

Free – but donations welcome

# The Pinnacle

A white stone monument with a cross on top, situated on a rocky hillside under a blue sky. The monument is the central focus of the image, with a black metal railing in front of it. The background shows a line of trees and a clear blue sky.

**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

**Summer 2020**

## A Church Directory

|   |   |                 |
|---|---|-----------------|
| <b>Interim Vicar</b>                                      | The Revd Julie Bacon<br>revjulesbacon@gmail.com | 01274<br>405170 |
| <b>Reader</b>   | Cononley: Mr Kevin Wood                         | 633950          |
| <b>Church Wardens</b>                                     | Kildwick: Mrs Joan McCartney                    | 635736          |
|   | Cononley: vacant<br>Bradley: Mr Robert Hall     | 635549          |
| <b>PCC Vice Chair</b>                                     | Mr Tim Chapman                                  | 635063          |
| <b>PCC Secretary</b>                                      | Mrs Jill Wright<br>jill@woodchipcomputers.co.uk | 634526          |
| <b>PCC Treasurer</b>                                      | Mrs Janet Wade                                  | 632369          |
| <b>Planned Giving<br/>&amp; Gift Aid Secretaries</b>      | Kildwick: Mrs Brenda Brock                      | 633938          |
|   | Cononley: Mrs Janet Wade                        | 632369          |
| <b>Safeguarding Officer</b>                               | Mrs Janet Clifford                              | 631653          |
| <b>Parish Group Leaders</b>                               | Buildings and Land: tba                         |                 |
|   | Pastoral and Outreach: tba                      |                 |
|   | Worship: tba                                    |                 |
|   | Treasury: tba                                   |                 |
| <b>Bell Tower &amp; MiniRingers</b>                       | Kildwick: Mr Chris Wright                       | 634526          |
| <b>CHUFFS</b> ( <i>Church for the u.5's</i> )             | Kildwick: Mrs Lesley Hudson                     | 523291          |
| <b>Church Magazine</b><br>magazine@<br>kcbchurches.org.uk | Kildwick: Mr Chris Wright                       | 634526          |
|   | Kildwick: Mrs Sylvia Clarke                     | 636070          |
|   | Cononley: D & E Clarke                          | 633956          |
|   | Cononley: Mrs Doreen Ratledge                   | 633831          |
|   | Cononley: Mrs Ruby Sedgwick                     | 632422          |
|   | Bradley: Mrs Andrea Baxter                      | 630245          |
| <b>CDFC Representatives</b>                               | Kildwick: Mrs Christine Anderton                | 633596          |
|   | Kildwick: Miss Glyn Evans                       | 630735          |
| <b>Flower Rota</b>  | Kildwick: Mrs June Whitaker                     | 655320          |
| <b>Music Group</b>  | Kildwick: Mr John Hudson                        | 523291          |
| <b>Organist/Choir Leader</b>                              | Kildwick: Miss Glyn Evans                       | 630735          |
| <b>Parish Room Bookings</b>                               | Kildwick: Mrs Libba Utley                       | 631631          |
| <b>Pastoral Care</b>                                      | Kildwick: Mrs June Whitaker                     | 655320          |

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## A whole new world...?

One of my daughter's favourite films is Disney's gorgeous animated 1992 classic, 'Aladdin'. Perhaps the best-known song from its cracking sound-track is 'A whole new world'. It's a duet sung by Aladdin and Princess Jasmine, as they take a magic carpet ride. Jasmine has grown up cosseted but confined, and the magic carpet ride opens her eyes to the big wide world that's out there for her to explore – and the possibility of love with someone from a very different background.

I don't know about 'cosseted', but most of us will be able to identify with the sensation of having been confined over much of the last 3 months. For the sake of the common good, most of us have accepted restriction of the usual freedoms that we enjoy. Many people have stayed entirely home, venturing out only for essential shopping and limited exercise; the most at-risk have only recently even emerged into their own garden.

