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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

Winter 2019/2020

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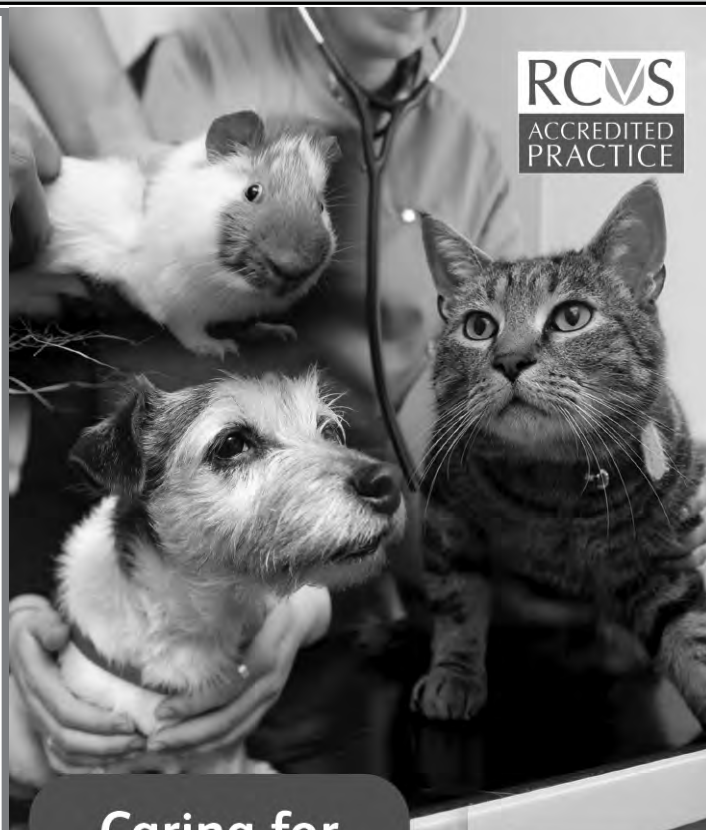
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Religion and politics

This December, I've got both politics and religion on my mind. Now, you're probably familiar with the maxim, 'One should never discuss politics or religion in polite company'. I'm not sure of its origin, but I recognize its purpose. It stems from a laudable desire not to make others uncomfortable by raising potentially controversial issues on which people may hold passionate and strongly-held convictions. It's about courtesy – a slightly old-fashioned word and virtue, indicating good manners and respect for other people, which I'm all in favour of. Nonetheless, as a Vicar, people understand that it's part of my calling to talk about religion. So I hope that you might forgive me as I stray this month into another sensitive area, because love it or hate it, none of us can avoid it.

Religion is on my mind (a) because I'm a Vicar and it's what I do; and (b) because we're entering the season of Advent, when we prepare to celebrate the joy of Christmas. At this time of year, Christians celebrate joyfully the amazing truth that the God we worship is not remote or detached, but a God who knows the human experience from the inside out. Politics is on my mind because alongside the preparations for Christmas, we're preparing for something else – a General Election. Over the next few weeks seasonal music will jostle for airspace with political debates and promises; through the letterbox will come both

Christmas cards and election communications from local candidates seeking our votes. It's tempting to try to keep the two separate – to put religion

in one box, politics in another. Compartmentalising is a tried and tested strategy. But try as we might, they keep bumping up against each other. So rather than try to keep them at arms' length from each other, what if we let them speak to each other?

Religion is not about providing a refuge from reality. Both politics and religion are ways in which human beings try to make sense of the world – why it is

as it is, what it's meant to be and what people require to flourish. Christianity has its roots firmly in the messy reality of life. The Christmas story, far from being cosy, is firmly shaped and informed by realpolitik. According to Luke's gospel, Mary and Joseph had to make the journey to Bethlehem because Quirinius, governor of Syria, had been commanded by the Roman Emperor Augustus to conduct a census for the purpose of that profoundly political reason, taxation. Before we meet the child Jesus, Matthew's gospel is keen to establish his credentials as a descendant of King David, and



“ Religion is not about providing a refuge from reality. ”

to acknowledge the political exile of Jesus' ancestors to Babylon. The wise men inadvertently posed a threat to the established political order with the news of a newborn king. Mary and Joseph found themselves forced to flee to neighbouring Egypt, where they lived as refugees. Meanwhile, desperate to cling to political power, Herod ordered all young children in and around Bethlehem to be slain. The entire story is shot through with political decision-making, and its consequences. The baby Jesus finds his life shaped by the political stage around him from before he leaves the womb. The politics of the world with its competing factions have a profound effect on his life from before his birth until his final breath on the cross.

