunday of Advent	8.15am 10.00am	Holy Communion Family Communion	<i>Isaiah 64. 1-9</i> 1 Corinthians 1.3-9 Mark 13. 24-end
10 December 2nd Sunday of Advent	8.15am 9.45am	Holy Communion Parish Communion	Isaiah 40.1-11 2 Peter 3.8-15a Mark 1.1-8
17 December 3rd Sunday of Advent	8.15am 10.00am	Holy Communion Parish Communion	Isaiah 61.1-4,8-end 1 Thessalonians 5.16-24 John1.6-8,19-28
24 December 4th Sunday of Advent	8.15am 10.00am	Holy Communion Parish Communion	2 Samuel 7.1-11,16 Romans 16.25-end Luke 1.26-38
24 December Christmas Eve	11.30pm	Christmas Midnight Eucharist	Isaiah 52.7-10 Hebrews 1.1-4(5-13) John 1.1-14
25 December Christmas Day	10.00am	Family Communion	Isaiah 9.2-7 <i>Titus 2.11-114</i> Luke 2.1-14
31 December 1st Sunday of Christmas	10.00am	Holy Communion Parish Communion	Isaiah 61.10-62.3 Galatians 4.4-7 Luke 2. 15-21

Traidcraft

Thank you to all those who've bought Traidcraft goods for Christmas.

The order line has been glowing red hot!

You can continue to buy Traidcraft goods till Sunday 17th December and then the church shop will re-open on the second Sunday in the New Year. See you then!

Regular Events at Kildwick

Tuesday <i>not in holidays</i> 10.00 – 11.30am	Chuffs Fun for pre-school children and their grown-ups!	In the Parish Rooms
Tuesday 7.15 – 8.15pm	Choir practice	In the Parish Rooms
Wednesday 9.30am	Midweek Eucharist	In the Parish Rooms
Wednesday 10.15 am – 12.30pm	NottheKnot Group Stitching and Fellowship Group	In the Parish Rooms
Thursday <i>not in holidays</i> 3.30 – 4.30pm	MiniRingers	In the Parish Rooms or the Tower
Thursday 7.30–9.00	Bell Ringing	In the Tower

December 13

Readers	Intercessor	Communion	Sidespeople	Tea and Coffee
Reading not used Brenda Brock Katharine Calvert	Shirley Hoskins	Sandie and Christine	Eleanor Eastwood Sandie Walton June Whitaker	June Whitaker Sylvia Ackroyd
Glyn Evans Tim Chapman Sylvia Clark	Lesley Bannister	Sue and John	Sandie Walton Glennis Attwood	Joyce Bonham (vacancy)
Kathryn Morris Christine Anderton Jill Wright	Sue Hargreaves	Christine and Jill	Ann Mosley and Christine Anderton	Jill Wright (vacancy)
Glyn Evans Chris Wright Tim Littler/ Kathryn Taylor	Di Halliday	Sue and Christine	Joyce Bonham and Geraldine Sands	Ann Mosley Christine Anderton
Lesley Hudson Lesley Bannister Sandie Walton	Chris Wright	Christine and Jill	Sign the list in church	_
Glyn Evans Reading not used Peter Bannister	Sue Hargreaves	to be decided	Sign the list in church	-
Lesley Bannister Brenda Brock Sylvia Clark	Sandie Walton	Sandie and John	Joan Houghton and Sylvia Clark	Maureen Vink and Katharine Morris

Flowers

Traditionally, we have no flowers in church during Advent and Lent which are the two "preparation" seasons as we look forward to the great festivals of Christmas and Easter.

No doubt the whole team will be on hand to decorate the church for Christmas Day!



Why is it that when you tell a man there are 400 billion stars he will believe you, but when you tell him there's wet paint he has to touch it?

From the Registers

Funerals

9th November Aiden Mazurke, formally of Cross Hills 22nd November David Baxter, formerly of Cross Hills

Week 5	Week 4	Week 3
South Craven Evangelical Church, for Christians of other denominations who live in the area but whose church is outside the area	South Craven Baptist Church, Eastburn Methodist Church and Farnhill Methodist Church	St John's United Church, Cononley, St Mary's Church, Bradley, for the Grief & Loss Support Group
Our pastoral care group, for our home communicant members, for the church cleaning teams, flower arrangers and gardeners	Glyn Evans our organist, for the choir and music group, for our bell ringers, for lay ministers in worship (welcomers, readers, intercessors, communion assistants)	Our work with young people, for the Chuffs group, for those who lead and all who attend, for the MiniRingers Club
The Mothers' Union	Church & mission agencies: for the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge (SPCK)	Tim & Kate Lee in the UK and the Jigsaw Kids Ministry in Manila, Philippines, for the Church Mission Society (CMS)
South Craven Community Action	Kildwick Primary School and Headteacher, Tim Whitehead, for South Craven School and Headteacher, Andrew Cummings	Kildwick Out of School Club, Local Parish Councils, Cross Hills Police Station