At the time of writing, the most stringent restrictions are gradually being eased. The COVID-19 alert level has moved from 4 ('a high/rising level of transmission – enforced social distancing') to 3 (the virus is in general circulation – social distancing relaxed). After weeks of

enforced closure, permission has been given for church buildings to be opened once more for certain purposes, and the PCC is making plans for how we can do this in Kildwick, Cononley and Bradley.



As we ease cautiously out of lockdown, it's tempting to wish for things to get 'back to normal'.

**“it's  
tempting  
to wish for  
things to get  
'back to  
normal' ”**

But there's an old saying, 'You can't step in the same river twice' – things change and we can't simply go backwards. The world has changed for many people over the last 3 months – in little ways, or big ones.

There have been many losses: most heartbreakingly, of loved ones, perhaps without a chance to say goodbye; jobs and income; precious planned events. But there have been gains too. Perhaps we have a new appreciation of our immediate surroundings, and particularly the natural beauty around us.

Many people have experienced a greater sense of community, getting to know their neighbours, offering or receiving practical help. This raises important questions for us all. What

are the things that we've missed that we can retrieve? And what changes have we enjoyed, and want to hold on to?

At the time of writing, the BBC via Radio 4 (accessible via BBC Sounds) is running a short series called 'Rethink', in which they've invited leading thinkers in different areas of life from around the world to reflect on what kind of world and society we want to see in the wake of the pandemic. Interestingly, the first contributor was Pope Francis, which emphasized the importance that spirituality still plays when we think about what we value.

He spoke of the need for a fresh 'conversion' of society – to recapture the contemplative dimension that enables us to see creation (nature and, crucially, people), not simply as economic units to be exploited, but as precious and valuable in their own right.

Christian faith provides us with rich resources to reflect on these things. Our ultimate destination is 'a whole new world' – the new creation, where the new heaven and new earth meet, with God at the centre; where mourning and crying is no more (Rev.21. 4).

Scripture speaks of the experience of exile – of being conquered,

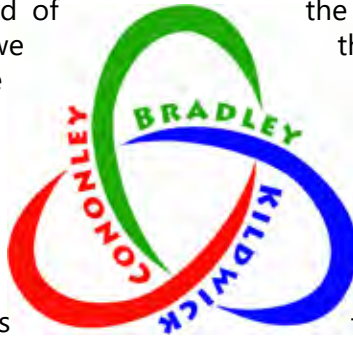
overborne, taken from all that is familiar and dumped somewhere alien and strange that becomes the place of lament (for example, psalm 137). But out of that experience God says, 'See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?' (Isaiah 43.19).

When Jesus was killed by the occupying powers, it seemed like the end of everything. But three days later, the world changed forever. And when the power of the Holy Spirit fell upon the disciples some weeks later, news of that change started to spread, and lives were transformed.

It will certainly be a different world in key aspects on the other side of the pandemic. I hope that our vision of what we want to see will be shaped and formed by the values of Christian faith. That our decisions about what we want to retain from the last few months, and what we want to return to from the time before, will be led by love of God and neighbour. That we will look for what has been good, and hold on to it. That our imaginations will be fired with new possibilities. That, with care, concern and compassion we will think about how we can go about building 'a whole new world.'

With every blessing

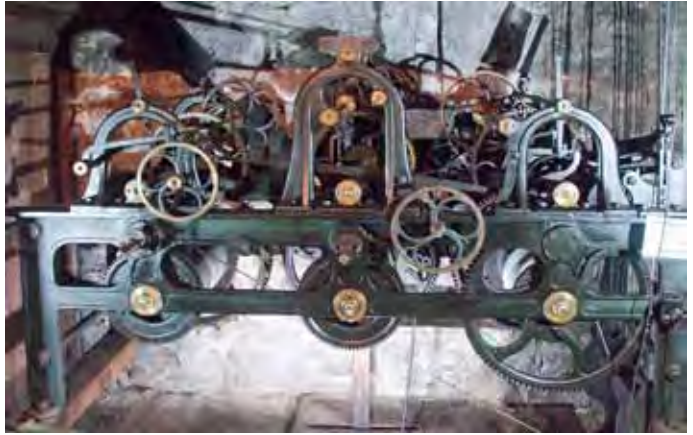
*Julie*



## Opening Up

Farnhill Institute had a lot of late photo entries for the Calendar competition - a surprising number showing the church clock. And all of them showed the same time!