But the power of the Christmas story is that it speaks of a reality beyond the one in which it is firmly anchored. It breathes mystery into the mundane. It is about the irruption of eternity into time and history. The transcendent God enters the world God created, our world, in all its messy reality. An angel greets a girl and changes not just her life, but the life of all creation.

This issue of the Pinnacle covers both December and January. By the time

the next issue is out, Christmas will be over, the general election will have taken place, a new government will be in place, and we will have a new Prime Minister. Your guess is as good as mine as to what exactly will be happening by then. Politics will continue to be shaping everyone's life. However much we may want to distance ourselves or stand to one side, we can't. My hope and prayer is that although the seasonal celebrations may be over, we may remember that Christmas in fact isn't. That the kingdom of heaven is to be found right alongside the kingdom of this world. That for those with ears to hear, the angels are still singing:

But with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not
The love song which they bring; –
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
And hear the angels sing!

'It came upon a midnight clear'

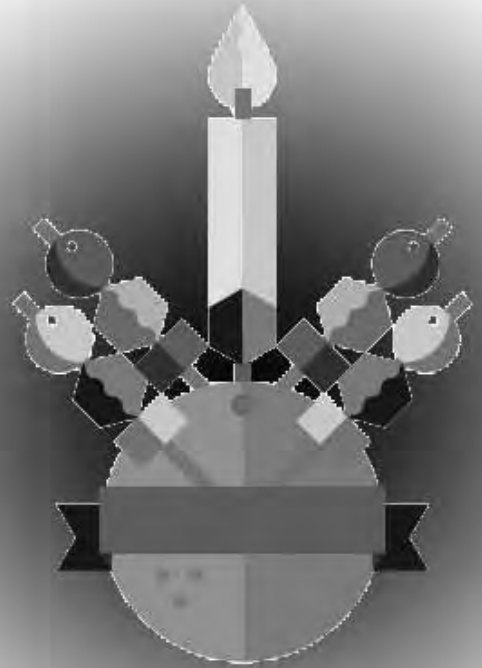
Edmund Sears, 1849

With every blessing

Julie



Christingle Celebration



***Hear the story of
the Nativity and
Christingle***

***A Family Service
at Cononley Institute***

Sunday 22nd December at 4.00pm

Every child will receive a Christingle

The celebration will be followed by refreshments

It is suitable for all ages and will last about 40 minutes

St Andrew's Messy Church



Messy Church service continues
on every "third Sunday" in the month.
The next ones will be on Sundays 15th December
and 19th January from 2.30–4.30pm.

Messy Church is an opportunity for families to learn about God through craft, stories and singing in a relaxed friendly atmosphere. It lasts for about 2 hours and is suitable for all ages and concludes with refreshments.

Seasons in the countryside

It does not seem like five minutes since I was writing about last Christmas and here we are again. The seasons all seemed to merge into one this year. Guilty of complaining about last year's heatwave that went on for weeks, this summer I have moaned a lot about the never ending rain. We all need a bit of sunshine to make us happier and this year, the sun seems to have been hiding, not wanting to come out. Nevertheless the birds here at Minstrels have not minded.

The two new geese, Amy and Alice, are settling in nicely now. Mickey the gander seems to have taken a liking to them but Lucy, the eldest goose in the group, is unsure. I think she is worried that Mickey will be eyeing up the younger models come Spring and she will have her beak pushed out. We shall see what happens.

A local man brought some young hens that he no longer wanted so I gladly took them on but these girls are used to living in the wild so they are taking some mixing in with the resident hens. Even with clipped wings they still sleep in the apple tree at night. Goodness knows how and why they would choose to sleep in a tree rather than a warm hut is beyond me. I was assured that these were all hens. I lost Spartacus my cockerel a few weeks ago so Brian appeared. The other day I was outside and heard a horrendous high and croaky cock a doodling. I wandered over to find what I had thought was a hen crowing really badly to its heart's content. So now as well as Brian I have Mr Hitchcock.

The geese have been enjoying windfall apples and the hens enjoyed left over pumpkins. The ducks have loved the wet summer. Their pen is like a battlefield. The sea of mud was covered in grass till they took over. I bought a tonne of bark chippings which went down a treat but it will soon disappear into the mud.

