



From The Revd Julie Bacon

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Dear friends,

St Andrew's Church – a building for the future?

My name is the Revd. Julie Bacon, and I am the interim Vicar here. I'm writing to you on behalf of the church because you live or work in our parish, and so

St. Andrew's is your church

whether you're a regular worshipper, occasional visitor or have never been inside. We want to let you know about what's going on with your church. The purpose of this letter is to:

- **Inform you** - about the current state of the church building; the challenges it presents; and our current thoughts about actions to secure a sustainable future for it
- **Invite you to respond** – does the church building matter to you? What would you like to see happen to it? How can you become actively involved in order to secure its future?

What's the story?

There's been a church at Kildwick for over 1,000 years. The earliest parts of the current building date back 700 years (we'll be celebrating this anniversary next year, 2020). Through extensions in the 15th and 16th centuries, the church became one of the biggest in Yorkshire, as reflected in its nickname, 'The Lang Kirk of Craven'. It is a Grade 1 listed building, of great historical significance.

Like all historic buildings, St Andrew's has been developed and adapted over the centuries to serve the changing needs of the community. But there have been no major works carried out on the church for the last century. If the building is to continue to survive and flourish as it has in the past, this needs to be remedied.

Our worshipping congregation is now fairly small and aging, with regular Sunday attendance numbering 30 to 40 people. On their own, they are unable to meet the costs and demands of caring for and maintaining the building. If they are required to continue to shoulder this responsibility alone, there is the very real possibility that it could close within a few years.

But the building isn't only for them. We often welcome much greater numbers at services which mark major life events - baptisms, weddings and funerals. Kildwick Primary School holds services in church every half-term, which are attended by parents, grandparents and carers alongside children and staff. There are special services around Christmas and in Holy Week. And we also welcome a steady trickle of visitors (many travelling on the neighbouring Leeds-Liverpool canal) who want to explore the historical and spiritual significance of Kildwick church.

A sustainable future for the building will involve offering **welcome** and **hospitality** to locals, visitors and tourists who wish to spend time appreciating all that it has to offer, alongside the life

of worship that will remain at its heart. We aspire to have our beautiful building open daily and presented to show off its assets as well as possible, so that anyone who wishes to can avail themselves of the opportunity to enjoy its history, tranquillity and peace. But the building currently has serious deficiencies which need to be tackled in order to realise its full potential:

- Access is difficult for those with mobility problems
- Lack of running water and drainage means that currently there are no toilets or basic catering facilities in the church
- The Victorian heating system is inadequate, so for much of the year the church is offputtingly cold.
- We have concerns about the church's roof – the last major work was carried out about a century ago, and further remedial work (at the least) is becoming more and more pressing.

Addressing these deficiencies will cost money. We will need to apply for grants, alongside raising funds ourselves. Both aspects require involvement, support and participation from the wider community.

What are we doing at the moment?

At present, the church is open for worship on Sundays, and for other occasional services. Between May and September it's open on Sunday afternoons, and over recent months we've welcomed school parents and carers into the building on Friday mornings. We aspire to have the building open for many more hours every week, and are investigating how to make this possible. St Andrew's has also launched a 'Sponsor a Slate' scheme (flyer enclosed) to raise funds towards putting the roof to rights.

The invitation

As people with an interest in the community around St Andrew's, on behalf of the church, I'd like to invite you to consider the following questions:

- Should the building have a sustainable future? What do you think of the approach outlined above?
- Are you able to support the church as it seeks to develop and implement the above approach? If so, how (eg time, expertise, support with fundraising...?)

I would like to invite you to respond to this letter in one or more of the following ways:

- We are holding two open meetings at St Andrew's on **Tuesday 29th October** and **Thursday 31st October** at 7.30 - 9pm (doors open at 7pm), to which you are warmly invited. There will be a short presentation followed by a chance to ask questions and make comments.
- E-mail us at building4thefuture@kildwick.org.uk
- Complete the on-line survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CS6NQKG>
- Or please write to us, care of Mrs Lesley Hudson (churchwarden), Burnside, Bucklar Hill, Farnhill, BD20 9AS.

Once we have gathered all the responses by mid-November, they will be considered by the working group looking at the building's future. We'll keep those of you who are interested informed once the working group has carried out its work.

Thank you for reading this letter.

With every blessing





Raising the Roof at St Andrew's

Sponsor a Slate!

St Andrew's Church has a lot of slates!

Round about 15,000 slates need to be taken off and cleaned.
Half of them have cracks and will need to be replaced.

**Become a part of the history
of this ancient building:**

Sponsor a slate:

- To celebrate a special event in your life
- To remember your wedding
- In thanks for a child baptised in the ancient font
- In memory of a loved one
- To make a lasting difference to St Andrew's for future generations

All slate sponsors will be recorded in a dedicated heritage book which will include their name and a message.

This will become a permanent part of our church records.

***To sponsor a slate for just £10.00
please complete the sponsor form overleaf***

renovationgroup@kildwick.org.uk

kildwick.org.uk

Raising the Roof at St Andrew's

Sponsor a Slate

Your name

Address

..... Post Code

Telephone..... Email

Please make cheques payable to **St Andrew's Church, Kildwick**
and return to

Mrs J Wright, 15 Walker Close, Glusburn, Keighley BD20 8PW

Number of slates you would like to sponsor
at £10.00 per slate

Please consider gift-aiding your sponsorship by completing the form below.
This will increase your gift by £2.50 for each slate at no extra cost to yourself.

St Andrew's, Kildwick
Gift Aid Donation

Title Full Name

House No/Name

Postcode..... Date

Tick here I wish to Gift Aid to apply to the enclosed donation. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Please give here details of what you would like to be recorded in the heritage book:

Name *(as it is to be written)* *(optional)*

Message

If you are sponsoring more than one slate and wish to leave different messages for each, please attach a separate sheet with your message(s)