The church clock was stopped at the end of March. We were no longer allowed into the building to wind the clock and if the (enormous) weights were allowed to reach the ground, there is a chance that they'd topple over. Even if that didn't damage the casing, they may become very difficult to lift again.



On 24th June, almost exactly 2,222 hours later - we were allowed back into the building and the clock, already wound and ready, was set going. The Kildwick chimes were heard again.

Some reaction was almost immediate: "I walked outside and heard them. Now I know how much I missed the clock." "Now I can tell the time at night without opening my eyes!" "Good! A part of Kildwick is back again."

All three churches in the parish are actively working out ways of opening their buildings safely. The first possible opening day will be on Sunday 12th July. Exact arrangements will be published but St Mary's in Bradley may be in the morning; St John's in Cononley will depend on when the builders can "sign off" their renovations while St Andrew's hopes to open for a couple of hours in the afternoon. The buildings will be open for private prayer – there will be limited access as we try to keep you safe.

Plans for restarting Sunday services are a little way down the road. It sounds as though permission to do this is now being granted but we will not be rushing towards exposing any of our church family to unnecessary risk. We are beginning to see a light at the end of the tunnel but we're taking things very cautiously.

To see a video of the ancient Cryer clock at Kildwick (it was first set going on 24th August 1867, 153 years ago), visit <https://youtu.be/XeTIShhcOjc>

## Readings for July

The easiest way to find the regular readings is to use an online lectionary. I use the Oremus website at [oremus.org/cofe.html](http://oremus.org/cofe.html). This gives a simple link to the Common Worship liturgy for that day. It's all in one place and includes all the readings and psalms as well as the Collect and so on.

A great way to access regular readings, complete with reflections and commentary is to get some Bible Notes. "New Daylight" costs £4.70 for four months. Jill will order the September to December copies soon – **if you want one you must get in touch!** (She doesn't know who you all are.)

The Sunday readings are here - with the traditional collects for the day:

### **5th July - The Fourth Sunday after Trinity**

Genesis 24.34-38,42-49, 58-67; Psalm 45.10-17 or Canticle:  
Song of Solomon 2.8-13; Romans 7.15-25a; Matthew 11.16-19,25-30

Collect

O God, the protector of all who trust in you,  
without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy:  
increase and multiply upon us your mercy;  
that with you as our ruler and guide  
we may so pass through things temporal  
that we lose not our hold on things eternal;  
grant this, heavenly Father,  
for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

### **12th July - The Fifth Sunday after Trinity**

Genesis 25.19-34; Psalm 119.105-112; Romans 8.1-11; Matthew 13.1-9,18-23;

Collect

Almighty and everlasting God,  
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified:  
hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people,  
that in their vocation and ministry  
they may serve you in holiness and truth  
to the glory of your name;  
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## **19th July - The Sixth Sunday after Trinity**

Genesis 28.10-19a; Psalm 139.1-11,23,24\*; Romans 8.12-25;  
Matthew 13.24-30,36-43;

Collect

Merciful God,  
you have prepared for those who love you  
such good things as pass our understanding;  
pour into our hearts such love toward you  
that we, loving you in all things and above all things,  
may obtain your promises,  
which exceed all that we can desire;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## **26th July - The Seventh Sunday after Trinity**

Genesis 29.15-28; Psalm 105.1-11,45b\* or ; Psalm 128; Romans 8.26-39;  
Matthew 13.31-33,44-52

Collect

Lord of all power and might,  
the author and giver of all good things:  
graft in our hearts the love of your name,  
increase in us true religion,  
nourish us with all goodness,  
and of your great mercy keep us in the same;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## **Happy 50th Birthday Mr Whitehead!**

What a treat to read the latest School Newsletter! A large part of it was filled (as a surprise!) by the children's best wishes for the "Big Five O" for Tim Whitehead. They reflect the love and respect of the school for a remarkable man. Some echo Tim's signature word, "amazing". Others speak of his care; *"He listens to everything I have to say (and that can be a lot!)"*, said Ethan.

