



The Pinnacle



VOL. 2 NO. 7

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THE MAGAZINE FOR THE PARISH OF KILDWICK, CONONLEY & BRADLEY

LENT/EASTER 2025

LENT BOOKS

SEVEN DEADLY SINS



SLOTH



GREED



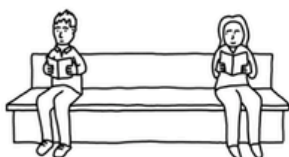
ENVY



GLUTTONY



PRIDE



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WRATH

"By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have LOVE for one another"

JOHN 13.35

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PUZZLE ANSWERS FROM THE WINTER EDITION

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If you would like to write an article for the next magazine, please email it to magazine@kcb.church before 7th April 2025

Sign up to Rev'd Mike's weekly email newsletter for more church news at www.kcb.church/newsletter

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A Letter From The Vicar



In the Nicene Creed we say *'We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.'*

In the gospel accounts of the resurrection there is a lot of looking and seeing. Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Salome went early to the tomb.

They saw the stone rolled aside and inside the tomb a young man dressed in white said to them: *'Don't be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here.* (Mark 16: 6).

Like the women we would probably have been left *'trembling and bewildered'* by what we saw that morning. Had the body been taken? Was the young man an angel or deceiver? Was Jesus raised to life again, or was this an elaborate hoax?

Easter gives us a choice. We can approach life looking for disappointment, fear and despair.

Or we look for resurrection and find not just an empty tomb, but encounter the living Christ. He continues to meet us in our daily lives bringing new hope, forgiveness of sin, healing and wholeness and the assurance of his presence through the darkest of times.

God invites us to see our lives differently and look for Christ's resurrection life, at work in our lives and in the people around us.

With my love and prayers,

Revd Mike



The three women on the tomb of Christ, painting by Irma Martin.

Should the Churches agree on a common date for Easter?

That is the question for the leaders of the Roman Catholic and the Eastern Orthodox Churches, as this year (2025) marks the 1700th anniversary of the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea.

Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople believes that 2025 is a 'golden opportunity' for Catholic and Orthodox believers to finally agree on a joint date for Easter, because this year also brings a 'fortunate alignment' of the Easter dates of both churches.

"It is indeed regrettable that 1700 years later, we are still debating this issue," he says.

(continued on page 13)

Eco Church highlights of 2024

Climate Change: Can the church help?



As we look back over 2024, we are humbled and grateful to God for all He has done this year across the Eco Church community. We want to say a huge thank you to all the churches taking action through Eco Church to care for creation. Join us in reflecting on some of the highlights we are celebrating this year:

- There are now **8,000 churches** registered with the Eco Church programme – that's nearly **20% of churches across England and Wales!**
- We have seen a **huge growth in churches deepening their engagement** with creation care this year. Over half of the churches registered with Eco Church have now achieved an award – that's over **4,100 Eco Church awards**, all markers of

churches taking practical action to care for creation. We also hit some new milestones in 2024 with 1000 churches achieving a silver award, and 50 churches reaching gold in the summer.

- Half a year on, we're now celebrating 65 churches achieving a gold award, 1,300 Silver Eco Churches, as well as over 2,750 Bronze Eco Churches! We are so encouraged by the progress of many more churches continuing through the award levels, because of all that the awards represent in practice: churches going deeper on their Eco Church journeys, having even more impact for creation.
- We're also encouraged to have new churches joining us all the time and starting their journey – and for all

the work that is happening regionally and ecumenically as churches support each other to get started and spur each other on.

