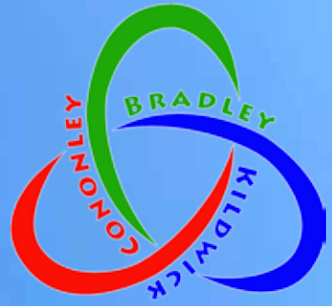


**Free – but donations welcome**



# The Pinnacle

**A Magazine for the parish of  
Kildwick, Cononley and Bradley**

*The Churches of St Andrew's,  
St John's and St Mary's*

*St John's is a Local Anglican/Methodist Ecumenical Partnership*

**Summer 2021**

## A Church Directory

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## What's in a name?

Last month, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex (also known as Harry and Meghan) celebrated the arrival of a daughter, a sister for their first child Archie. They've decided to call her Lilibet Diana; 'Lilibet' as a tribute to the little one's great-grandmother, Queen Elizabeth, who was known in her family by that name as a child, and 'Diana' after her grandmother, who died when her father was still a child himself. Both names are freighted with significance, and tie her in closely to her family history.

Figures in the public eye, like the Royal Family, are often responsible for bringing particular names into favour. There are quite a few Williams and Harrys of a very similar age to the Dukes of Cambridge and Sussex. I remember meeting quite a few Kylies in the 1990s, when the Australian soap 'Neighbours' was at the height of its popularity. I wonder whether in a few months' time vicars will find themselves being asked to baptize a new crop of Lilibets and Dianas?

Names are important, and a lot of thought and care goes into choosing them. When I was expecting my two children, I remember Matt and I spent a

lot of time talking about possibilities – names we liked, and names we didn't! Some names had happy

associations, and others less so. Sometimes (as in Harry and Meghan's case) parents choose a name that connects a child into their family's history. There may be a tradition of

the oldest boy or girl bearing a particular name. Or perhaps the name expresses something about the hopes that parents have for their precious child. Most of the time, I guess parents simply go with names

that they like.

For many people, a baptism (or christening) is seen as the occasion on which a baby 'officially' receives their name – although it's actually more about using that name to welcome a new person into the family of the Church, as our sister or brother in Jesus Christ. Our names mark us out and identify us as unique individuals, each made in the image and likeness of God but gloriously ourselves. We might



**“ Names are important, and a lot of thought and care goes into choosing them. ”**

share our name with one or more people, but that doesn't make us any less special in God's eyes.

Names are important in the Bible too. Sometimes God give people new names. When he chose a couple called Abram and Sarai to be the founders of a family through whom God's blessing would flow to the whole world, he changed their names (Genesis 17). 'Abram' means 'exalted father' – 'Abraham' means 'Father of a multitude. Sarai and Sarah both mean 'Princess', or 'woman of strength' (I love that meaning!); but in Hebrew the second form, Sarah, emphasises that she will be a woman of strength not just for her immediate family, but for the world. Jesus also changed the name of one of his closest friends - from 'Simon' (which means 'listen' or 'hearing') to 'Peter' (which means 'rock'). The change in name showed the part that Peter was going to play as the leader of the disciples. Jesus said: 'On this rock I will build my church' (Matthew 16 verse 18), and Peter was to become the leader of the early Christian Church. Another apparent famous name change is when the zealous Pharisee Saul becomes the apostle Paul. But the story there is somewhat different. Saul/Paul always possessed both names, as was not uncommon in those days. It seems appropriate that when he first appears in the

pages of the Bible, as a Pharisee keen to stamp out a fledgling movement perceived as a threat to the true people of God, he is known by his Hebrew name, Saul. This changes after his eyes had been opened to the amazing thing that God had done through Jesus' life, death and resurrection, and he starts to share the good news with people outside his own faith community. From then on he is referred to by his Roman name, Paul, as he travelled farther and farther into the world of the Gentiles (non-Jews).

When this new parish was created in September 2019, it too was given a new name – the parish of Kildwick, Cononley and Bradley (the three villages in which Anglican churches are located). All three elements of the name are important. All three churches belong to the one parish. Whichever church is your local one, you are part of the same parish – the parish of Kildwick, Cononley and Bradley. You might share your name with another person, but I'm pretty sure there's only one parish of Kildwick, Cononley and Bradley. As I say goodbye to you, I pray that you will celebrate your unique identity, and embrace all that God has in store for this parish.

