

A BRIEF HISTORY

There has probably been a place of worship here since the birth of Christianity in Yorkshire.

At Kildwick, nature and geography combine to make an important place where roads converge on a crossing point over the river. Here 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 possibly 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.

Some time between 1135 and 1140 Cecily de Rumily granted the church to the Priory at Embsay, beginning a monastic connection which lasted till the 1539 dissolution of Bolton Priory by Henry VIII.

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 can see today may follow this period.

In the early 16th century, the huge East End was added, making this into the “Lang Kirk of Craven”. As to why they built it... 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 re-siting of pews and roof repairs.

TIME TO PRAY

This is a house of prayer and worship. All are welcome to attend services or spend time quietly in prayer. There are candle stands in the Holy Spirit Chapel. Prayers left here are offered to God silently during the midweek Eucharist.

VISITOR FACILITIES

Unfortunately we do not have any facilities in the church building. The closest facilities can be found in the café to the west of the church, or in the pub at the bottom of the steps to the south.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography for personal use is permitted in the Church. Please note photography is not allowed at times of worship.

CAFÉ

Our friends at Coffee and Crumbs, located in our Parish Rooms to the west of the church, offer a range of drinks, cakes, and delicious hot and cold light meals. Benches are also available around the church grounds for you to enjoy.

SUPPORT US

Your donation today will help us to preserve the Lang Kirk of Craven for tomorrow, please give generously. Near the main door there is a place to leave a gift in cash or by card.

UK tax payers, please use the Gift Aid envelopes by the donation boxes.

You can use the QR code here if that is easier.



Priest Bank Road, Kildwick. BD20 9BB
W. www.kcb.church



The Parish of
Kildwick, Cononley
& Bradley

St Andrew's Kildwick Visitor Guide



The Lang Kirk of Craven

Welcome to St Andrew's Kildwick, known as The Lang Kirk of Craven. For more than a thousand years there has been a church here, the oldest parts of the current building date back to the 11th or 12th century. This vibrant place of worship is open to all, whether you come to pray, learn, or enjoy the rich heritage of this iconic place.

1 THE OLDEST PART OF THE BUILDING

In the 11th & 12th century, the "dog tooth" carving at the base of this pillar was once at the top of a Norman pillar.

2 THE 15th CENTURY FONT

The font is near the entrance to the church, symbolising the moment of "arrival" as a new Christian is baptised. This font bears emblems of the crucifixion.

3 THE ROBERT DE STYVETON EFFIGY

This effigy shows Knight Templar Robert de Styveton, who died in 1307, but in 1350's armour. It was probably put in place by his grandson who some believe may have built the west end of the church we have today.

4 THE STYVETON WINDOW

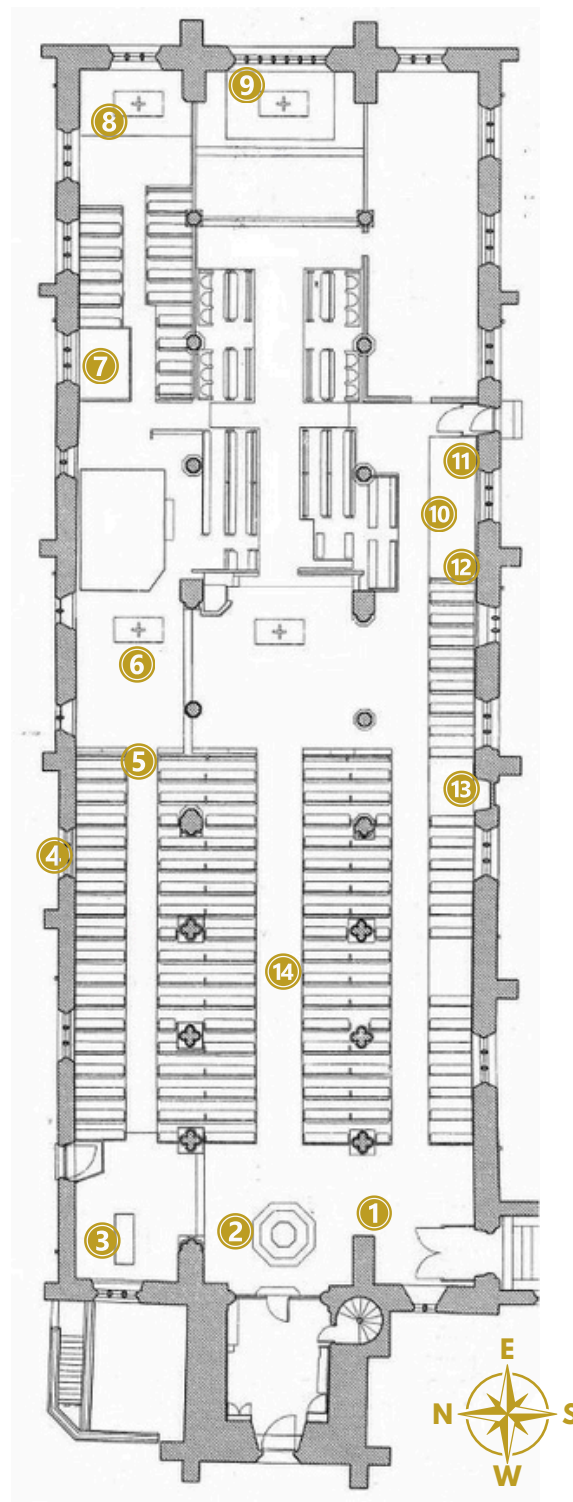
This window marks the original site of the effigy, between the two pillars.

5 CROSS-SLAB STONE

These stones, marked with a cross, usually mark the grave of a senior cleric, but we don't know who. It probably dates from the 15th or 16th century.

6 THE HOLY SPIRIT CHAPEL

This is a place for you to sit, pray, and light a candle as you wander round.



7 THE ELTOFT PEW

This is the last box pew in the church, dating from 1633. The EE carved in the door refers to Edmund Eltoft, whose family were Lords of the Manors of Farnhill, Kildwick & Oxenhope in the 14th century.

8 THE LADY CHAPEL

This chapel houses our oldest altar top. Found in the floor behind the high altar during the rebuild of the chancel in 1901-3, this altar dates back at least 6-700 years.

9 THE EAST WINDOW

This window shows, (from L to R), St Peter, St Matthew, St Mark, Jesus, St Luke, St John, & St Andrew. It was installed in 1854 in memory of William & Maria Wainman's children, Rosamond, Richard, & Alvery who all died before their 9th birthdays.

10 THE PARISH CHEST

Made from a single oak log and secured with three locks, it could only be opened by the vicar and both wardens together. It held church records, silverware and alms.

11 VIKING STONE CROSSES

These fragments of stone crosses are dated back to around 950ad. The stone to the front left as you are looking at the stones is believed to show Jesus feeding the 5000 with loaves and fishes.

12 THE PISCINA

This is a "sink" for cleaning the chalice and paten after a communion service.

13 AN OLD DOORWAY

This was probably the priest's door for the original, unextended, 14th century church. The lintel has a St Andrew's Cross, (Saltire), carved on the underneath.

14 FIRST 3 PILLARS

The first 3 pillars are rounded, with the fourth rounded off. This probably signifies the extent of the 14th century building.