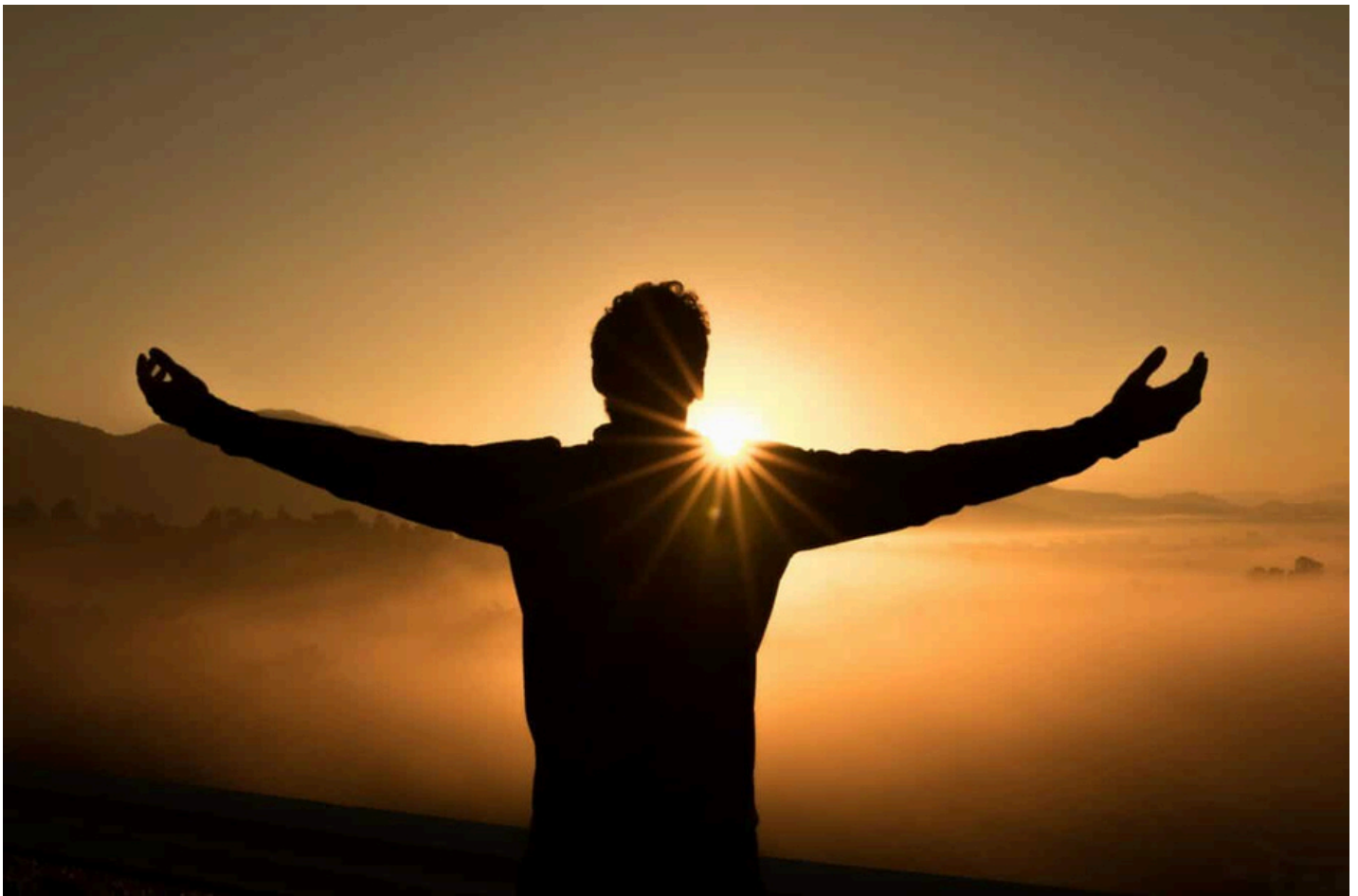
- In June, communities across the UK united to **celebrate Churches Count on Nature** with nearly 300 events taking place. Participants contributed by visiting their local churchyards to record the wildlife they encountered, from wildflowers to insects, birds, and mammals. Find out more about the wild discoveries made in churchyards and cemeteries through Churches Count on Nature.
- Another significant milestone this year was the **refresh of the Eco Church survey**, the framework for action at the heart of the programme. We have worked with churches in the Eco Church community, and key organisations, to refresh the survey questions so that by completing the Eco Church survey, churches **efforts**

- **will have an even greater impact for climate and nature.**
- We'll be doing a **bigger launch of the new survey in early 2025**, with opportunities to connect online and bring the community together, including training sessions, further resources and more! In the meantime, if you'd like a summary of the new resources available for the refreshed survey, see our 'One-stop-shop' article and explore our new Eco Church survey summary page for the questions and overviews of each survey

- Finally, we also brought the **Eco Church community together to pray** for the work happening in churches, as well as environmental issues nationally and globally, at our Eco Church Prayer Forums. These are a great opportunity to connect with others, and if you haven't yet made it to one of our online prayer gatherings, **we'd love to encourage you to join us - starting on 13 February** and **look out for more dates for 2025** on our events page, accessed at: <https://arocha.org.uk/events>

As we look ahead to 2025, we want to say a **huge thank you** for being part of the Eco Church community, and all you are doing to care for creation. We have some exciting plans for 2025 and look forward with hope and expectation for all that God continues to do through His Church.

The Eco Church team
Helen, Sara, Lissy, Delyth, Polly
and Karen
<https://arocha.org.uk>



Sustaining Livelihoods in Bethlehem

The charity 'Embrace the Middle East' is funding a new project in Bethlehem to provide much-needed new employment opportunities and support six Christian business and NGOs that provide important services to the community.

The past year has been exceptionally difficult for Palestinians living in the West Bank. As well as a security crisis caused by increased settler violence and military raids, they are facing a severe economic crisis which is impacting individuals, families and organisations.

More than one-third of the total employment of the West Bank was lost overnight, when the Israeli authorities imposed an immediate closure of the check points and revoked all Palestinian labour permits

following the events of October 7th. Without permits to work in Israel, approximately 306,000 Palestinians lost their jobs.

Since then, the economic crisis has deepened. Movement restrictions and heightened insecurity has made travel around the West Bank increasingly dangerous. Workers are unable to reach their workplaces and the movement of goods and provision of services is severely disrupted.

Israel has also withheld tax revenues from the Palestinian Authority, meaning civil servants, including healthcare workers and public-school teachers, are not receiving their full salaries.

While the whole of the West Bank has been affected by the



Bethlehem's streets are empty of tourists.

war, Bethlehem has been hit particularly hard because of its reliance on tourism. Bethlehem typically attracts up to 1.5 million tourists annually. The closure of the West Bank and the ongoing war in Gaza has brought tourism to a standstill.

The economic crisis is a threat to individuals, families and organisations. Families are struggling with a lack of income and are increasingly unable to pay for basic needs, including education and healthcare.

This, in turn, is putting pressure on schools and healthcare institutions that rely on these payments to operate. With decreased income businesses and NGOs have been forced to lay off workers, halting



Many of Bethlehem's shops and craft businesses rely on the tourist trade.

production and services and leaving both owners and employees in a precarious financial position.

The economy has been caught in this downward spiral for nearly a year now, creating a vicious cycle of unemployment and financial instability for Palestinian households.

In response to this crisis, the new project run by our partner, Pontifical Mission for Palestine, will support six Christian organisations (a mix of businesses and NGOs) which are in danger of closing or of needing to reduce the services they offer. The project will give them funding to take on the

new staff they need to continue serving their community, even in this time of economic crisis. The funding will cover the salaries of 15 new staff for an initial period of six months.