There seems to be an abundance of hawthorn and holly berries this year. At the nursery we are in full swing making holly wreaths. As I have been out cutting holly in the fields it has been lovely to see so many berries on the bushes. I have walked past some bushes because I feel guilty taking away the berries so I will go back to them in a few days' time to see if they've been eaten. I am not going to take away their winter larder. I will let the birds take what they want first and just hope there is a bit left for me later.

The Christmas hyacinths have come up well. I grow them in the dark in the shed and I brought them all out last week to get daylight onto them. When they come out of the dark they are pale and it takes a few days for them to green up so they are now down in one of the greenhouses. Needless to say I have set a few extra mouse traps in the greenhouse. I do not want three months of looking after them to be ruined in one night.

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and all the best for the New Year.

From Lydia, all the birds and everyone at Minstrels Nurseries

Building Works at St John's Church in Cononley.

There have been big – no, *enormous* – changes at St John's ...

"In no particular order..."

Since the work started and in no particular order we have seen:

The removal of some pews.

The screen has relocated towards the back of the building and the font is now at the front.

The floor has been levelled and a stepped area formed where the screen used to be.

Paint and carpet colour chosen, plaster work repairs done and a new loop system is ready to be installed.

Windows are eagerly awaiting cleaning, the structure of the kitchen and WC is there and ready for fitting while the organ is safely hiding behind its temporary covers.

And there is more to come - some new doors and lighting for example!

It looks truly amazing and it's not even finished. The space is completely different – areas have been opened up and while some parts are definitely smaller in terms of floor space they will be more friendly and usable for a range of exciting uses.

The basic Church structure or skeleton remains the same and it is loved as a place of worship and as an important building in our village – as important as the school, shops, institute, pubs, clubs etc. So whatever your thoughts and beliefs, this is going to be a great, great place to use and enjoy.

Let's look forward to seeing it afresh and let's be ready to be amazed!

PS Yes, there is still fund raising needed to complete the work and particularly to supplement the pews with new, comfortable and moveable seating so that the area may be used to its full potential.

Do you have any fresh ideas for a fund raising event? Shout up!

PPS - it has to be said we are very fortunate to have such excellent architects and associated civil engineers plus wonderful skilled workmen!

All are welcome, all are welcome **All are welcome in this place**

*What do we mean as we sing this hymn? Do we really mean,
"All are welcome, but only as long as they are clean and quiet
and fit and well behaved and just like us"?*

There has long been a glaring lack of welcome to any of our congregation or visitors who are anything less than fully mobile. The steep steps up to the main door make a daunting barrier for a good many people – and the ramp provided for a wheelchair should never have been used without a block and tackle winch for safety.

It's often the same story. It has always been like that so why change? But as soon as Michael's need highlighted the problem, there was no excuse to continue to do nothing.

After a period of thinking and planning, it was decided to make a proper access for all so the church now has a properly solid ramp. The geography of St Andrew's means that there is no practical way to get the gentle 1:12 slope that the books prefer. That would land us in the upstairs window of the pub!



What greets a visitor now is an equal-access entrance. Half of the porch is unchanged. The other half is open to all those we want to make welcome: the wheelchair-bound, those in buggies and prams, those who find steps hard. Maybe, even the odd skateboarder?

It is a start. We can now welcome some people properly. Can we identify other people who need our welcome? What other changes do we need to make? Do they need to be easy structural things like a ramp – or do they need to be hard things like a change of habits and thoughts? Do we really need to welcome all, even if they are young and noisy? If they find church as alien a place as we might find a betting shop? If they find our services (and sermons) inaccessible?

What do we need to change next?

Chris Wright

Cononley Art Group



We look forward to our get together before Christmas and our lunch in the New Year at the Dog and Gun, then we will be back to work after that.

The Art Group committee would like to wish members and all our friends a very happy Christmas.

Ruby

Inspired by the great success of the acrylic workshop, Margaret, one of our members took up the challenge and quickly followed it with another acrylic workshop on flower painting, which was very enjoyable.



Jacqueline's

Ladies & Gents

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St Andrew's Church - Building for the future?

You'll remember that in October I wrote to everyone in the former ecclesiastical parish of Kildwick about the challenges facing the church building in Kildwick, sketching out what we'd like to do to make the building more hospitable and to secure a sustainable future for it.