With every blessing



# Thank you

I would like to say a heartfelt 'Thank you' to everyone for the cards, messages, flowers and gifts that I received as I say goodbye to you all. It was a joy to see so many of you in person at Kildwick for my final Sunday service in the parish on 20th June (a number of people had already let me know that they weren't able to be there and passed on their good wishes). It felt both special and ordinary, in a good way: special because it was my last Sunday service, but ordinary because we were



doing what we do faithfully, week in, week out, worshipping God so that we might grow in Christlikeness. As I said then, there is much about the future that is still unknown and uncertain; our response is to trust God, who is faithful, and able to do more than we can ever ask or imagine. Thank you all for your good wishes as I prepare to take up my new role in the diocese of Sheffield. You remain in my thoughts and prayers.

With every blessing

*Julie*



## Oops...

They do say that a good magazine has something in it for everyone – and some folk love finding mistakes!

Actually, last month's bloomer was a bit more serious than just a typo. We credited part of the Christian Aid generosity to Cononley's Methodist members – but totally failed to recognise the sterling efforts of the Bradley Methodists who contributed a significant proportion of the £1,000+ (with Gift Aid) that Andrew Symonds was able to send to Christian Aid.

It takes us a while - but we get it right in the end!

# This traumatised nation needs open churches

*A recent article in the Church Times caught my eye. Pip Martin is the Vicar of St Aldhelrn's, Branksome, in the diocese of Salisbury and he speaks strongly about the benefits of an open church.*

THIS past year, most church buildings have been closed. At the outset, there were plenty of voices to suggest that this might be no bad thing; that here was a reminder that Christianity resides in people, not in stone.

I recall our Archbishops, in one of several letters to clergy in which advice was couched in imperative if not threatening terms, expressing such a view (News, 27 March 2020). We were being recalled to a supposed better time, before church buildings, when Christians met together simply and faithfully in one another's homes, as we were about to do, albeit via Zoom.

I won't presume to speak about the Early Church, although I believe that sacred places were set apart for Christian worship almost as soon as synagogues were not. Instead, I plead a different lesson to be learned from the past 14 months: let us open the doors of our church buildings whenever and however we can.

Since my ordination in 1984, my ministry had always taken place in parishes where the churches were left unlocked: first, in the (then) mining town of Pontefract, followed by the market town of Wantage and its satellite estate of Charlton, and then in a large but still rural Dorset village. In each of those varied contexts, the open church was a place of prayer, a refuge for those with troubles, a meeting place - and, perhaps most of all, an architectural parable: the open doors a vivid and practical symbol of Christ's arms opened wide for us in life and in death.

My present ministry is exercised in an urban area of Poole, and it was, on arriving in 2017, my first experience of having a church that was locked, except for services or other occasional uses. Opening the doors was the most significant change that I was able to initiate during my first 12 months; its effect has been profound and positive.'

**... but locking the door afterwards felt like a denial of the words ...**

To pray daily in church is the great bonus for a priest who lives close by, but locking the door afterwards felt like a denial of the words of the Angelus with which I concluded.

How can a church's closed doors proclaim that 'the Word dwells among us? Now, leaving the doors open as I leave, my usually solitary morning

prayers are but the overture to the day's quiet symphony of intercession; made by people of all kinds, most of them not regular worshippers, and many perhaps unable to articulate why they come.

Prayer requests, always heartfelt and sometimes deeply moving, are left, now more than ever, and I share these with two reliable, wise souls. We promise to remember all of them each day for a month. Thus, intercession has become a daily work of the church. Most passers-by, as may be expected, do not enter, but still they notice. When asked which is my church and I describe it, people now are as likely to exclaim, "Ah, the one with the 'Open for Prayer' sign!" as they used to with the realisation, "Oh, that place opposite Lidl's, I always wondered what it was."

***Most passers-by do not enter, but still they notice***

Opening the doors has also profoundly affected the congregation. I had noticed, two distinct groups – those who had keys, and those who did not. Now, all have equal access. I attribute to that, and their sense of renewed pride in the building and its benefits for others, both an improved atmosphere when we gather for worship and a much greater willingness to help improve the fabric and the church grounds.

There will, naturally, be worries about theft, rough-sleepers, and vandalism; and, in a very few individuals, a holy place can provoke a macabre or unpleasant response.

