

A brief time-line

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 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 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. The design of the more westerly arches closely resembles that of the old Kildwick bridge which dates from about that time.

In the early 16th century, the huge East end was added, making this into the "Lang Kirk o' 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.

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. Find other leaflets in church and online.



kcbchurches.org.uk/index.php/st-andrews

It will come as no surprise to learn that the family of St Andrew's needs significant funds if it is both to maintain this ancient building and play its part in the mission of God's church.

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



The support of our visitors makes a vital contribution to this work – and we thank you for the generosity that you show.



Near the main door there is a place to leave a gift in cash or by card. You can use the QR code here if that's easier.

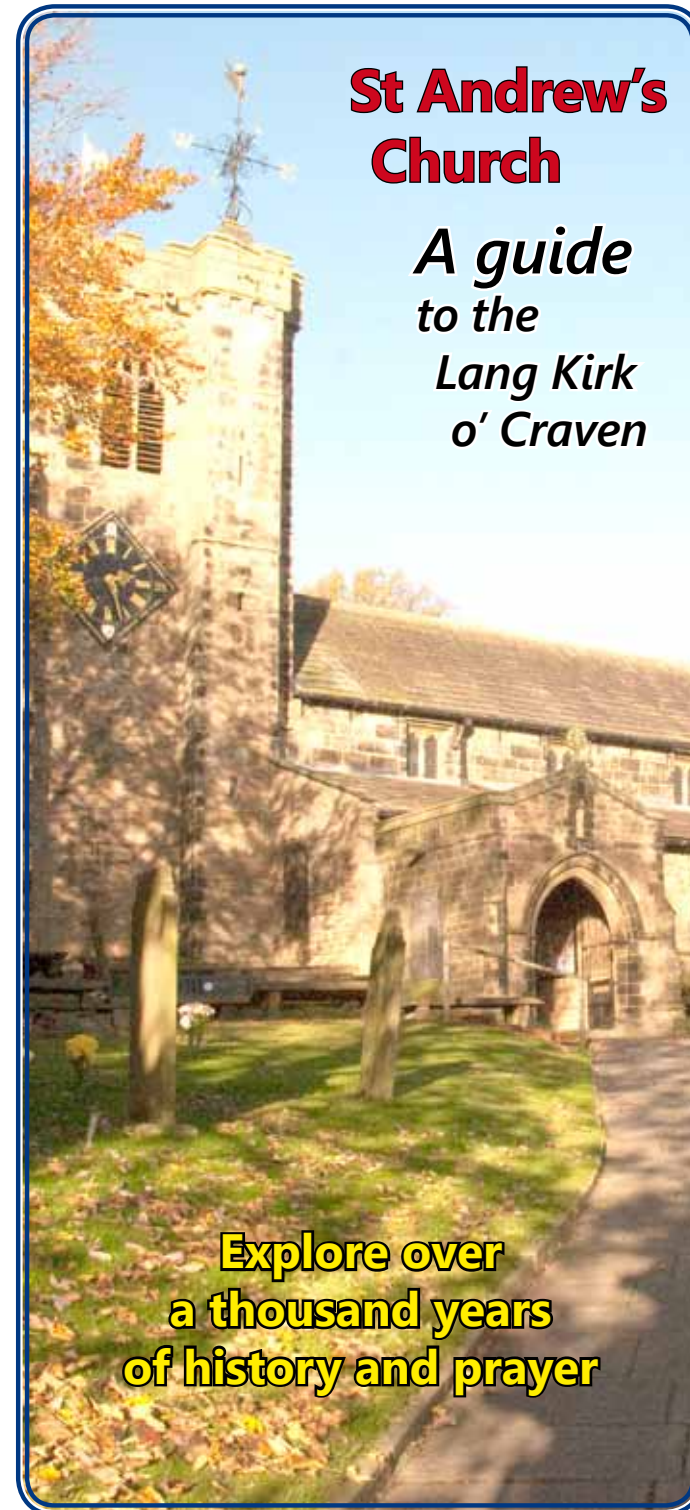
If you can Gift Aid your gift as well, that would be even better! If you are a tax payer, the Government will add 25p to every £1 you give – and all at no cost to you!

