

## A brief time-line

There has probably been a place of worship here since before Christianity reached Yorkshire.

At Kildwick, nature and geography combine to make an important place; a place where the roads find a crossing point over the river. At this point people will have gathered – and where people gather, a hostelry will spring up and a priest will minister.

Simple wood and wattle and daub will have housed the early church but the presence of several early Saxon crosses speak of a stone building dating from around the year 950.

In 1086 the Domesday Book states, *"In Kildwick Arnketil, 2 carucates to the geld and 1 church"*. This is our earliest fixed date – and we begin to see some stonework from this sort of date in the bases of two pillars.

Sometime between 1135 and 1140 Cecily de Rumily (- or Romille or Romillie) granted the church to the Priory at Embsay, beginning a monastic connection which lasted till the dissolution of Bolton Priory by Henry VIII in 1539.

The Norman church of the 12th century may have remained till the disastrous early years of the 1300s. Famine and plague beset the country and Craven was ravaged by the Scots. The early parts of the building we see today may have followed this period. The design of the more westerly arches closely resembles that of the old Kildwick bridge which dates from about that time.

Following the dissolution of the monasteries in the 16th century, the huge choir was added, making this the "Lang Kirk o' Craven. As to why... no one has produced any more credible reason than to say, "It was done to the greater glory of God".

In 1873 the porch was added and in 1901-3 a very significant re-building and re-ordering was carried out with the replacement of pews and roof repairs.

## Finding out more

This leaflet can give but a glimpse of the rich story of St Andrew's – a story that not only reaches back into history but which is also still living, growing and being told today.

You may find other leaflets that give greater detail of some of the things you can find in and around the church.

They are available online too - at [kcbchurches.org.uk/index.php/st-andrews](http://kcbchurches.org.uk/index.php/st-andrews)



It will come as no surprise to hear that an ancient building like St Andrew's needs significant funds if it is to survive.

It costs us over £100 every day – and we face significant maintenance tasks such as the replacement of our slate roof which has reached the end of its life.

We would respectfully ask that you make a donation to help us.

The donation station is near the main door.

A donation of £3.00 per adult would help us a great deal. If you can Gift Aid your gift as well, that would be even better! That makes every £1 you give worth £1.25 to us - at no cost to you!

St Andrew's, Kildwick is a part of the wider parish of Kildwick, Cononley and Bradley, known as "KCB" to its friends.

If you want to find out about what we do, visit our website at [kcbchurches.org.uk](http://kcbchurches.org.uk) or email us at [contact@kcbchurches.org.uk](mailto:contact@kcbchurches.org.uk)



# A Short Guide to St Andrew's Church, Kildwick

## Welcome to the "Lang Kirk of Craven"

This ancient church sits on a site that has seen Christian witness for over a thousand years.

From a simple preaching place beside a major river crossing, Christian people from every age have built, repaired and beautified the church that you can see today.

Step inside.

See the church of our forebears that is also the church of today's family of Christ.

Come in and sit quietly too.

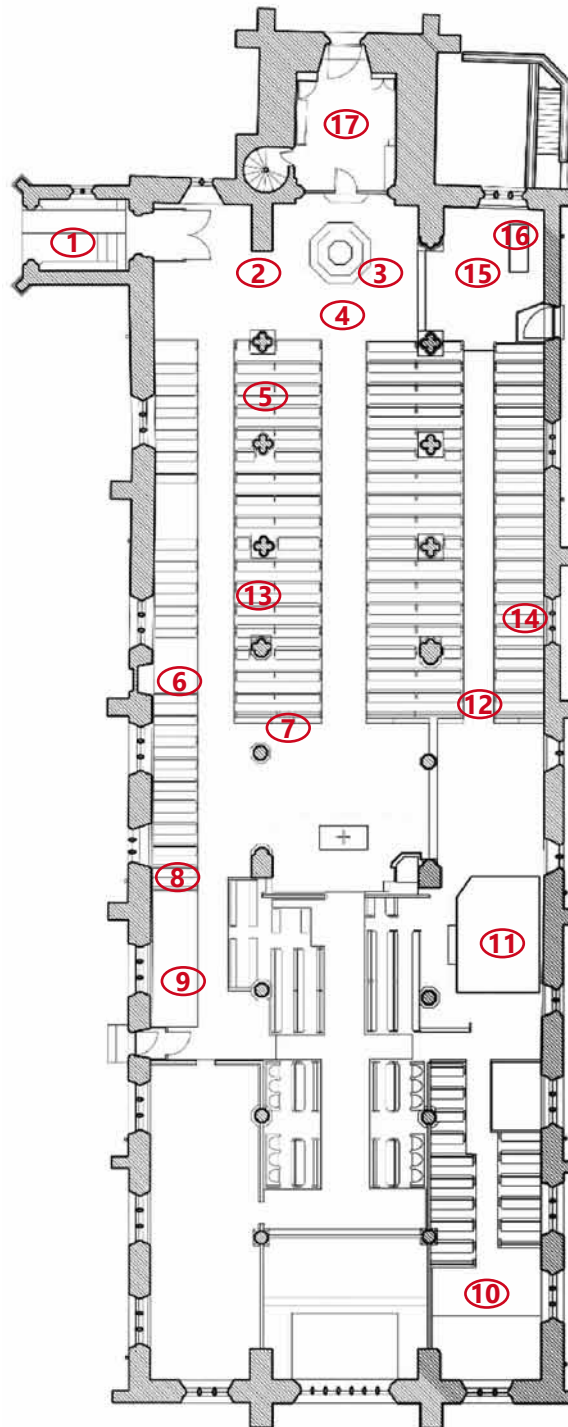
Take a little space for yourself and rest for a while among the prayers of thousands.