Against that, consider the insurance companies' advice that a locked church, in which an intruder is safe from disturbance, is less safe than one that is open and often visited. Note, also, that donations by visitors more than compensate for occasional damage. Making discreet use of CCTV (or placing signs suggestive of it) may help. Have a clear-out of the vestry to make secure space for precious items. Advertise that the church is open, so that both more will visit and the local community to whom you are entrusting the church will rally to help if "their church" is abused.

Some readers will, none the less, consider it impossible to open the churches to which they belong. They may be correct, but all I plead is that opening the doors should be seen as the norm and keeping them locked as a reluctant decision made only after exploring every alternative option.

As England emerges from a period of indescribable trauma and untimely death for so many, our closed buildings convey the message that our parishioners are on their own: God has retreated and may, at best, be encountered via Zoom. Oh, that our church buildings might proclaim a different, more welcoming, inclusive, and hopeful assurance: these doors are open as a sign that Christ's arms are open for you!

## PCC meetings agogo!

We have had two PCC meetings since the Annual Meetings in May, and also a “pre-vacancy meeting” when Archdeacon Andy Jolley and Area Dean Mike Coe were present.

Inevitably, some of the PCC’s discussion and decisions were about the vacancy and the arrangements that need to be put in place. The Churchwardens have overall responsibility for the parish during the vacancy and have agreed to take it in turn to act as Vice Chair of PCC meetings. Geraldine has kept us on track with safeguarding issues, making sure we are taking care of how we engage with both young people and vulnerable adults.

Finance and Fabric matters occupy their allotted place too. We hope the last of Bradley’s stained glass will have been put back in St Mary’s by now and an eagle eye is being kept on the damp patch on the ceiling of St. John’s. St Andrew’s building is the subject of much brain exercise as we try to work out the way forward. There is to be a single issue PCC meeting in July to bring the whole PCC up to speed so that informed decisions can be made.

We need your help to try and trace the Summerscales family whose antecedents have a gravestone in the closed (lower) churchyard close to the Hearse House. The gravestone is dangerously unsteady and decisions will have to be made about what to do with it; if we can find descendants of the family, that would be great.

A lot of work has been done to get Kildwick’s Accounts for 2020 to the point where they can be independently examined, approved by the PCC and then presented to the parish. Watch this space!

Is there anyone out there who would be interested in taking on the role of Environment Officer for the parish? It could be as simple as being the person to whom the Diocesan Office can send useful and interesting information – or it could be as much more as you want to make of it. Contact the Churchwardens or me if you’re interested – you don’t have to be on PCC!

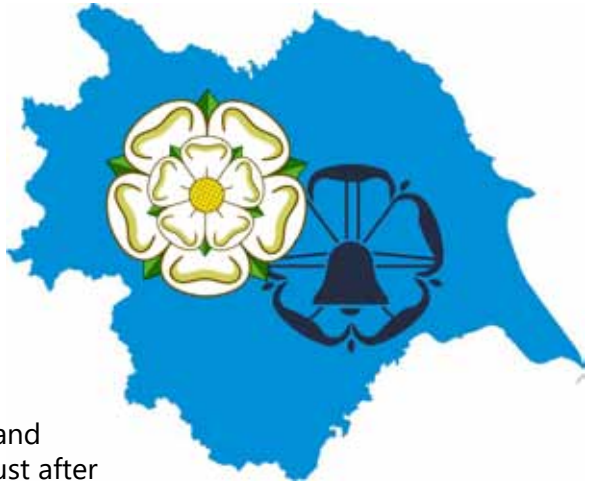
The pre-vacancy meeting was an opportunity first of all for the relatively new Area Dean to meet the PCC. Mike is the Vicar of All Saints in Ilkley. The meeting was both for information giving (Andy and Mike) and for questions about the process (the PCC!). The important task of covering services was spoken about, though a strategy for this is already in development with the Churchwardens, retired clergy and our





# Yorkshire Day

This year, Yorkshire Day (1st August) falls on a Sunday and the Yorkshire Association of Change ringers is arranging Tower Open Days across the region. (I was going to say, "county" - but we cover all of the "counties" of Yorkshire - and probably some more into the bargain!)



Kildwick will be taking part – and the tower will be open from just after the morning service at about noon till 4.00pm.

There will be demonstrations and talks at ground level. The more adventurous can climb the spiral stairs to view our magnificent clock, made by Jonathan Cryer of Bingley in 1709. Further up are the bells themselves though, sadly, the tower top is not accessible. This is a rare chance to see some of the hidden parts of one of the churches in your parish – and to learn a little about what goes on behind that door!