I invited people to respond in a variety of ways, including a couple of public meetings. Many of you did in fact respond, and we had getting on for 100 people present over the two meetings. In particular, there's been a very positive response to our 'Sponsor a Slate' appeal. Since the letters were sent out, not a day has passed without another form being returned – and so far you have contributed £5,969, with more forms and sponsorship being returned all the time. All the responses are being looked at, and a report on them will be made to the Kildwick Church Working Group on **Thursday 12th December 2019 at 1.30pm** at church. If you're interested in coming along to hear more about the responses, and the proposed way forward in the light of them, you'd be welcome – it would be helpful to have an idea of numbers, so let me know if you're thinking of coming along, either by e-mail or phone (contact details opposite).

The Reverend Julie Bacon



Thank you!

Children's Society Boxes

Barbara Simpson, Children's Society Co-ordinator, wants to say a BIG thank you to all Children's Society box holders. The grand total raised for 2019 is **£469.15p**.

Thank you all so much! Merry Christmas to all.

Barbara Simpson

St John's Coffee Morning – 2nd November

The UCC Treasurer says,

"Thanks to all who contributed to the sum of **£355.50** for Church funds".

Interim Vicar	The Revd Julie Bacon revjulesbacon@gmail.com	01274 405170
Reader	Cononley: Mr Kevin Wood	633950
Church Wardens <i>Many of the posts below are in an "acting" capacity until the new parish structures are finalised</i>	Kildwick: Mrs Lesley Hudson Kildwick: Mrs Sandie Walton Cononley: vacant Bradley: Mr Robert Hall	523291 636501 635549
Deputy Wardens	Cononley: Mrs Janet Wade Bradley: Mrs Andrea Baxter	632369 630245
PCC Vice Chairperson	Kildwick: Mrs Lesley Hudson	523291
PCC Secretaries	Kildwick: Mrs Jill Wright Cononley: Mrs Janet Wade St John's United CC: Mrs Janet Clifford Bradley (DCC): Mrs Jane Hall	634526 632369 631653 635549
PCC Treasurers	Kildwick: vacant Cononley: Mrs Lesley Cooke Bradley (DCC): Mrs Anne Hunt	630231 636179
Planned Giving & Gift Aid Secretaries	Kildwick: Mrs Brenda Brock Cononley: Mrs Janet Wade	633938 632369
Safeguarding Officer	Kildwick: Mrs Kathryn Morris	633588
Bell Tower & MiniRingers	Kildwick: Mr Chris Wright	634526
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Church Magazine magazine@ kcbchurches.org.uk	Kildwick: Mr Chris Wright Kildwick: Mrs Sylvia Clarke Cononley: D & E Clarke Cononley: Mrs Doreen Ratledge Cononley: Mrs Ruby Sedgwick Bradley: Mrs Andrea Baxter	634526 636070 633956 633831 632422 630245
CDFC Representatives	Kildwick: Mrs Christine Anderton Kildwick: Miss Glyn Evans	633596 630735
Flower Rota	Kildwick: Mrs June Whitaker	655320
Music Group	Kildwick: Mr John Hudson	523291
Organist/Choir Leader	Kildwick: Miss Glyn Evans	630735
Parish Room Bookings	Kildwick: Mrs Libba Utley	631631
Pastoral Care	Kildwick: Mrs June Whitaker	655320