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 or email us at contact@kcbchurches.org.uk

St Andrew's Church

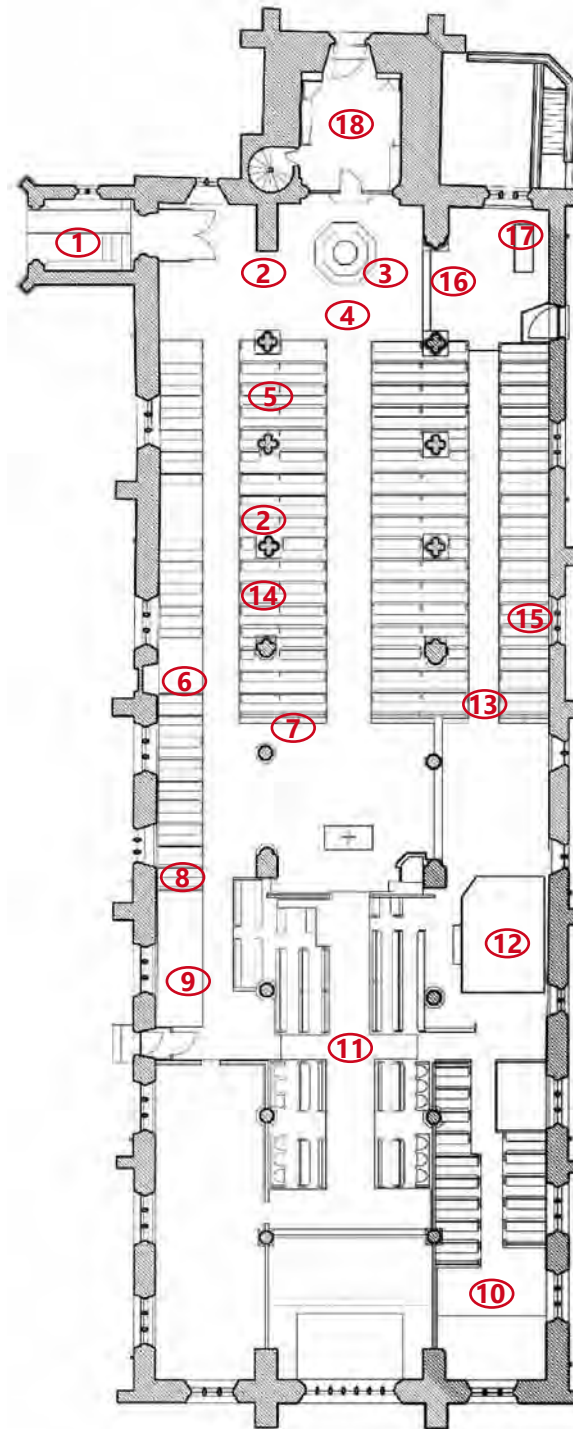
A guide to the Lang Kirk o' Craven



Explore over a thousand years of history and prayer

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 which probably needs assistance.
- 2 The oldest bits of the building.** In the 11th-12th century, the "dog-tooth" carving at the base of the pillar was once the 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 bears emblems of the crucifixion. 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 pillars are squared-off and may 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.
- 7 The pews are relatively modern (1868-70).** Don't be fooled by the carving on the front pew! These are made from old Jacobean woodwork.
- 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 may be from six or seven different Saxon/Scandinavian crosses. They were found during a major restoration in the early 1900's and suggest an ancient stone church.
- 10 The Currer Chapel.** In the major restoration of 1901-3, the enormous Currer family vault was largely removed from this area. The old Farnhill Hall "Eltoft" family pew (1633) was moved westward and new pews installed. Read the story of the "Rycroft" window while you are here.



- 18 The Bell Tower** There is a fine ring of 8 bells with rare double-ended "Yorkshire tail ends". Two peal boards mark some significant pieces of ringing. *Above the west door, see the early Norman corbel; one of the oldest identified stones in the church.*
- 17 The Stiveton tomb** Marked "Robert of Styveton (Steeton), died 1307", it shows a knight in 1350's style 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.
- 16 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.
- 15 The "Stiveton" window** marks the site of the of the Stiveton monument between the pillars.
- 14 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.
- 13 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.
- 12 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.
- 11 The Chancel Pews.** An eclectic mix of pews, assembled in this layout in the 1901-3 renovation. Much of the timber is old Jacobean work – but was probably made as wall panelling. Some early carved dates show that this woodwork has a long history but it needs careful interpretation. *Look up and see the enclosed roof space above the main altar. Puzzle with us as we wonder what might be found up there...*