*Chris Wright*



☛ two Readers. We are grateful to them all for their willingness to get stuck in! The process of completing the Parish Profile and the Parish Brochure was explained and advice given about how we might handle Julie's farewell, given the restrictions forced on us by Covid. One major question concerned the provision of a Vicarage; sadly, we are no nearer a purchase, so if you hear of a suitable property in the parish (preferably central), get in touch with a Churchwarden quickly!!

One final piece of good news is that Janet Wade has graciously volunteered to serve as the fourth Churchwarden for the parish. There will be a (brief!) Special Parish Meeting on Tuesday 13th July at 7.00pm formally to elect Janet. We'd encourage you to attend, either via Zoom or on the telephone (details available – contact me) to welcome and encourage Janet as she takes on this role.

*Jill Wright*

# The Garden

It will be 4 years in July since I moved from my home in Farnhill to Eastburn. A new property, a new garden to cultivate.

Yesterday I visited a garden centre and later that day I came across this poem which describes me and my garden perfectly.

The garden centre beckons me  
Whenever I drive past,  
I always think I won't buy much.  
That feeling doesn't last.

I can't resist the colours,  
The scent of flowers in bloom,  
With scant consideration  
Of whether I'll have room.

I get a shock when paying  
For my overloaded trolley,  
And only when I'm driving home  
Reflect upon my folly.

I still have pots galore to plant  
From previous trips I've made.  
I never quite get round to them,  
They're on the bench arrayed.



I know just where to put them all,  
They'll really look sublime,  
But I'll have to weed the border first  
And there's so little time.

I can't wait to see them growing  
In my garden, in the sun,  
But now I'll water all my pots  
And dream of when it's done.

*Sandie.*

# Didn't we have a lovely time the week we went to Snowdon!

*(to paraphrase Steel Eye Span)*

Over the half term week, we enjoyed a wonderful break in Southern Snowdonia; by we I mean Ian (the husband) our daughter Lindsay, her husband and our grandson Eden and last, but not least, our son James. After the past 18 months of only managing to see each other very infrequently it was wonderful to be able to have a good old family get together.

We were well aware that the cottage we had booked was well off the beaten track and that there was limited electric power so no television, Wi-Fi (what bliss, although it was beyond the comprehension of a 6-year-old little boy) and no use of hair dryers or other styling aids (Lindsay and I struggled with that one a bit). The directions for getting there were very clear, and they did say it was off an unmade track, but we were rather taken aback at just how unmade it actually was! Nonetheless we ploughed up the mile and a half track seriously doubting we were on the right path until James said, "Look, there it is."

My son is renowned for his somewhat bizarre sense of humour so when I initially looked, I told him not to be so ridiculous, it's just a dilapidated old barn. Not so, we had arrived! To our relief, on closer inspection, it was of sound construction – if not a little rustic. The inside revealed itself to be, for want of a better term, 'vintage eclectic' or possibly 'shabby chic' but it was comfortable and had all that we needed. The only minor drawback was that the fridge was the size of the type of drinks fridge you get in hotel rooms so this meant daily trips down the bumpy track for supplies; not a problem as we combined it with days out visiting the wonderful countryside, villages and coastal areas in the area.

Each day we explored somewhere new visiting Aberystwyth, Aberdovey and Barmouth to satisfy our grandson's quest for beaches; a craft centre at Corris which had the added attraction of a gin distillery (one for the adults) and a few walks, including a bit of a hike up Cadair Idris – not sure if it was everyone's cup of tea but the dogs loved it – thus satisfying all wishes and needs.

At the end of the week we all agreed it was one of the best holidays we had ever had – the weather helped, only one day of rain, but mainly it was because we had time and that is a rare commodity these days. Time to reflect, time to chat, time to play board games but above all time to appreciate how lucky we are to live in such a diverse and beautiful country. Who needs holidays abroad??

*Eileen Boothman*

God of all who wander in the wilderness,  
you go before us as beacon and guide.  
Lead us through all danger,  
sustain us through all desolation,  
and bring us home to the land  
you have prepared for us. Amen.

Jesus, I want to be like You who obeyed the Father without complaint.  
You embraced the chains of humanity when You walked this earth.  
Convict me whenever I complain or compare myself with others.  
Give me Your attitude of humility and thankful acceptance.  
I want to be like the Apostle Paul who learned contentment  
in every circumstance.  
I choose to continually offer You a sacrifice of praise,  
the fruit of lips that give praise to Your name.  
I long to bring a smile to Your face.  
Teach me the power of a thankful heart.  
I know that Your truth dwells in a thankful heart. Amen

Yours, Lord is the Glory,  
in everything I see,  
a country scene,  
mountain stream,  
sunrise, sunset, rain and snow.  
Yours, Lord is the Glory,  
wherever I might go.