Our stones have soaked up prayer since before the Normans arrived.

Come in and add yours.

## A walk around the church

- 1 The porch** is the youngest part of the building. It was built in 1873. There's a steep ramp for wheelchairs. If you need it, put the extension out!
- 2 The oldest bit of the building.** The "dog-tooth" carving at the base of the pillar was the capital (top) of a Norman pillar.
- 3 The 15th century font** is near the door – symbolising the moment of "arrival" as a new Christian is baptised. It has emblems of the crucifixion: a spear and sponge, scourges, nails and dice, a sword, a hammer and pincers. The font cover is a 1869 copy of the medieval original.
- 4 The Lang Kirk o' Craven.** Stand by the font and look eastwards. The church (at 45m or 146ft) is the longest in this part of Yorkshire.
- 5 The first three pairs of pillars** are rounded. The fourth, squared-off pillars probably mark the limit of the 1350's post-Norman building. The western arches are very similar to the contemporary arch of the Kildwick bridge.
- 6 A blocked doorway.** When opened up in the 1900 restoration, a St Andrew's cross was discovered under the lintel.  
*Say a prayer and light a candle here.*
- 7 The pews are relatively modern.** Don't be fooled by the carving on the front pew! These are made from old Jacobean family chests.
- 8 A piscina.** This is a "sink" for pouring holy water. It probably marks the site of a side chapel.
- 9 Old stone crosses.** These fragments represent seven different Saxon/Scandinavian crosses. Many of these fragments were found during a major restoration in the early 1900's. Seven crosses suggest that there was a stone church on the site in Saxon times.  
*In this area is a display case – read the "Florence Nightingale" letter in there.*



- 17 The Bell Tower** There is a fine ring of 8 bells by Taylors (1914) with the rare double-ended "Yorkshire tail ends". Two peal boards mark some significant pieces of ringing.  
*Above the west door, see the twisted carved head. It is thought to represent Odin, the Norse god who was blind in one eye.*
- 16 The Stiveton tomb** Marked "Robert of Stiveton (Steeeton), died 1307", it shows a knight in later armour. This is probably his grandson (also Robert) who died in 1353 and who may have built the west end of the church we see today.
- 15 The Parish Chest.** Literally a strong box! Made from a single oak log and armed with three locks, it could only be opened by the vicar and both wardens together. It held church records, the silverware and any alms posted through the slot.
- 14 The "Stiveton" window** probably marks one of the resting places of the Stiveton monument.
- 13 Clerestory windows.** From this side, see the high windows ("clerestory" = "clear storey"). Probably installed with the new roof in the 16th century when the long chancel was added. Note the chopped-off tops of the south windows.
- 12 Cross-slab stone.** Such a stone with a cross usually marks the grave of a senior cleric but we don't know who. It probably dates from the 15th or 16th century. Unusually the ends of the arms have two "buds" rather than the usual three.
- 11 The Organ.** Rebuilt in 1901-3 by the Cross Hills firm of Laycock and Bannister. See the Laycock family tomb at the bottom end of the car park.
- 10 The Currer Chapel.** As part of a major restoration in 1901-3, the enormous Currer family vault was removed from this area. The original area is marked by a "principal" in the roof. A new chancel altar was made and the original was moved here. The old Farnhill Hall "Eltoft" family pew (1633) was moved westward and new pews installed.