This cycle of prayer is a companion to the wider prayer calendar for the Diocese of Leeds and for the whole Anglican Communion. This is a daily diary and includes details for each Benefice in turn. It lists: Benefice, Church, Clergy, It is readily available online. Download the monthly diary from leeds.anglican.org/content/prayer-diary Readers, School (and Headteacher) as well as the Anglican Cycle of Prayer for that day. Paper copies of the diary are also available at the back of church.

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Decemb	er
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Sun 3rd		ADVENT SUNDAY	
	10.00am	Sending out of the travelling cribs	
	6.00pm	Advent Carol Service by candlelight	
Mon 4th	2.45pm	Collective Worship in Church (Changed Date)	
Sun 11th	4.00pm	CDFC Christmas in the Park (Sutton Village & Park)	
Thur 7th	10.30-12.	2.00 Festive social coffee morning (Parish Rooms)	
Thu 14th	2.30pm a	nd 6.00pm Nativity EYFS/KS1 (in Church)	
Sat 16th	10.00am	Decorating the Christmas tree	
Sun 17th	4.00pm	Christmas Carol by Candlelight	
Mon 18th	6.30pm	Glusburn School KS2 Carol Service	
Tue 19th	1.30pm	Glusburn KS1 Christingle Service	
	6.00pm	Kildwick School KS2 Carol Service	
Thurs 21st	2.00pm	Kildwick School Christingle Service	
Sun 24th	8.15am	Holy Communion (as usual)	
	10.00am	Parish Eucharist (as usual)	
	4.00pm	The Christmas Crib Service	
	11.30pm	Christmas Midnight Eucharist	
Mon 25th	8.15am	Christmas Holy Communion	
	10.00am	Christmas Family Eucharist	
January			
Sun 7th		EPIPHANY	



Wouldn't it be great if we could put ourselves in the dryer for ten minutes? Come out wrinkle-free and three sizes smaller!

I accidentally went grocery shopping on an empty stomach, and am now the proud owner of Aisle 4.

The Prayer Page

This Advent, Lord, come to the manger of my heart.

Fill me with Your presence from the very start.
As I prepare for the holidays and gifts to be given,
Remind me of the gift You gave when You sent
Your Son from Heaven.

The first Christmas gift, it was the greatest gift ever.

You came as a baby born in a manger.

Wrapped like the gifts I find under my tree,

Waiting to be opened, to reveal Your love to me.

Restore to me the wonder that came with Jesus' birth,

When He left the riches of Heaven and wrapped Himself in rags of earth

wrapped Himself in rags of earth.

Immanuel, God with us, Your presence came that night.

And angels announced, "Into your darkness, God brings His Light."

"Do not be afraid," they said, to shepherds in the field.

Speak to my heart today, Lord, and help me to yield.

Make me like those shepherd boys, obedient to Your call.

Setting distractions and worries aside, to You I surrender them all.

Surround me with Your presence, Lord, I long to hear Your voice.

Clear my mind of countless concerns and all the holiday noise.

Slow me down this Christmas, let me not be in a rush.

In the midst of parties and planning, I want to feel Your hush.

This Christmas, Jesus, come to the manger of my heart.

Invade my soul like Bethlehem, bringing peace to every part.

Dwell within and around me, as I unwrap Your presence each day.

Keep me close to You, Lord. It's in Your wonderful Name I pray. Amen

Dear Heavenly Father,
Help me to hear your voice.
Touch me once again.
Give me the courage to be your beloved.
Give me courage to choose joy.

Give me courage to choose joy I need you now this Christmas. Be born in me again. Today. In Jesus' name, Amen

Father, just as You sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for Jesus, help me to clear the path in my heart, too.

Show me the distractions in my life that block me from all-out worship of You this Advent.

Lord, I await Your coming! As I celebrate the first Advent—the first coming—I look toward the day where I will see You face to face.

I imagine what it will be like. Give me a heart, Lord, that looks for Your coming on a daily basis. Help me to live my life where I'm constantly seeking Your presence. My offering to You today is my righteous life for I know I am only clean because of Jesus.

Show me today how I need to be refined, purified, forgiven. Give me the strength to ask for forgiveness and to then change

my ways. Amen

Chuffs are Evolving Well

It has been interesting to follow evolution as demonstrated by the Chuffs (CHurch for the Under FFives).