In turn, this will provide much-needed employment for the 15 young people, all of whom are between the ages of 22 and 35 and have young families or dependants that rely on their earnings. All lost their jobs over the past year due to cuts made by local businesses and institutions because of the economic crisis.

The project will guarantee employment and income for these individuals for a period of

six months with the hope that the organisations will be able to continue employing them beyond this period. Although in the grand scheme of things this intervention is small it will have a significant impact for these individuals and their families. By providing them with needed financial support it will help them not only meet their basic needs but also give them increased spending power to support other local businesses and families, supporting the wider economy in turn.



My Favourite Bible Verse is

By Sandie Walton

St. John, Chapter 14, verse 27.



"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

Peace is something that most of us want but often actually struggle to find. God promises it to "All" throughout the Bible. It does not eradicate my worries or anxieties but gives

me the ability to endure with strong confidence that God will see me through, once I set time aside to really have a conversation with him. Jesus gives me an inner peace that pushes through all the disturbing circumstances that life throws at me. It gives me the ability to be calm and an inner confidence knowing God

will come through in this situation, and will remove my fear and worry and replaces it with peace.

With the problems in the world, economic, social, wars etc I am sure you would agree that right now peace is what we need in our hearts.



From the registers in the last 3 months



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Quick Sudoku

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Answers next time.

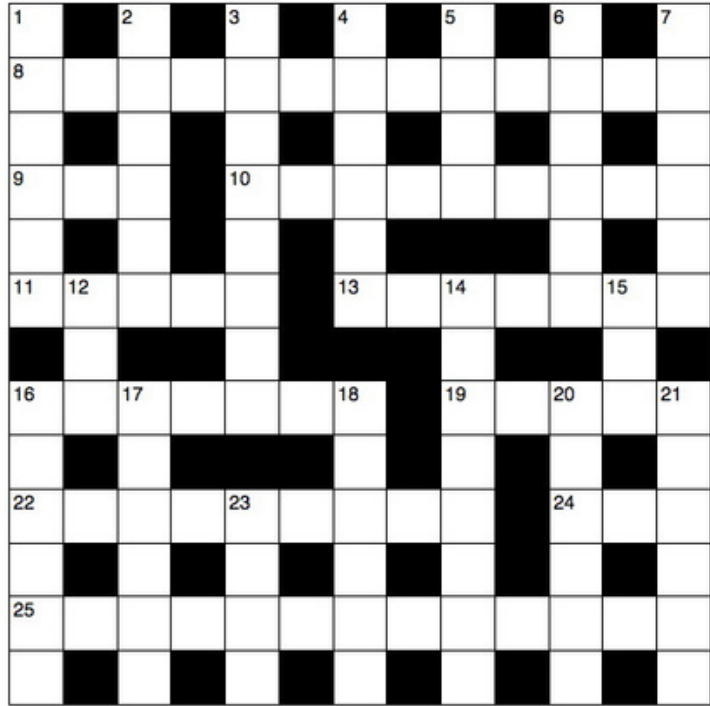
Crossword

Across

- 8 Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8)
 9 'Burn it in a wood fire on the — heap' (Leviticus 4:12) (3)
 10 Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9)
 11 Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2)
 13 Clay pit (anag.) (7)
 16 Went to (John 4:46) (7)
 19 'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to — your bodies as living sacrifices' (Romans 12:1) (5)
 22 David's plea to God concerning those referred to in 14 Down: 'On — — let them escape' (Psalm 56:7) (2,7)
 24 Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1)
 25 How the book of Ezekiel refers to God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)