Yours, Lord is the Glory,  
in everything I hear,  
a roaring sea,  
bumblebee,  
laughter, loving, a tender poem.  
Yours, Lord is the Glory,  
wherever I might go.

Yours, Lord is the Glory,  
in everything I feel,  
a special place,  
warm embrace,  
accepted, helped to become whole.  
Amen

## What is a lectionary?

On the opposite page we see a set of readings, laid down by the Anglican church for use each day. We use the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL). It was developed by scholars in the United States and Canada and has been adopted by most liturgically-run churches in the world.

The Lectionary is a three-year cycle of readings, and its readings are rooted in the celebrations and seasons of the church year. The three years are styled Year A, B or C. (We are in Year B until Advent.) The lectionary offers a selection of readings for the different services that may happen on Sundays and feast days and, in following them through, we hear most of the Bible. These Sunday readings focus on the story of Jesus in the gospels. Matthew is read in Year A, Mark in Year B, and Luke in Year C. During all three years, the Gospel of John is read on key feast days and during the season of Easter. In addition to these, a reading from the Old Testament, a psalm, and a New Testament reading that relate to the Gospel are also appointed.

In the second half of the church year (between Pentecost and Advent Sunday) there is yet a further choice! Instead of following these related readings, there is the opportunity for a church to read continuously through some of the books of the Old Testament. Others, (normally including the KCB parish) continue to see how different parts of the Bible relate to each other. For example, the Gospel for the Fifth Sunday in Lent (Year A) tells the story of Jesus raising his friend Lazarus from the dead. That same day, Paul writes to the Romans about raising Christ from the dead and Ezekiel prophesies that God will open the graves and give new life to the whole house of Israel.

The readings shown in the Pinnacle are taken, largely from the Lectionary. While they will generally be the readings you will hear on a Sunday in our churches, variations will happen. If you are down to read, better to look at the list you've been given! And, of course, the services of morning and evening prayer will have readings that are quite different.



***When asked for something  
for the magazine,  
someone wrote:***

I can't think  
My brain is numb  
Bad ink  
A scratchy pen  
I've finished  
Amen

## Service Times

	<i>Kildwick</i>	<i>Cononley</i>	<i>Bradley</i>
First Sunday	11.00am	11.00am	9.30am
Second Sunday	9.30am	11.00am	9.30am
Third Sunday	11.00am	11.00am	9.30am
Fourth Sunday	11.00am	11.00am	9.30am

*Most services are Communion or "Eucharist". Those in blue are Morning Worship, normally led by a lay member of the congregation. The joint service with the Cononley Methodists is marked in green.*

Now that we are in a vacancy (we heard last Sunday that we're not to call it an "interregnum"!), we'll be relying on visiting priests to lead our Eucharistic services. During July (and into August, I gather), we are delighted to welcome Stephen Treasure, who has been a very good friend to some of us for many years. A treat awaits!

### ***Readings for July and August***

*Taken, mainly, from Common Worship Lectionary, "Related" readings*

4th July	5th Sunday after Trinity	Ezekiel 2.1-5 Mark 6. 1-13
11th July	6th Sunday after Trinity	Amos 7. 7-15 Mark 6. 14-29
18th July	7th Sunday after Trinity	Jeremiah 23.1-6 Mark 6.30-34,53-56
25th July	8th Sunday after Trinity	Jeremiah 45. 1-5 Matthew 20. 20-28
1st August	9th Sunday after Trinity	<i>2 Samuel 11.26 – 12.13a</i> Ephesians 4.1-16 John 6.24-35
8th August	10th Sunday after Trinity	<i>2 Samuel 18.5 – 8, 15, 31 – 33</i> Ephesians 4.25 – 5.2 John 6.35,41-51
15th August	11th Sunday after Trinity	Proverbs 9.1-6 Ephesians 5.15-20 John 6.51-58
22nd August	12th Sunday after Trinity	Joshua 24.1-2a,14-18 Ephesians 6.10-20 John 6.56-69
29th August	13th Sunday after Trinity	Deuteronomy 4.1-2,6-9 James 1.17-27 Mark 7.1-8,14,15,21-23

## Praise God – Chuffs is alive and kicking!!



We had a wonderful socially distanced picnic on the church green at St. Andrew's. It was the first time we had met together since the pandemic arrived and we had to stop our Tuesday mornings in the Parish Rooms.