email: Contact the Pinnacle editorial team at **magazine@kcbchurches.org.uk**

Services for December and January

Date	Time	Church	Readings
1st December First Sunday of Advent	9.30am 11.00am	St Mary's, Bradley St Andrew's Kildwick	Romans 13.11-14 Matthew 24.36-44
8th December Second Sunday of Advent	9.30am 11.00am	St Andrew's Kildwick Cononley Institute	Romans 15.4-13 Matthew 3.1-12
15th December Third Sunday of Advent	9.30am 11.00am 11.00am	St Mary's, Bradley St Andrew's, Kildwick Cononley Institute	James 5.7-10 Matthew 11.2-11
22nd December Fourth Sunday of Advent	9.30am 11.00am 4.00pm	St Mary's, Bradley St Andrew's Kildwick Cononley Institute	Romans 1.1-7 Matthew 1.18-25
24th December Christmas Eve	11.15pm 11.30pm	Cononley Institute St Andrew's Kildwick	Hebrews 1.1-4 John 1.1-4
25th December Christmas Day	9.30am 11.00am 11.00am	St Mary's, Bradley St Andrew's Kildwick Cononley Institute	Titus 2.11-14 Luke 2.1-20
29th December First Sunday of Christmas	9.30 am	United service at Bradley	Hebrews 2.10-18 Matthew 2.13-23
5th January Epiphany	9.30am 11.00am 11.00am	St Mary's, Bradley St Andrew's Kildwick Cononley Institute	Ephesians 3.1-12 Matthew 2.1-12
12th January Baptism of Christ	9.30am 11.00am	St Andrew's Kildwick Cononley Institute	Isaiah 42.1-9 Matthew 3.13-17
19th January 2nd Sunday of Epiphany	9.30am 11.00am 11.00am	St Mary's, Bradley St Andrew's, Kildwick Cononley Institute	Isaiah 49.1-7 John 1.29-42
26th January 3rd Sunday of Epiphany	9.30am 11.00am	St Mary's, Bradley St Andrew's Kildwick	Isaiah 9.1-4 Matthew 4.12-23

Rotas for December and January

Notes	Kildwick Readers	Kildwick Intercessor	Kildwick Communion
No service <i>at Cononley</i>	Glyn Evans Tim Chapman	Sue Hargreaves	Christine and Peter
<i>Holy Communion and Toy Service at Cononley</i>	Brenda Brock Kath Morris	Peter Bannister	Christine and Jill
2.30pm Messy Church at Kildwick	Morning Worship at Kildwick		
Christingle Service <i>at Cononley</i> Candlelight Carols <i>at Kildwick</i>	Tim Littler Jill Wright	Lesley Hudson	Sandie and Sue
<i>The First Communion of Christmas</i>	Brenda Brock Tim Chapman	Chris Wright	Christine and Jill
<i>Christmas Day Services</i>	Glyn Evans Sylvia Clark	Sue Hargreaves	Sue
Fifth Sunday <i>A United Service at Bradley</i>	United service at Bradley		
<i>Morning Worship at Cononley</i> <i>Led by Deacon Jackie Fowler</i>	Christine Anderton Lesley Bannister	Sue Hargreaves	Christine and Sue
<i>No service at Bradley</i>	Brenda Brock Kath Morris	Jill Wright	Jill and Tim
2.30pm Messy Church at Kildwick	Morning Worship at Kildwick		
<i>Morning Worship at Cononley</i>	Sylvia Clark Tim Chapman	Lesley Hudson	Christine and Peter

Regular Events in the “KCB” Parishes

Monday	9.30am	Pre-School Music Group	Bradley Village Hall
Monday	2.00pm	Cononley Arts Club	Cononley Institute
Monday	8.00pm	Ditty Nitty Craft Club	Slater’s Arms, Bradley
Tuesday	10.00am <i>Not holidays</i>	<i>Chuffs Fun for pre-school children and their grown-ups!</i>	Kildwick Parish Rooms
Tuesday	7.15pm	Yoga Class	Bradley Village Hall
Tuesday	7.15pm	Choir practice	Kildwick Parish Rooms
Wednesday	9.30am	Midweek Eucharist	Kildwick Parish Rooms
Wednesday	10.15am	NottheKnot Group	Kildwick Parish Rooms
Wednesday	7.45pm	Cononley Singers	Cononley New Inn
Thursday	9.30am	Toddlers Group	Bradley Village Hall
Thursday	3.30pm <i>Not holidays</i>	MiniRingers Club	Kildwick Tower
Thursday	7.00pm	Bell Handling Practice	Kildwick Tower
Thursday	7.30pm	Bell Ringing Practice	Kildwick Tower
Thursday	7.30pm	Whist Drive	Bradley Village Hall
Friday	9.00am	Pilates	Cononley Institute
Friday	10.00am	Yoga Class	Bradley Village Hall
Friday	1.30pm	Keep Fit	Cononley Institute



KCB prayers

We meet together for “KCB prayers” each month to pray for an hour for our churches and communities as well as for wider concerns.

We normally gather at 7.30pm, on the fourth Monday of the month.

While Cononley has no suitable venue, the meetings will alternate between Bradley and Kildwick.