But Harry R nailed it: *"At least he's not boring!"*

# Readings for August

## **2nd August - The Eighth Sunday after Trinity**

Genesis 32.22-31; Psalm 17.1-7,16\*; Romans 9.1-5; Matthew 14.13-21

Collect

Almighty Lord and everlasting God,  
we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern both our hearts and bodies  
in the ways of your laws and the works of your commandments;  
that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever,  
we may be preserved in body and soul;  
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## **9th August - The Ninth Sunday after Trinity**

Genesis 37.1-4,12-28; Psalm 105.1-6,16-22,45b\*; Romans 10.5-15; Matthew 14.22-33

Collect

Almighty God, who sent your Holy Spirit  
to be the life and light of your Church:  
open our hearts to the riches of your grace,  
that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit  
in love and joy and peace;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## **16th August - The Tenth Sunday after Trinity**

Genesis 45.1-15; Psalm 133; Romans 11.1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15.[10-20]21-28

Collect

Let your merciful ears, O Lord,  
be open to the prayers of your humble servants;  
and that they may obtain their petitions  
make them to ask such things as shall please you;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.



## **23rd August - The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity**

Exodus 1.8 – 2.10; Psalm 124; Romans 12.1-8; Matthew 16.13-20

Collect

O God, you declare your almighty power  
most chiefly in showing mercy and pity:  
mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace,  
that we, running the way of your commandments,  
may receive your gracious promises,  
and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## **30th August - The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity**

Exodus 3.1-15; Psalm 105.1-6,23-26,45b\*; Romans 12.9-21; Matthew 16.21-28

Collect

Almighty and everlasting God,  
you are always more ready to hear than we to pray  
and to give more than either we desire or deserve:  
pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy,  
forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid  
and giving us those good things  
    which we are not worthy to ask  
but through the merits and mediation  
of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

### **Sundays**

A service of Morning Prayer is streamed each Sunday at 10.00am.

This takes place on our Facebook page. [www.facebook.com/KCBParish](http://www.facebook.com/KCBParish)

A downloadable booklet containing these streamed services in July is available on the KCB Website at [www.kcbchurches.org.uk/index.php/services](http://www.kcbchurches.org.uk/index.php/services)

Morning and Evening Prayer takes place on most weekdays.

Loving God,  
each day as I step further into my future,  
give me the courage, knowledge and  
patience that I need.

Remind me that you always journey with me  
and that you will never lead me into anything  
that you won't lead me through.

Thank you for the gift of my life.  
May the way I live be my gift back to you -  
with your love and guidance  
In Jesus' name  
Amen

Father,  
Thank you that in a world of despair,  
You are our hope.

In a world of darkness,  
You are our light.  
In a world of sorrow,  
You are our joy.

Help us to share the hope of our hearts with one another  
Enable us to give hope to others through your work  
amongst us

Use us to transform our nation and to spread your hope  
to every corner of this nation.  
May our land flourish by the preaching of your word and  
the praising of your name.

In Jesus' name.  
Amen.

Dear God,  
You remind us over and over in your Word that you are  
always with us.  
You tell us not to fear and you draw us close into your  
presence.  
You're the only place we find refuge in the storms that  
surround us right now Lord.  
You're the only place we can find peace and strength.  
So we ask you for your words of truth and power to  
strengthen us in our inner being and lift our hearts to you.  
Thank you for your goodness, thank you that you know the  
way we take and you have a plan.  
We look to you today our Lord and Saviour,  
it's your face we seek.  
Amen

## The Thumbnail Chain

Our fourth "Thumbnail" comes from the pen of Andrew Symonds.

*Each month someone is challenged to write a snippet about themselves. Something that people won't know. It can be trivial – or it could be deep.*

*The point is that it is **your** choice! (There's no need to go baring your innermost private thoughts!)*

I have lived in the parish for just over 30 years, starting in Cononley, where I lived when first married and then moving to Bradley where we have brought up two now very grown up children, Toby and Katie, in a spot down by the canal.