On a fine June Tuesday 11 children and their "wrinklies" were delighted to be able to gather together. The children had all grown so much (may be one or two of the adults had too!)



We played with bubbles and balls and the adults were quite exhausted manipulating the parachute so the children could run underneath it!!

It was so encouraging to see that our group had survived lockdown. We kept in touch for months on WhatsApp,

celebrating birthdays, Christmas and Easter and sharing all the children's and adults' news.

We are planning another picnic next month and then all being well we will start again at the beginning of term in September.







Monday 5th July marks a day when the nation says “thank you” to all of the frontline workers who have seen us through these challenging months – and who may face further calls in the months ahead.

There will be a variety of events arranged nationally throughout the day which is being masterminded by Pageantmaster Bruno Peek, who has arranged a number of national events, such as Armistice Day and the Flotilla for the Queen’s Golden Jubilee.

At 10.00 am the Rainbow Flag will be raised across the country before the 11.00 am Two Minute Silence and the playing of the Last Post and Reveille.

During this time (or, indeed, at any other time of the day) you can write a “thank you” note on a card in St Andrew’s church porch and hang it on the gates.

At 1.00pm the Nation’s Toast to the Heroes of the NHS and Frontline Workers will be proposed. This can be done by any Covid-secure group and is led by people on the four highest peaks in the UK - Snowdon in Wales; Scafell Pike in England; Ben Nevis in Scotland and Slieve Donald in Northern Ireland. At that moment garden parties at home and in streets and pubs can take place with obvious Covid precautions.

Garden parties will merge, perhaps seamlessly into Afternoon Tea with the Women’s Institutes at 4.00pm. It may be that Cononley WI are arranging something for this.

The day closes at 8.00pm with the traditional clapping on the street – and the ringing of church bells. We hope that the Kildwick bells will be making a loud contribution to this event.

Please think about what you can do to join this “thank you” to all those who, sometimes at considerable risk to themselves, have worked so hard to keep us safe and well.

# Cononley WI



Hello Everyone

The sun shone for us in May when we held our picnic on the Sports Field. We tucked into our lunch, had a chat and everyone enjoyed being together again. The next event is the President's afternoon tea. This is going to be held on the 24th June on the Sports Field and we are keeping our fingers crossed for nice weather.

Our July meeting is planned to be yet another picnic on the Sports Field. Stay safe and well.

*Pauline Link - President  
WI Cononley*



## Castaway's Choices

### **Title**

Handel's 'Messiah'  
J'Attendrai  
Eileen Ogh  
Rock around the Clock  
Fever  
Blue Saxophones  
Jeff Wayne's 'War of the Worlds'  
Haydn's 'Trumpet Concerto'

### **Artist**

Harry Christophers and The Sixteen  
Jean Sablon  
Barbara Mullen  
Bill Haley and the Comets  
Peggy Lee  
Ben Webster/Coleman Hawkins  
Richard Burton (Narrator)  
Wynton Marsalis

### **Book Choice**

A Poem for Every Day of the Year    Allie Esiri (Editor)

These choices are based on the desire to hear the human voice plus some revived memories of past episodes in my life. I found it very difficult to limit myself to 8 pieces out of the masses of good and entertaining music available.

*Alan Ratledge  
March 2021*

# Which Way Up?

**Controversy rages (in this household, at least) whether the jam goes on first – or the cream.\***



You have an unparalleled opportunity to find out!

Cream Teas will be served in aid of  **Jigsaw UK** on the afternoon of **Saturday 21st August** in the **Parish Rooms at Kildwick**

Come at **2.30pm** (when it starts) till **4.30pm**  
and you can experiment all afternoon:

- First Cream Tea . . . . . Jam first
- Second Cream Tea: . . . . Cream first
- Third Cream Tea . . . . . Jam on left, Cream on right
- Fourth Cream Tea. . . . . anybody's guess!

Beside the Cream Tea, there'll be a cake stall and a raffle!