The dates and venues for the next meetings are as follows:

Monday 23rd December – No Meeting

Monday 27th January 2020 at 7.30pm at St Mary’s, Bradley

Monday 24th February at 7.30pm at St Andrew’s, Kildwick

Three Limericks

Lesslie Newbiggin (whose many writings include a superb commentary on the Gospel of St. John) used to swap limericks around place names from Paul's journeys with Scots friend, Archie Craig . He wrote many, including these :

There was a young lass from Iconium ,
Who cleaned up her flute with Ammonium.
The effect on the flute was to render it mute:
So now she just plays the harmonium.

There went a young fella from Joppa
To Oxford to study Karl Popper.
When he heard that his Aunt was studying Kant,
He went back to Joppa to stop 'er.

(An Edinburgh suburb is called Joppa)

If you go to St. Peter's in Rome,
There's a Church with a beautiful Dome.
It's magnificent , But in a Fisherman's Hut,
Our Lord Jesus would feel more at home.

Bishop Lesslie had a remarkable career. A Presbyterian minister, he became Deputy Moderator of the Church of South India and was consecrated the Bishop in Madras.



Peals and Quarter Peals

As a ringer grows in confidence and skill, one significant test piece is to ring a quarter peal. This is a piece of ringing that takes around 45 minutes and the 1,260 different changes all need to be cleanly struck. It's a great test of bell handling and concentration.

Each year, our branch of the Yorkshire Association arranges a fortnight of quarter peal ringing. Not many of our new ringers are ready for this challenge – and sadly, one or two of the attempts came to grief. Still, over the whole fortnight (and a little bit), Kildwick ringers were involved in eight attempts of which six were successful. There was to have been a ninth – but that was cancelled when the key player found it was on Bonfire Night!

A cherry on the cake came when Chris was invited to ring a full peal (3¼ hours). Such opportunities don't happen very often - and it was a thrill and an honour to take part.

What's on at the Institute?

*The following events will take place at Kildwick & Farnhill Institute,
Main Street, Farnhill.*

Institute AGM

Tuesday 10th December

7.30pm

The Annual General Meeting of the Institute. Open to all members of the public living in Farnhill & Kildwick.

Regular monthly coffee morning

Saturday 14th December 2019 and 11th January 2020

11.30am

*Come along and meet up with your friends and neighbours for a chat.
Cake stall / Charity raffle.*

The 2020 Farnhill and Kildwick calendar is now on sale, price £6.50 including envelope, from various places around the village, including the Church, and by email from KandFIInstitute@gmail.com



News from Cononley Primary School



It's that time of year again where we are gearing up to carry out all the fun and exciting aspects of school life in the run up to the Christmas holidays.

We have recently held a 'wear what you like' day to raise money for Children in Need as supporting charity is an important part of our school life.

Our parents' association FoCS is holding a Christmas Fair at the school on Saturday 7 December where there will be a festive café and baking competition along with Christmas stalls from external businesses. There will be games a plenty along with a Treasure Hunt and a Christmas raffle. And last but by no means least (a Christmas fair just wouldn't be the same without him) Santa's Grotto.

We will then have performances for this year's Nativity – 'Baubles', right before the eagerly awaited Christmas Lunch. We will end the term with the annual Christmas Carol concert and Christmas Jumper Day.

News from Kildwick School



Year Six have welcomed three of the candidates for Skipton & Ripon into school. Julian Smith, Brian McDaid and Andrew Murday were put

through their paces with some astute questions. We've also had visits from the Yorkshire Rotters, who showed the importance of recycling and composting – as well as the First Responders from Lothersdale who taught Class Five the basic skills of CPR and First Aid.

On the sports field, a team from Ilkley Tennis Club have been teaching Class Two. The Year 5/6 football team represented South Craven in the finals while Year Five have had a fabulous time playing basketball at South Craven School. Two children have represented school at the County Cross Country Finals at Dalby Forest.

We are looking forward to the Christmas Fair, which will have taken place by the time you read this. The PTA have been in school working with each class busily supporting children to create some lovely decorations.



Cononley W.I.

Our November meeting was also the AGM when we voted for the President, Secretary and Treasurer. I am delighted to say that I was re-elected as President for a further twelve months. I hope to serve WI Cononley well during that time.

It was with great sadness that our Secretary Fiona Mashiter stepped down. I am pleased that Rosalie Storey was appointed as Secretary and a very big welcome to Rosalie.

I am delighted to say that Julie Cawood is staying on as Treasurer. We rounded the evening off with a Joint Jacob Supper which we all thoroughly enjoyed.