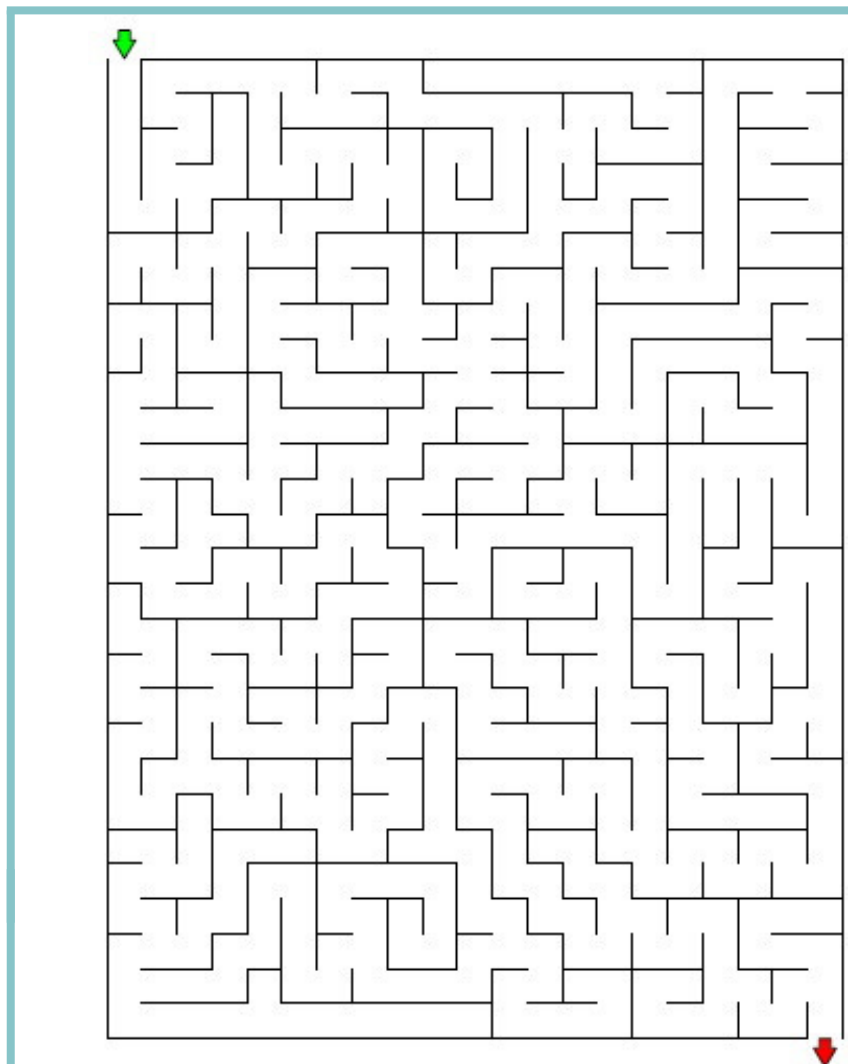
Down

- 1 Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)
 2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) (6)
 3 Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)
 4 'Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but — him as if he were your father' (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)
 5 One of Esau's grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)
 6 Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)
 7 God's instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: ' — salt to — your offerings' (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3)
 12 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)
 14 'All day long they twist my words; they are always — to harm me' (Psalm 56:5) (8)
 15 The crowd's reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow's son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3)
 16 Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)
 17 How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)



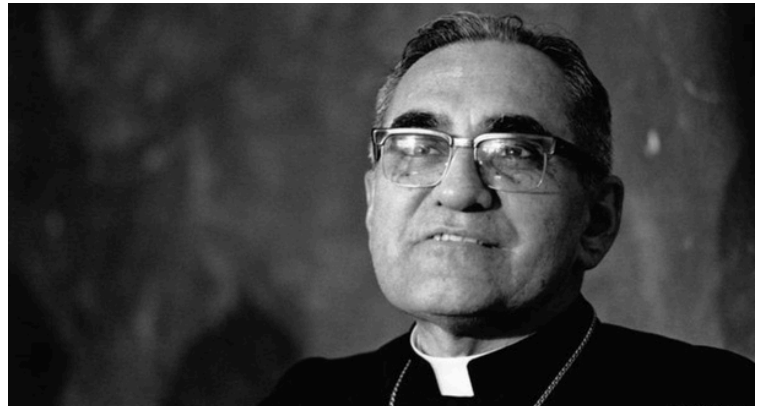
- 18 What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2)
 20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)

- 21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to — (Genesis 8:5) (6)
 23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases (Luke 9:1) (4)



March 24th - Oscar Romero

Oscar Romero was a bit of a modern Thomas Becket – loyal to the authorities until he was given great responsibility for the Church. Then, like Becket, there was trouble.



In Romero's case, it all began when he was born Ciudad Barrios in El Salvador back in 1917. Devout from a young age, he was ordained in 1942, and became a parish priest in the diocese of San Miguel.

For 25 years Romero worked hard in his parish, where he was a traditional priest, very conservative, ascetic, and devoted to the Virgin Mary. In 1967 he was appointed Secretary to the Episcopal Conference of El Salvador. He was elevated to be Bishop of San Salvador and then Bishop of Santiago de Maria. An admirer of the conservative Opus Dei movement, Romero firmly opposed any liberation theology.

Then in 1977 Oscar Romero was appointed Archbishop of San Salvador. The Salvadorian government saw him as a safe pair of hands for the job.

But they were in for a shock. For Romero's new responsibilities made him look afresh at the relationship between Church and State in El Salvador. He did not like what he saw. Romero saw that social unrest and poverty were the direct result of government repression, and even worse, that the Church played its part in the on-going violence of Salvadorian society. After the murder of several outspoken priests and then the expulsion of several allegedly Marxist Jesuits, Romero felt compelled to speak out.

The right-wing Latin American governments were well used to priests who worked with the poor speaking out against them. But this was the first time that an Archbishop had raised his voice, and they were furious.

But Romero became a champion of liberation theology. He condemned government violence and championed the right of the poor to economic and social justice. He even wrote a pastoral letter from the Salvadorian bishops, supporting proportionate counter-violence towards the oppressive right-wing regime. When, nonetheless, he also still tried to act as a mediator between the rival groups, he was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

For several years Romero received death threats from both left- and right-wing paramilitary groups. Finally, while celebrating Mass, he was shot through the heart by a government assassin. It was 24th March 1980, and 40 more people died in the gunfire and explosions at his funeral. The Church worldwide mourned for him.

Bradford Royal Infirmary gets a Christmas visit from Bishop Toby

The Right Reverend Toby Howarth, Bishop of Bradford has paid a Christmas visit to Bradford Royal Infirmary, where he met with Professor Mel Pickup, the trust's chief executive, and toured the hospital, including the neonatal and intensive care units.

The neonatal unit was recently rated 'Outstanding' by the Care Quality Commission.

Professor Pickup said: "It was lovely that Bishop Toby took time out of his busy schedule to



come and meet our colleagues and show his support for the trust and all it does.

"I know people really appreciated his visit and interest in what they do and enjoyed giving him a window on their world."

Bishop Toby also met members of the hospital's Spiritual and Pastoral and Religious Care (SPaRC) team including Church of England Practitioner Rev, Steve Lees, and Head of SPaRC and Imam, Mohammed Arshad. His visit ended at the hospital chapel, where he joined staff for a Christmas carol service.

Parish Prayer Loops

A group of people within the parish pray regularly for all those in need.

If you have a need for prayer, please contact one of:

Rev'd Mike

June

Janet

Sandie

Anne

Sue

Contact details for Mike, Janet & Sandie are on the inside front cover. Those for June, Anne &

Sue are on posters inside each of our churches.