Plans, of course, will have to go on hold if Covid restrictions are not lifted

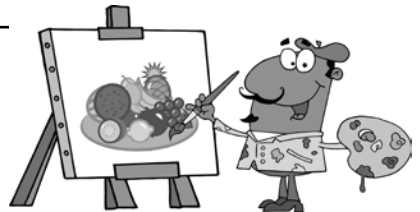
*\* Actually, I don't really care a great deal  
– just provided there's plenty of jam and lashings of cream!*



## Cononley Art Group

At present we are continuing to meet at my house until we hear from Boris what we are allowed to do but we hope to return to the Institute either in June or July.

Please watch the art group WhatsApp for further information.



## Some Unringable Bells

Back in May, we welcomed the Yorkshire Tykes to Kildwick. The Tykes are Yorkshire's youth ringers - no one over 18 can be a Tyke! Their big event is the annual National Youth Striking Contest (to be held this year in Worcester, Covid permitting) and they meet each month in different towers. Kildwick was their first for many months! One of the things that they did was to ring our handbells. As much as possible. They were awful!

The problem was that all the leather work was well past its sell-by date and the handles were floppy and the leather pegs in the clappers worn out.

I heard from a handbell restorer that, provided all was well, they would cost £50 apiece to restore to proper ringing condition. Eight bells @£50 adds up to exactly the £400 award that we won in the March Association of Ringing Teachers Youth Award so, with permission from the PCC, they've gone down to Kent.



Edward Woodward has written to say:

Hello Chris

Thought you might be interested in progress thus far. The bells are all stripped as you can see. I have machined brass inserts for most of the argents to ensure the handle rivets are a tight fit. I will need to make a new staple for the Tenor as the original thread had stripped - I think someone had attempted to glue/Loctite it at some point.

All the new straps and caps are cut ready for marking etc. Otherwise, the condition is much as I expected - nothing too bad!

Many thanks

Edward.

(The "argent" is the wedge-shaped tang on the top of the bell)

The bells themselves are from at least two foundries, many of them dating from between 1814 and 1840. But that's a different story - perhaps you'll get to read it one day!

*Chris Wright*

## Churchyard Matters

Behind St John's Church in Cononley sits a large oil tank. A while back, thieves broke in and stole the heating oil – and broke the lid (a large screw cap). To replace it, I bought a new cap that needed two locking tabs to be screwed into the top of the tank. Fitting Tab 1 went well, but an inadvertent twitch sent the other one, tumbling to the depths inside the outer casing (called a "bund") and outside the oil tank proper. There is no way to retrieve it so, though there's a lid, locked on, it still needs attention.

In Kildwick, we have a "Closed Churchyard" which means that Craven District Council takes responsibility. On the whole, this doesn't mean that they do a great deal apart from cutting grass at rather infrequent intervals. But it does mean that they can tell us to do things!

One gravestone is causing concern. It is large (some 5ft high) and it has become detached from its foundations so we need to do something about it.

The inscription reads: *"In loving memory of William Summerscales of Steeton who died Dec 8th 1902 aged 63 years. Also Mary Ann, his widow who died Oct 24th 1906 aged 64 years*

*Also Maggie their daughter who died June 21st 1896 aged 24 years Also 3 children who died in infancy"*



Clearly there are not likely to be direct descendents - but does anybody know anything about this family? Someone clearly cared enough to erect an impressive memorial.

**If you can help to identify them, do let us know!**

While talking of graves; did you know we have five War Graves in the churchyard? There's a new leaflet out that maps where they are and includes a short biography of each of those remembered.

## Birds and Birdbaths



*As part of a rearrangement of our garden, we recently moved the birdbath further away from the house, and lo' and behold it's now become a go-to location: whether because it's away from the house or because it has better sightlines I don't know....*

Birds don't have sweat glands, but they do lose water by breathing and via droppings, so many small birds need to drink at least twice a day if they are primarily seed eaters. Insectivores will get most of the water they need from their food.

Typical sources are puddles, pond or stream edges and droplets forming on leaves, whilst swifts and swallows scoop water from the surface of waterbodies in flight – quite an impressive sight, though I did once see a (presumably) juvenile bird get it a bit wrong and create quite a splash! A beak is not an ideal implement to drink with, and birds need to dip their beaks into the water and then throw their heads back to make it run into their gullets. The exceptions here are pigeons/doves which can dip their beaks and drink continuously.

However, drinking is not the only reason birds need water. It is important for their general hygiene, being used for feather maintenance, where it loosens dirt making it easier to remove by subsequent preening.

