

## Getting it right

Anybody writing a history will be tempted by stories that make things sound bigger, better, older.



An example can be seen in the north aisle. There's a large incised slab with a cross – but no words.

If you read the histories of the church, you will hear how this is an early Norman grave covering. They'll tell you it is probably the gravestone of Arnketil who features in the Domesday Book.

The truth is that Arnketil was not a Norman. He was a Saxon and Lord of some 100 manors as well as Kildwick in 1066; so there is little evidence that he was buried here. And when the slab is examined by experts; the opinion is: *"This is a typical 'floor stone cross slab' of the later 15th or early 16th century... It is definitely not a Saxon slab."*

However much we try, our current series of leaflets and information boards is probably no better than other histories, but we owe it to the church to use the best evidence on hand. We're trying to get it right!

## The right pew

*After pointing out things that aren't what they seem, here's something that, as far as we know is exactly what they all say...*



The "Eltoft Pew" is inscribed "EE 1633". Edward Eltoft lived at Farnhill Hall at that time – and the 16th/17th centuries was the time when the new-fangled pews were beginning to block up the previously uncluttered naves of our churches. The "great and the good" often took to these enclosed box pews where they could stay safely segregated from other lesser mortals.

When your building has a history as long as that of St Andrew's, you don't exaggerate!

Our stone fragments are early 10th century and our wooden parish chest was an oak tree that was already mature when William arrived – and was probably growing in the eighth century. Our history continues from these early dates.

To find out more about St Andrew's, scan the code or visit [kbcchurches.org.uk/index.php/st-andrews](http://kbcchurches.org.uk/index.php/st-andrews)



**I  
Don't  
Believe  
It!**



An old church like St Andrew's has been looked after for hundreds of years by thousands of people.

It has been changed over the years – and sometimes they just got it wrong...

## Are you sitting comfortably?

Have a look at the front pews in the main body of the church. Particularly on the south side (the same side as the door you came in).



Wow! That's old! *But let's dig a bit...*

The early church nave was an empty place. There were no pews though some benches were probably provided for those unable to stand for long. It's where we get the phrase, "The weakest go to the wall". With the Reformation of the 16th century, preaching became important and wealthy families arranged enclosed areas where they could sit - but, in Kildwick, it is unlikely that the church would have had pews as we would recognise them even in 1626.

These pews were actually constructed during the renovations of 1901-3 - and this particular pew was re-installed in this particular place in 2016!

The carving and the date are absolutely genuine - but they don't belong to a Kildwick pew! These panels have been recycled from a Jacobean family chest.

We'll never know, I expect, how these old panels came to church. We know that the current pews, all made in 1903 (or so) use timber and panelling from the pews that preceded them. It is probable that these old panels were among them - but there are scant records to prove it.

But these front pews weren't built in 1626!

## Robert de Stiveton



Our old tomb has a clear inscription around it. the same is written once on each side, just in case we're not certain.



"Robertus de Stiveton Obit MCCC vii"  
*Robert of Steeton Died 1307*

So that's clear then. But wait! Look at the end:  
"Renewed by subscription AD 1854"



... and then look at the effigy. He's wearing plate armour. They didn't wear plate armour in 1307.

It looks like the Rev Fawcett who moved the effigy in 1854 and mounted it on a Victorian plinth just got it wrong! The Bolton Abbey accounts show a feast for that Robert's funeral at the Priory in 1307.

This is very probably Robert of Steeton's grandson (also called Robert) who died in 1353. It is quite possible that this Robert paid for the western end of the nave we see today - and that would explain why he's buried here in Kildwick, rather than at Bolton Priory as his grandfather was.

## Whose Grave?

If you stand by the altar rail, you'll probably find yourself standing on one of two large grave stones. Nothing very remarkable there...



The one on the south side (your right as you look at the altar) is quite ornate and commemorates William Currer who died in 1716.



On the north side is a much plainer stone dedicated to Roger Coates (1666).

Both were notable people (well, you would be if you are going to be buried in such a prestigious place). **But what's wrong?**

What's wrong is that they are in the wrong places. In the big re-ordering of 1901-3, they got put back the wrong way round. William Currer's stone covers Roger Coates' remains - and vice versa.