We next meet on the 5th December at the New Inn where we will enjoy our Christmas Party. We are looking forward to the food that Jane will provide, games that we will play and to enjoy each others company.

On behalf of WI Cononley I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Don't forget we meet the first Thursday of each month in the Village Institute at 7-30pm and we look forward to giving you a warm welcome.



Pauline Link - President WI Cononley

The Advent Wreath

We can't use real candles in Cononley Village Institute.

This year we need to replace them with – four red battery operated tea lights with a larger white one for Christmas Day. Whilst looking at alternatives for real candles I wondered about the story behind the wreath. The idea was imported into Britain from northern Europe in the nineteenth century, and it is now a common practice. As with many Church celebrations, variations of depend on tradition. I wonder what colours are used in Bradley and Kildwick?



An Advent Wreath may have four red or blue candles in a ring around a white or gold candle. Or there may be three purple candles, reflecting the liturgical colour for Advent, with a pink candle for the Third Sunday, when rose-pink vestments are traditionally worn. Also it states that the first candle represents expectation, the second love. On the third Sunday of Advent (Gaudate Sunday), rose pink represents the joy of the shepherds on receiving the Good News. The fourth purple candle symbolises peace. The final candle is white, representing the birth of Christ.

The scheme that accords best with the Common Worship Lectionary is:

Advent 1	The Patriarchs,
Advent 2	The Prophets,
Advent 3	John the Baptist,
Advent 4	The Virgin Mary
Christmas Day	The Christ. <i>I may need to speak to Julie about that!</i>

In other traditions, the candles have different meanings:

Week 1: Purple	The Candle of Hope – This candle reminds us that God keeps His promises. He promised a Saviour – and He sent one.
Week 2: Purple	The Candle of Preparation – This candle reminds us to be prepared to receive the Lord.
Week 3: Pink	The Candle of Joy – This candle remembers the multitudes of angels that joyfully announced the birth of Christ.
Week 4: Purple	The Candle of Love – This candle represents the love of God. It was out of His incredible love that God sent His only Son.
Week 5: White	The Christ Candle – When this candle is lit on Christmas Eve, it symbolises Jesus Christ, the Light of the World.

Carolyn Scarr

The Prayer Page

May you be filled with the
wonder of Mary,
The obedience of Joseph,
The joy of the angels,
The eagerness of the shepherds,
The determination of the magi,
And the peace of the Christ child.
Almighty God, Father, Son
and Holy Spirit
bless you now and forever.
Amen

We worship the birth of a baby,
and in doing so acknowledge
God reaching down to touch the earth
and bless it once again;
to walk within the garden
as once he did in Eden.
We worship the birth of a Saviour,
an infant in whose fragility
lay all the signs of sacrifice;
born in humility,
growing into his kingdom
as Scripture's Promised One.
We worship Jesus, Saviour and King.
Amen

From the very beginning was
Your Word
Which spoke this world into being
Your Word
Which thunders from the skies
Your Word
Which flows like mountain streams
Your Word
Which whispers in morning breeze
Your Word
Revealed through kings and prophets
Your Word
Revealed through Angels' praise
Your Word
Revealed in humble service
Your Word
Revealed through a tiny child
Your Word
Alive from the beginning of all things
And to eternity.
Amen





The Birds in Your Garden



The Bullfinch is a large striking finch found all year throughout the UK. Adults have a black head and face, grey back, black tail and white rump. Their



underparts are bright pink-red in males, and greyish-buff in females. In flight the white rump patch and broad off-white wing bar are fairly obvious. Their name is said to describe the bull-like appearance of the bird with its compact, neck-less body shape and short, deep bill.

In Victorian times Bullfinches were a

popular captive bird because of their beautiful plumage and their call, a quiet low-pitched short whistle, or fluted 'phu' note. They are a skilful mimics and it was once believed that the caged bird could be trained to mimic music, leading to the popular past-time of playing a special flute to them.

In the wild you are much more likely to see a bullfinch than to hear one, even the male's breeding song is very quiet, consisting of a repeated descending series of notes.

The UK Bullfinch population has declined by a third in the last 50 years probably due to agricultural intensification and reduced diversity in woodlands, though there have been signs of a recovery in recent years. They visit around one garden in ten, being seen most often in June, with a notable absence in October. Records from some 11,000 BTO Garden BirdWatchers indicate that they are seen in gardens more than ever, so keep a look out!