They began last month with relatively early amphibians. In this monochrome magazine, it is well nigh impossible to convey the greenness of his green body nor the fiery red of his versatile tongue. This frog – and all of his wetskinned companions fairly vibrated with the energy and promise of these first land-dwelling animals.

A mere three weeks later – and what a transformation! Gone are the slimy-skinned frogs and in their place we find sleek feather-covered ducks. (Even though we note that evolution takes strange twists at times. Not all heads appear to display the more traditional orientation





normally encountered in the Duck World.)

And then... And then, indeed! The pinnacle of development!

CHOCOLATE!

History will remain tightlipped on the subject of the proportion of chocolate used for decoration as opposed to the amount actually worn by the end of the day.



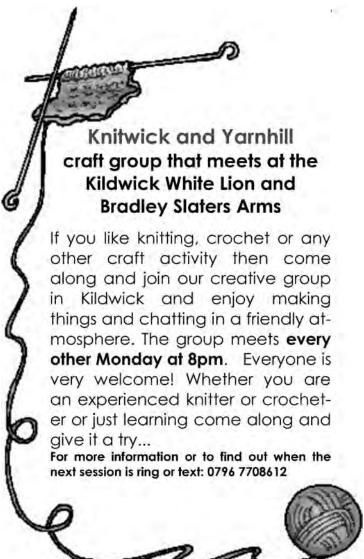
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Jigsaw

The latest Newsletter has arrived from Tim Lee, bringing us up to date with their latest news. It begins with much praise for answered prayer: for a successful Nutrition Week and a new School Sponsorship coordinator. Pastor Jolly is now leading the day-to-day work of Jigsaw and has started a church leadership course. Several children with significant health and welfare issues have been helped.

There are many new requests for prayer too. Mary Rose has been forced to leave her family and is now virtually enslaved in Oman. Jovi, the child development worker has kidney problems and three street families are in desperate need. Rolyn's mother is beating her daily and Grace is still weak in hospital. The children themselves post prayers in the ten Jigsaw centres and there's a variety of these, often centred on their families and parents.

Please take a copy of the newsletter from the back of church and read some of the detail of all this – and more!

Farnhill Parish Council

- A meeting of the Council was held on the 26th October and attended by three members of the Council, a CDC/NYCC Representative and the Clerk
- **Waste Management** The improved arrangements had been working though two bins had blown into the road. It was decided to wait till next month and see how it was progressing before contacting waste management.
- **North Yorkshire District** The Allerton Park Waste Recovery Park is now running. If it works well there could be more implemented across the County. Plans for a Sugar Beet Factory are opposed by residents but welcomed by the agricultural community. 29 protesters had been arrested and 8 prosecuted at Kirkby Misperton. Drilling at the site will be starting shortly.
- **Locality Funding budget** There have been 2 applications but £3000.00 is left. Applications need to be in by February. Skipton Town Hall is a 4.6million project. They have applied for a lottery heritage grant for 1.6million and the Council have underwritten 1.6million. They should hear if they have been successful by Christmas. Th hall will act as a cultural hub to include film, music and drama. The museum will be expanding onto 2 floors as well as a learning area where schools can come in for a cultural experience.
- **Speed Watch** An initiative has been set up by Cononley and a resident asked if we could do the same at Farnhill. CDC Rep. Andy Brown may be able to advise.
- **Rubbish** in Parson's beck behind Langkirk Close has now been cleared. The property is owned by Stonewater Housing.
- **Yorkshire Water** have investigated the leak at the stone trough at Bucklar Hill. The source is a private property and the owners will repair it.
- **Canal & River Trust** met at the fencing near Redman's Bridge. It was agreed that temporary fencing was not ideal and that they would discuss options for getting the work done as quickly as possible.
- **Wreath** Cllr M Scarffe will lay a wreath for the Council on Remembrance Sunday.
- **South Craven Community Library** have thanked the Council for their support and have asked for help for another year. They took over in April this year and have about 35 Volunteers from all parishes and will keep the library open with an enhanced service to the community. They supplement Parish Council funds with their own fundraising, such as the Library Lottery, Friends of the Library, Book Sales and other events. They ask for £142, based the number of Farnhill users
- **Not in November** The next meeting will be held on the 14th December as some Councillors would be unable to attend the usual November meeting.



The Birds in Your Garden





Siskin – by Mike Gray

This month's article is about the Siskin. A delightful, colourful and busy little garden visitor which is around most of the year in small numbers, but which is far more common during the winter, especially cold ones. Now is the time to keep an eye open for them in your garden.