My journey of faith started in Coventry where I was born and grew up in a family where church was central to our lives. My family church remains the oldest complete building in Coventry, surviving the blitz thanks to its position on the outskirts of the city.

My move north began in Oxford where I met Richmal, my wife, who was Yorkshire born and bred. Like many in my profession, teacher marries teacher and whilst she has remained at Cowling Primary School, I have moved between Lancashire and Yorkshire ending up back where I began as Headteacher of a large Church of England Primary School in Harrogate called Richard Taylor.

The life of a Primary School headteacher is as varied and stressful as you can imagine and I now have the pleasure of working with parents who I taught at the start of my career. The chance to work with children every day sharing in their achievements and being able to support them as they grow is a joy and a privilege which makes the paperwork, assessments and inspections just about bearable.

Christian Aid, for whom I coordinate collections in the village and Fairtrade are two of my private passions and small steps of action as a pilgrim on the road.

St Mary's is a small community which I have been very proud to be part of and which I hope will continue to bear witness to our shared faith into the future.

*Andrew Symonds*

*And now we are pleased to nominate...*

Right now, we've got no name on the plate.

Remember that pointing finger? *"It could be you...!"*

## The Conundrum Corner

This month's Conundrum is a little more linked with bell ringing –but you don't need any campanological knowledge to solve it! All you need to know about ringing is that bell ringers often obsessively record the details of the peals that they ring. (Each peal takes about three hours of intense concentration, so it's not just the same as train spotting!) Just treat "peal total" as a number.

### Fred's Peals

The question is deceptively simple:

Fred made the following true statements;

1. If my peal total is divisible by 3, then the total is between 50 and 59.
2. If the total is NOT a multiple of 4, then it is between 60 and 69.
3. If it is NOT a multiple of 6, then it is between 70 and 79.'

**Will the next peal be divisible by 7?**

*Last month's puzzle was "The Circular Walk". Did you fathom it?*

*Reminder: A person set out between 8.00 and 9.00am when the hands were exactly on top of each other. He (or she) got back between 2.00 and 3.00pm when the hands were opposite, in a straight line.*

There's no need to calculate minutes or angles: In exactly 6 hours, the minute hand will be exactly where it started and the hour hand will be exactly half way round the dial – opposite the minute hand. So the answer is exactly 6 hours!

*It's the same problem if you thought about starting at midday. The hands are exactly over each other. At 6.00pm, they'll make a straight line, up and down.*

*The Clueless Crossword solution (see page 14)*



## PCC Report

Well, no-one can say the PCC is shirking its duty or lacking in the spirit of adventure! We held our first proper meeting on June 16th and it was pretty successful. Julie very wisely limited the Agenda to necessary business and one major item for discussion – if you've zoomed or jitsied, you'll know it's quite tiring!

Approving the Minutes of the last, pre-lockdown, meeting felt very odd. It was a long time ago!! We finally managed to approve the 2019 accounts and were very glad to hear that we don't need to worry about Annual meetings just yet. Churchwardens Robert Hall and Joan McCartney have graciously agreed to continue in office, and for that we are very grateful.

You'll perhaps remember that we held a parish meeting in Bradley to introduce the idea of working groups for the various areas of the parish. This will still happen but maybe not yet! We were concerned to help parishioners feel connected and included in the work of being church in our communities. We have the email lists and the Pinnacle; we're also producing a regular Newsletter which Julie is collating. She'll really welcome your contributions!

We still have concerns about the Kildwick Vicarage and conversations with the Diocesan Property Committee continue. We began the process of updating the Safeguarding Policy for the parish and we dealt with one or two financial matters.

Our main subject for discussion was timely. The Agenda item was about how we get back into our churches, and on the same day the Government announced that churches could be opened for private prayer from July 4th. This is not as easy as it sounds! We agreed who would undertake the necessary Risk Assessments for each building and the necessary human and material resources we needed to maintain Covid security. Bishop Nick has said that we have been given permission to open in this way, but we are not compelled. We were very sure that we are not yet ready to open for worship: we await further guidance both from the Diocese and the national church about how that may happen. We agreed that St Mary's would prepare to open for an hour from 9.30 on Sunday 12th July and St Andrew's would open during the afternoon of the same day. There are still issues with St John's; they are keen to open but still have the last of the re-ordering to sign off. Watch this space!