Once in the water, the bird fluffs its feathers to expose its skin, rolls back and forth whilst dipping its head into the water, and creates a shower by flicking its wings. Once finished, it shakes off the excess water and chooses somewhere to dry and preen. Even a fair-sized birdbath soon gets emptied, and some birds will splash around for several minutes.

During preening a bird gently strokes or nibbles along the barbs of each feather, starting at the quill and working towards the tip, so that they are properly arranged.

In addition, most have an oil-secreting gland, called the preen gland (or uropygial gland) underneath their tail (the parson's nose on a chicken). The bird rubs its bill against the gland and then spreads the oil over the surface of its feathers keeping them flexible and aiding waterproofing, whilst also reducing bacteria and fungi numbers.

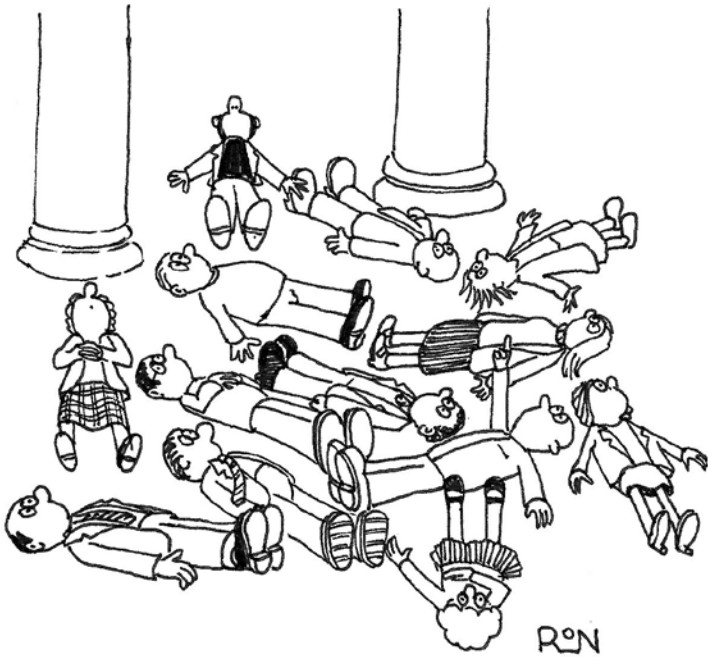
All these comings and goings bring a fair bit of dirt into the bath, and many birds poo into or next to the bath as well. Consequently, regular cleaning and topping up will be needed. Give the bath a good scrub with a stiff brush, using detergent if needs be followed by a thorough rinse with clean water. Occasional disinfection is also important, using a product designed for use with birds: again rinse thoroughly afterwards. Tap water is perfectly OK for refilling, though I prefer to use water from our butt, but whichever you use, top it up regularly.

So far as a bath is concerned, aesthetics is a people concern, birds are not fussy. What they do need is a vessel with sloping sides to give easy access and a choice of depth, no more than 5.0 cms (2") deep. If you don't want to buy one, plant saucers, dustbin lids and so forth will do the job. If partially buried, they can be camouflaged, though if it has a significant rim, a ramp to allow small animals to escape is a good idea, or you could raise it off the ground using bricks or stones. A stone placed in the middle will make a handy perch that is easy to remove for cleaning. Shiny plastic vessels are not ideal, as birds cannot get a firm footing and may be discouraged

Next comes positioning, as I found out. A clear 360° view is important, and some nearby cover for escaping any marauding raptors and then perching to preen is handy too. Think about cats as well; if the bath is low down, make sure there are no easy hiding places for them. If it is too close to the house, movement indoors could also scare them away. Should you live in a flat or have no garden don't despair, try a (securely!) suspended bath away from the windows – heavy enough not to sway in a breeze, and well enough fixed not to endanger anyone below.

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](http://www.bto.org/gbw)). If you know of an organisation no more than 30 miles from York which would like a talk on garden birds call: Mike Gray ([gbwmike@gmail.com](mailto:gbwmike@gmail.com).)

# The Back Page



*The cathedral roof was a  
masterpiece of medieval masonry*

## **Deadlines**

The production team relaxes during the summer... Our next edition is due on the 1st September so the deadline for this copy is

**Wednesday 25th August**

*Going on holiday? Bring us back a photo – or write down some  
“thoughts from the beach” (or similar!)*

## **Photos**

This month, our front page photo comes from the camera of bell ringer Theresa Clark – and the Prayer Page photo shows a sunset over Minchinhampton in the Cotswolds.