The Siskin is a lively finch somewhat smaller than a Greenfinch, with the rapid and bounding flight pattern so typical of finches. It is a resident breeder here in Yorkshire. The male has a streaky yellow-green body, a yellow rump and a black crown and bib It has a distinctly forked tail and a long narrow bill. The amount of black on the bib is very variable and its size has been related to dominance within a flock. The plumage of the female is duller and more olive-coloured than the male with a greenish cap, a white bib, and a rump that is a slightly striped whitish yellow.

Siskins that breed in Britain and Ireland generally winter near their breeding areas, although they do move north and south depending on food supplies and weather conditions. A few even going as far as northern Europe to winter.

Their migration pattern is in fact quite unusual: every few years in winter they migrate southwards in large numbers. The reasons for this behaviour are not known but are probably related to climatic factors and the availability of food, with overwintering populations moving to areas where food is abundant. Information from ringing shows that during the winter, large numbers of Siskins from Scandinavia join our population here. Siskins are classified as Green Status, meaning they are not under any threat with a vast global population: in the UK alone there are around 369,000 breeding pairs.

Siskins are seed eaters with smaller bills than the other finches, reflecting their diet which is mainly cone seeds. Whilst being primarily granivores they do vary their diet depending on the season. In autumn and winter they eat deciduous tree seeds such as birch and alder, as well as joining other finches in cultivated areas and pastures to eat seeds such as thistles and dandelions. When feeding

their young they eat more insects, mainly beetles, as the proteins they contain help the chicks to grow.

Siskins visit gardens when food is harder to find in their natural habitats and are apparently attracted to red coloured feeders! They like nuts and oil rich seeds such as Niger and sunflower hearts.

They are very active and restless birds, being acrobatic feeders and often hang upside-down like a tit. They are also very social, forming small cohesive flocks especially in autumn and winter. They are fairly trusting of humans, and it is often possible to observe them from a short distance. During the breeding season, however, they are much more timid and difficult to observe.

Listen for their attractive song and you'll hear a sweet and harmonious "tilu", "tilu" call, especially when a flock of Siskins is gathered together. This pleasant mix of twitters and trills explains why they often used to be raised in captivity.

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 gbwmike@gmail.com.



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CHRISTMAS CARDS

Time to write your Christmas cards again — what designs have you picked to send this year? Are they religious ones?

Look in the shops at all the different designs, traditional and modern. Traditional religious cards have usually included the nativity – Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus. But what else would you count as religious? The Three Kings? The Bible doesn't say they were kings, or that there were three; just that they were Wise Men, who travelled far to bring special gifts for the baby Jesus.

Do you know why there are so many robins on Christmas cards? The first postmen in Victorian times wore red and were called robins, so robins were shown as delivering cards.



Whatever kind of card you send this year, be sure to include a kind message with love for your friends. Our love is

a tiny echo of God's love for all the world.

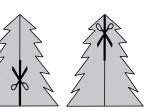
CARD or DECORATION

Here is a simple 3-D Christmas tree that you can use as a decoration or a card. You will need green card, crayons, glitter or paint, scissors and sticky tape.

Fold a piece of card in half, then cut it in half. Put the two pieces together and fold them in half again.

Draw half a Christmas tree opposite the fold. Cut along the line and you will have 2 identical trees. Fold the trees in half, very lightly, hardly creasing the centre line to mark the centre of the tree. Cut a slit along the bottom half of

the centre of one tree and along the top half of the centre



of the other tree. Slip the two trees together along the slits. To help the tree to stand firmly, use sticky tape to fasten the parts together where they meet.

Decorate the tree. If you are using it as a card then leave an area free

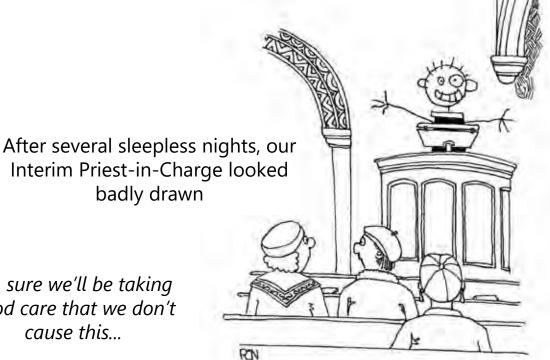
of decorations so that you can write on it.



What goes red white red white red white?

Santa rolling down a hill.





I'm sure we'll be taking good care that we don't

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Finish the afternoon with tea and biscuits and a chat

> Enquiries to Joyce Wood Tel. 635880

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