Your prayer request will remain confidential.

You will discuss the content of your request with your chosen contact and decide what details to share.

Your request will then be passed around the twelve people on the loops who will then pray each morning for a week.

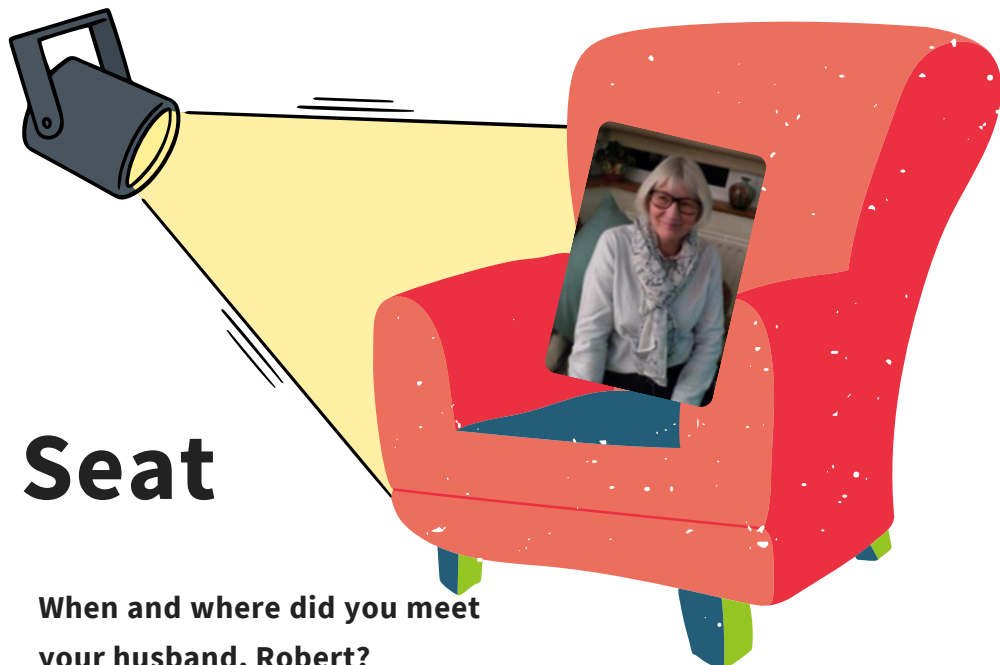
Your request will not be discussed, it will simply be passed around the loops and never shared with people not on the prayer loop.

If your need continues or changes, then a new prayer can simply follow around the loop.

If your request is for someone you know, please ensure you have their permission before contacting someone on the loop to ask for prayer.



JANE HALL



In The Hot Seat

Jane normally worships with us at St Mary's Bradley, is a member of the PCC and is a governor at Kildwick CofE school.

Where were you born and where did you grow up?

I was born the eldest of two daughters in Ashton-Under-Lyne Lancashire. Between the age of 2 and 4 we lived in Baghdad as my father was in the Foreign Office at that time. When we returned to England, my father joined the family business in Denton, near Manchester.

When did you become a Christian?

I became a Christian when I joined our local church choir in the early 70's

Where did you go to study and what did you study?

I went to Padgate College, near Warrington to study primary education, specialising in English, History and

When and where did you meet your husband, Robert?

I met Robert when we were both in the 6th form at Ashton Grammar School; he was in the year above me. We used to catch the bus together and eventually he asked me out as he was leaving for university. We married in 1983, after Robert finished his final law exams, and moved to Trawden, near Colne.

What was your occupation prior to retirement?

After a short spell teaching in a secondary school in Knowsley, I joined the Civil Service in 1982. I worked in Bury for a number of years until our eldest son, James, started school and I returned to teaching after taking a refresher course. I taught in Lancashire for 5 years until we moved to Bradley in 1998 and I worked at Bradley School, initially part-time, then full-time until I fully retired last summer.

Do you have a favourite verse of Scripture? If so, what is it?

1 Corinthians 13 v4~8 Love is patient...

Do you like music of any kind?

I enjoy listening to Classical Music, especially Bach's 'Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring' and Mozart's 'Requiem', although I enjoy more modern genres too.

Do you have a favourite meal?

Beef Stroganoff followed by fig Pannacotta

Do you have favourite parts of the world?

Madiera, The Italian Lakes, The Lake District (especially Borrowdale) and of course, The Yorkshire Dales

Do you have any pets?

We have a Jack Russell cross called Pip. He is our second rescue dog and is a much-loved part of the family.

C of E sees third year of growth

What luxury would I take to a desert island?

A Bible, copy of The Lord of the Rings, a warm blanket for cold nights, family photographs and paper and pencils-preferably not be there at all!

Which one word describes your life right now?

Optimistic.

Get in touch with us to be the next person in the Hot Seat.

magazine@kcb.church

Attendance at Christmas services leapt by 20 per cent in 2023, and the number of worshippers at Easter was up 8.6 per cent, as Church of England congregations experienced a third year of growth, the latest statistics show.

The number of regular worshippers edged above a million in 2023 for the first time since the Covid-19 pandemic, according to the Statistics for Mission 2023 report.

The Church of England's overall 'worshipping community' rose to 1,007,000 in 2023, from 982,000 the previous year. Just under two million people (1,961,000) attended services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day in 2023, up from 1,636,000 in 2022.

This pattern is also seen in our own parish which has seen an increase at Easter and Christmas each year for the last three years.



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(from page 3)

Any agreement would only pertain to the date of Easter's celebration. It would not involve any joint liturgical practices. Those would require ecclesial communion between the churches, something which does not yet exist.