Although Bullfinches favour deciduous woodland, they have been making increasing use of garden feeding stations. Small groups have been reported across much of Britain, with rural and suburban gardens favoured over those of a more urban nature. This reflects a preference for cover, especially for nest site selection, and it is those gardens that are connected to small areas of woodland or scrub by thick hedgerows that seem the most attractive.

They rarely breed in gardens though, preferring to nest in thick cover, though they will travel a long distance from the nest due to the patchy distribution of

their favourite food. To allow this they have developed special food sacs in the floor of their mouths, allowing the parents to bring back food to their chicks. They are the only species of finch to have such sacs.

Bullfinches generally remain in the same area throughout their lives, although they may move around during the winter months looking for feeding opportunities. Bullfinch pairs appear to be long-lasting, with individuals remaining together from one season to the next. They are not overly territorial, even during the breeding season, possibly due to their low density of occurrence, so it is not unheard of to see two males sharing a bird feeder.

They feed on seeds and shoots of fruit trees, ash and elm as well as Common Nettle, docks and Dog's Mercury, taking insects only when feeding young. During the spring they can be a pest as they feed on and damage the buds of fruiting trees. Bullfinches used to be controlled by culling under licence, though this is no longer the case. Flower buds are chosen rather than leaf buds because they are nutritionally more rewarding, with cultivated varieties being their favourite. Man having selectively bred them to give a higher yield, and inevitably making them more appealing to the Bullfinches! It's claimed that they can eat up to 30 buds a minute!

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 Mike Gray via mikegbw@btinternet.com or visit the BTO Garden BirdWatch website (www.bto.org/gbw).



THIRD SUNDAY

A service at St Andrew's

An informal service will be held on the third Sunday of each month at St. Andrew's Church, Kildwick.

Not led by a priest, there will be hymns and songs, a short talk and some prayers, all suitable for the whole family.

Refreshments will be available from 10.30am before the service begins at 11.00am.

It will be a short service and everyone is welcome.

*We would be delighted if you could join us
on Sundays 15th December and 19th January*

LOVE

Love bade me welcome; yet my soul drew back,
 Guilty of dust and sin,
 But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack
 From my first entrance in,
 Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning
 If I lacked any thing.

A guest, I answered , worthy to be here:
 Love said, You shall be he.
 I the unkind, ungrateful? Ah, my dear,
 I cannot look on thee.
 Love took my hand, and smiling did reply,
 Who made the eyes but I?

Truth, Lord, but I have marred them: let my shame
 Go where it doth deserve.
 And know you not, says Love who bore the blame?
 My dear, then I will serve.
 You must sit down, says Love, and taste my meat:
 So I did sit and eat. George Herbert (1593-1633)



Some Wordsearch clues

Christmas
 Millions
 Radio
 Eve
 Treble

City
 King's
 College
 Chapel
 Alexander

Christ
 Little
 Child
 Earth
 Heaven

Poor
 Mean
 Lowly
 Saviour
 holy

Cambridge
 Choirboy
 Royal
 Hymn
 David

Apostles
 Creed
 Virgin
 Mary
 Jesus

Lord
 Manger
 Stall
 Shelter
 Cradle

Once, in Royal David's City

How many of these words can you find in the wordsearch grid?

How will Christmas begin for you this year? For millions of radio listeners, it will begin on Christmas Eve with the clear treble voice of a single Cambridge choirboy. As has happened every year since 1919, he will begin the hymn 'Once, in Royal David's City' at the service of Nine Lessons and Carols, broadcast from King's College Chapel. The hymn was written by a Mrs Alexander in 1848, who was inspired by the Apostles' Creed: '...born of the virgin Mary.' It is a superb introduction to Christmas: 'Once, in royal David's city, stood a lowly cattle-shed, where a mother laid her baby, in a manger for his bed. Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child. He came down to earth from heaven, Who is God and Lord of all; and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall. With the poor and mean and lowly lived on earth our Saviour holy.'

(The clues opposite may help)





"I'm sorry Michael – even if you HAVE changed your ring-tone to 'Away In-A-Manger', it's still ALL mobiles OFF!"

Welcome to 2020!

Our first edition for 2020 will be the February Pinnacle.

The deadline for this is Sunday 26th January

Please let us have your material by then
– and we'll try to have the magazine ready for Sunday, 2nd February.

Get your cameras and pens out!

We want to hear about your Christmas festivities!