In 2016 the Archbishop of Canterbury held talks with Coptic Pope Tawadros II in Cairo, when he hoped that a unified date for Easter might be achieved within ten years. He commented that, for the C of E, either the second or third Sunday in April would be acceptable.

Christmas 2024

What a fantastic Christmas 2024 we have had in Kildwick, Cononley, & Bradley.

We started with our carol services in Bradley and Cononley. As is becoming a regular appointment now, the superb Cononley Singers joined as at the carol service in St John's. Both services saw an increase in the congregation since last year.

Our Blue Christmas service was next, with the opportunity to remember a loved one no longer with us by writing their name on a star or angel and placing it on our Christmas tree. There was also the opportunity to light candles for those same people and leave them on the altar.



Then we came to our 9 Lessons and Carols service at St Andrew's. Again we had a larger congregation than last year, as the Leodis Consort helped to lead us through the Christmas story as we sung virtually every well known carol!

The lull of Christmas Eve came next, (or as one of my clergy friends calls it, Christmas Adam.) The quiet of the 23rd of December came as a bit of a surprise among the busyness of the previous two weeks, which was full of, not just the services

listed here, there was also the regular Sunday services, Wednesday Communion Services, and Friday Morning Prayers. We also hosted two Kildwick School nativity services, a Kildwick School Carol service, a Glusburn School carol service, a Kildwick School Christingle, the Craven Accordion Orchestra Christmas Concert.



And we had a wedding on the 12th December as well!

We visited Beanlands Nursing home to sing carols around the piano, (thank you Glyn for playing and everyone else who came along to sing).

At the start of the month we had a JAM (Jesus And Me) session at St John's where the children learnt about Advent, the time of preparation.

So of course, we come to Christmas Eve. We had no less than four services on Christmas



Eve this year.

Starting at 2pm and 4pm at St John's Cononley we had two sessions of a Crib & Christingle service. This year we were joined by the Airedale Methodist Circuit Superintendent Minister, The Rev'd Clare Stainsby, who led our singing and played the guitar! Great fun was had by all.

At 4:30pm we had our Crib service at St Andrew's. Unfortunately, after lots of planning, some of the people who were meant to lead this service were ill, so we had some fantastic people step in to ensure the service went ahead. From what I hear they did a fantastic job with children and adults alike enjoying the service.

At 9:30pm at St Andrew's we



Many thanks to Lukas Green for the photographs on these pages



held our Midnight (Bethlehem Time) Mass. For information, midnight in Bethlehem is 10pm in the UK. This was a beautiful and meaningful service as we



completed our crib by placing the baby Jesus in his manger, and welcomed Christmas Day in with the Eucharist.

On Christmas morning we all came together to celebrate at St Mary's with a fantastic sung Communion Service, and we mustn't forget the fantastic get together at St John's at 10:30am!

Big Thank You's must go out to everyone who helped to

Christmas, everyone who helped with our services, from providing us with music, helping to pull the service together, helping to lead a service, singing, attending the services, and everything else people did, (including delivering the Christmas Cards with a list of our service on to every house in Kildwick, Farnhill, Cross Hills, Cononley, and Bradley.)

Your work hasn't gone unnoticed and you are all appreciated so much, as none of this could have happened without you!

Looking at the numbers of people attending our services, and everything else we put on in December, we have told more people about the birth of Jesus this year than we have for over a decade. THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO!

‘My First Sermon’ by John Everett Millais

Written by The Revd Michael Burgess, Rector of St Peter’s Lymm

This painting, *My First Sermon* by John Everett Millais, hangs in the Guildhall Art Gallery in London, which houses the art collection of our capital city.

The Gallery is built on the site of an amphitheatre and was only completed in 1999, having replaced a building that was destroyed in the blitz of 1941. It has over 4000 works, many of them from the Victorian and Pre-Raphaelite period. Among them is this painting by Millais which depicts Effie, his 5-year-old daughter sitting in Kingston Church. She is dressed properly and sensibly for the occasion with feathered hat, muff and a cloak of vivid red. Her mother’s prayer book and gloves are by her side. Effie is listening with great concentration.

When the painting was exhibited in 1863, it was a great success. In the following year Millais produced *My Second Sermon* – a very different occasion, for Effie has now fallen asleep with her hat by her side. Millais was often criticised for his sentimental portraits of children as in *Cherry Ripe* and *Bubbles*. But in 1864 the Archbishop of Canterbury, Charles Longley,



My First Sermon by John Everett Millais, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons.

praised this second painting for reminding us of ‘the evil of lengthy sermons and drowsy discourses.’

As we look at Effie alert one Sunday, asleep the next, we can smile. But we might also ask how we respond to the Word that comes to us through the medium of words in the weekly sermon. The preacher has the daunting task of using this everyday coinage of words to draw us into that mysterious, life-giving realm of the Word, Jesus. The words spoken must make a straight path for the Lord to reach each human heart.

The two paintings of Millais depict the reality and fragility of this endeavour. Sometimes our attention is engaged; at others, drowsiness closes our eyes and even our hearts to the good news of salvation. On occasions the sermon sows seeds, which can bear fruit. At other times, all kinds of factors mitigate against the sermon’s success. Let us pray that as listener or as preacher, we may be aware of the dynamic power of the Word, which, as Karl Rahner wrote, calls us ‘out of the little house of our homely, close-hugged truths into the strangeness of the mystery of God that is our real home.’

You are invited to our free



SATURDAY 1ST MARCH

10-11.30am

**St John's Church,
Netherghyll Lane, CONONLEY, BD20 8NT**

FAITH, CRAFTS, FUN
with FREE Pancakes!

Fun for all the family!



Next Session - Good Friday, 10am



New Archdeacon of Richmond and Craven announced



It was announced in December that our neighbour at Holy Trinity Skipton, Revd Canon Dr James Theodosius will be the new Archdeacon of Richmond and Craven.

Revd James will work with the Rt Revd Anna Eltringham, Bishop of Ripon.

He knows the Ripon Episcopal Area very well as during the last ten years he was Vicar of Upper Wharfedale and Littondale, then served at Holy Trinity, Skipton, where he is also Area Dean.

A strong advocate for rural ministry, he is also keen to ensure that the urban and rural are thoughtfully integrated in ways which echo the good news of the gospel.

Speaking of his appointment, Revd James said: "I am delighted to be continuing my ministry in the Ripon Episcopal Area as the Archdeacon of Richmond and Craven.

"I will do all I can to serve the parishes and chaplaincies, both clergy and laity to ensure that we are real and true with each other and embolden one

another with the good news of the kingdom.

"This is such a unique and special area, abounding in proud history and culture and with so many gifted and committed people.

"My job will be to encourage, facilitate and ensure that to the best of my ability, the structures and governance of the church enables, empowers and serves local ministry."

Welcoming Revd James to his new role, the Rt Revd Nick Baines, Bishop of Leeds said: "After a thorough process and a very strong field, I am very pleased that James has agreed to be the next Archdeacon of Richmond & Craven.

He brings unique experience of parochial ministry and has been an excellent Area Dean. I very much look forward to him joining my staff team in the spring."

We wish James all the best in his new role, which he will begin in an installation service at Ripon Cathedral on Sunday, April 6 2025 at 3.30pm with Bishop Nick Baines officiating.

Prayer Column

Dear Lord, as we journey through Lent, help us to draw closer to You.

Guide our hearts towards repentance, and grant us the strength to seek forgiveness. May we embrace the spirit of sacrifice, and find joy in the simplicity of Your love.

Help us to live in humility, and serve others with a compassionate heart.

Let this season be a time of renewal, as we reflect on Your sacrifices for us.

In Your holy name, we pray.

Amen.

A March Prayer

Dear Lord, as spring unfolds its beauty, bless us with hope and renewed strength. Guide us with Your light through each new day.

Amen.



An introduction to the book of Job

‘Why does God allow suffering?’ This is a frequently asked question of Christians, because we believe in a God who is both good and powerful and it is explored in the book of Job. One of my favourite books in the bible! This book is part of the wisdom literature, along with Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon.



Illustration to the Book of Job, William Blake (Universal History Archive / UIG via Getty Images)

Job was both wealthy and righteous, yet he experienced catastrophic suffering, losing all his wealth, children and health. This is portrayed as a result of Satan’s challenge to God, testing whether Job’s devotion to God was dependent on his circumstances or not.

The main body of the book (3:1-42:6) consists of dialogues between Job, his friends (Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar) and God. Job and his friends assume that God is almighty and just, and that no human being is wholly innocent. In the three cycles of speeches they wrestle with the reasons for Job’s suffering, remembering his morally upright character.



Finally, all are silenced by God, as He speaks Himself (chs 38-42). He points out that Job knows very little about the universe when he reflects on God’s power. Job confesses his lack of understanding and weakness, but then goes on to confess his confidence and trust in God. This puts suffering in a right perspective. Job is not condemned, and the book ends with the restoration of his family and possessions.

The importance of this book is that it realistically addresses the painful questions of life, without offering simplistic answers. It focuses on *how* we should respond to suffering, rather than on *why* God allows suffering: ‘*Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked I shall depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised.*’ (1:21)

Observations for Lent

The shortest distance between a problem and its solution is the distance between your knees and the floor.

Adversity does not make us frail; it only shows us how frail we are.

Treasures in heaven are laid up only as treasures on earth are laid down.

God only asks you to do your best. – Robert H Benson

If you’re headed in the wrong direction, God allows U-turns.

Do not wait for the hearse to take you to church.

Recent visit shows diocesan support for church in Sudan

People in our link diocese of Sudan have been supported by a recent visit from the Rev'd Canon Anne Russell, Team Rector of the Seacroft Parish and Co-Chair of our Sudan Link Group.



Rev'd Anne met with the Most Rev'd Ezekiel Kondo, Archbishop of Sudan, as well as other bishops from the country, and expressed the firm support of people across the Diocese of Leeds to them.

Rev'd Anne heard stories of what it has been like in the country since the ongoing civil war broke out in 2023, hearing from those who have fled their homes and lives, and been witness to much violence.

The church in Sudan has been provided pastoral and practical care to those it can, supported by many organisations including the Diocese of Leeds.

Thousands of children and young people have fled the conflict areas, often leaving behind parents, and hundreds of internally displaced people have found food, education and support in the cathedral in Port Sudan.

Visitors from the UK were warmly welcomed by Archbishop Ezekiel, his wife Suria and other church leaders to discuss the prospect of peace in Sudan and the security of the Episcopal Church of Sudan.

Rev'd Anne said: "I've been asked to pass on huge thanks, from Archbishop Ezekiel, Bishops Saman and Abdu, other church leaders (both lay and clergy), the Mothers' Union and congregations of the ECS. "The long-standing relationship of nearly 50 years, alongside Salisbury Diocese, is profoundly important and influential to ECS and its people.

"We received such generosity and openness from those who we met and stayed with while we were there." The diocese, along with others, has provided financial aid for the church in Sudan, helping to support the people there with food and

other church essentials, and this is hoped to continue in 2025. Rev'd Anne also had the chance to visit former MU paid workers from Sudan who are currently in Egypt, who are supporting Sudanese refugees with gettogethers including worship and prayers, singing and Sudanese food.



Helping to keep a church open helps to keep the rumour of God alive for a fresh generation. – *David Ford*

Our prayers must mean something to us if they are to mean anything to God. – *M D Babcock*

The purpose of this world is not to have and to hold, but to forgive and to serve. – *Wilfred Grenfell*

Love is practical, or it is not love at all. – *P W Heward*

You are invited to our free

JAM

EASTER



GOOD FRIDAY, 18TH APRIL
10-11.30am

**St John's Church,
Netherghyll Lane, CONONLEY, BD20 8NT**



FAITH & FUN
with FREE Easter Egg Hunt



Fun for all the family!



February to April Services in Kildwick, Cononley & Bradley

	St Mary's Bradley	St John's Cononley	St Andrew's Kildwick
Sun 2nd February Candlemas	9:30am Holy Communion	11:00am Methodist Worship	11:00am All Age Holy Communion
Wed 5th February			9:30am Holy Communion
Fri 7th February		9:30am Morning Prayer	
Sun 9th February 4 Lent	10:00am Parish Holy Communion		
Wed 12th February			9:30am Holy Communion
Fri 14th February		9:30am Morning Prayer	
Sun 16th February 3 Lent	9:30am Morning Prayer	11:00am Morning Prayer	9:00am BCP Holy Communion 11:00am Holy Communion
Wed 19th February			9:30am Holy Communion
Fri 21st February		9:30am Morning Prayer	
Sunday 23rd February 2 Lent	9:30am Holy Communion	11:00am Café Church	11:00am Holy Communion
Wed 26th February			9:30am Holy Communion
Fri 28th February		9:30am Morning Prayer	
Sat 1st March		10:00am JAM	
Sun 2nd March 1 Lent			10:00am Parish Holy Communion
Wed 5th March Ash Wednesday			7:00pm Holy Communion
Fri 7th March		9:30am Morning Prayer	
Sun 9th March Lent 1	9:30am Holy Communion	11:00am Methodist Worship	11:00am All Age Holy Communion
Wed 12th March			9:30am Holy Communion
Fri 14th March		9:30am Morning Prayer	
Sun 16th March Lent 2	9:30am Morning Prayer	11:00am Holy Communion	9:00am BCP Holy Communion 11:00am Morning Prayer
Wed 19th March			9:30am Holy Communion
Fri 21st March		9:30am Morning Prayer	
Sun 23rd March Lent 3	9:30am Holy Communion	11:00am Café Church	11:00am Holy Communion
Wed 26th March			11:00am Holy Communion
Fri 28th March		9:30am Morning Prayer	

	St Mary's Bradley	St John's Cononley	St Andrew's Kildwick
Sun 30th March Mothering Sunday	9:30am Holy Communion	11:00am Holy Communion	11:00am All Age Holy Communion
Wed 2nd April			9:30am Holy Communion
Fri 4th April		9:30am Morning Prayer	
Sun 6th April Lent 5	9:30am Holy Communion	11:00am Methodist Worship	11:00am Holy Communion
Sun 15th April Palm Sunday		10:00am Parish Holy Communion	
Mon 14th April Monday Holy Week	9:30am Morning Prayer		
Tue 15th April Tues Holy Week		7:00pm Compline	
Wed 16th April Wed Holy Week			9:30am Holy Communion
Thur 17th April Maundy Thursday	7:00pm Holy Communion with watch until 9pm		
Fri 18th April Good Friday	12:00pm Walk of Witness to St Andrew's Kildwick	10:00am JAM	2:00pm Service from the foot of the cross
Sun 20th April Easter Day	9:30am Holy Communion	11:00am Holy Communion	9:00am BCP Holy Communion 11:00am All Age Holy Communion
Sun 27th April Easter 2	9:30am Holy Communion	11:00am Café Church	11:00am All Age Holy Communion

Former head of MI5 to lead search for new Archbishop of Canterbury

The Prime Minister has appointed The Lord Evans of Weardale KCB DL to chair the new Crown Nominations Commission for Canterbury.

The Crown Nominations Commission is the C of E committee that will nominate the candidate to be the next Archbishop of Canterbury. Archbishop Welby completed his duties on 6th January.

Jonathan Evans has been a Crossbench member of the House of Lords since 2014. Until October 2023 he was Chair of the Committee on Standards in Public Life. He is currently Chair of the HALO Trust, the anti-landmine charity, and of the Public Interest Committee at KPMG UK. He is a former Director-General of the Security Service, MI5. He is an active and communicant member of his local parish church.



The Parish of Kildwick, Cononley & Bradley

Holy Week 2025

Palm Sunday 13th April

10.00am Parish Holy Communion St John's Cononley

Holy Monday 14th April

9.30am Morning Prayer St Mary's Bradley

Holy Tuesday 15th April

7.00pm Compline St John's Cononley

Holy Wednesday 16th April

9.30am Holy Communion St Andrew's Kildwick

Maundy Thursday 17th April

7.00pm Holy Communion with watch St Mary's Bradley

Good Friday 18th April

10.00am JAM Children's sessions St John's Cononley

12.00pm Walk of witness to Kildwick St Mary's Bradley

2.00pm Service at foot of the cross St Andrew's Kildwick

Easter Day Sunday 20th April

8.00am BCP Holy Communion St Andrew's Kildwick

9.30am Holy Communion St Mary's Bradley

11.00am Holy Communion St John's Cononley

11.00am All Age Holy Communion St Andrew's Kildwick



"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."

John 3.16