The experience of an online PCC can't have been that bad – we agreed the date of the next meeting as July 14th (should it be needed!).

# Tales of Zoom and WhatsApp

Cononley Art Group and Cononley Singers have both been busy despite the lockdown

**Cononley Art Group's** medium of choice is WhatsApp. (This is a facility on smartphones that allows group discussion via text with the ability to share images, sounds – or even a live video link.) We are using this to good effect and are keeping in touch, viewing paintings, finding on line workshops, and discussing all that we have been doing while we're detained at home.

**Cononley Singers** keep in touch via a Zoom link once a week. The time lag on any conferencing software like Zoom means that we can't actually sing together online though many choirs as well as Gareth Malone's Great British Home Chorus have shown, there's a huge variety of exercises and rehearsal that is possible. We have a quiz each week and there's time for greeting each other and catching up on any news.

Both groups are ready for action whenever the time comes for us to open up again.

*Ruby Sedgwick*

## BEATITUDES FOR A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

|  |   |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| <p>BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO STAY INDOORS</p>  <p>FOR THEY HAVE PROTECTED OTHERS</p>  | <p>BLESSED ARE THE UNEMPLOYED AND THE SELF-EMPLOYED</p>  <p>FOR THEIR NEED OF GOD IS GREAT</p>            | <p>BLESSED ARE THE CORNER SHOPKEEPERS</p>  <p>FOR THEY ARE THE PURVEYORS OF SCARCE THINGS</p>                     | <p>BLESSED ARE THE DELIVERY DRIVERS AND THE POSTAL WORKERS</p>  <p>FOR THEY ARE THE BRINGERS OF ESSENTIAL THINGS</p>  | <p>BLESSED ARE THE HOSPITAL WORKERS, THE AMBULANCE CREWS, THE DOCTORS, THE NURSES, THE CARE ASSISTANTS, AND THE CLEANERS</p>  <p>FOR THEY STAND BETWEEN US AND THE GRAVE, AND THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS SURELY THEIRS</p> |
| <p>BLESSED ARE THE CHECKOUT WORKERS</p>  <p>FOR THEY HAVE PATIENCE AND FORTITUDE IN THE FACE OF OVERWORK AND FRUSTRATION</p> | <p>BLESSED ARE THE REFUSE COLLECTORS</p>  <p>FOR THEY WILL SEE GOD DESPITE THE MOUNTAINS OF WASTE</p>    | <p>BLESSED ARE THE TEACHERS</p>  <p>FOR THEY REMAIN STEADFAST AND CONSTANT IN DISTURBING TIMES</p>               | <p>BLESSED ARE THE CHURCH WORKERS; THE DEACONS, PRIESTS AND BISHOPS</p>  <p>FOR THEY ARE A COMFORTING PRESENCE IN A HURTING WORLD AS THEY CONTINUE TO SIGNPOST TOWARDS GOD</p>   | <p>BLESSED ARE THE SINGLE PARENTS.</p>  <p>FOR THEY ARE COPING ALONE WITH THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AND THERE IS NO RESPITE</p>  |
| <p>BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE ALONE.</p>  <p>FOR THEY ARE CHILDREN OF GOD AND WITH HIM THEY WILL NEVER BE LONELY</p>          | <p>BLESSED ARE THE BEREAVED.</p>  <p>FOR WHOM THE WORST HAS ALREADY HAPPENED THEY SHALL BE COMFORTED</p> | <p>BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE ISOLATED WITH THEIR ABUSERS</p>  <p>FOR ONE DAY- WE PRAY- THEY WILL KNOW SAFETY</p> | <p>BLESSED ARE ALL DURING THIS TIME WHO HAVE PURE HEARTS; ALL WHO STILL HUNGER AND THIRST FOR JUSTICE; ALL WHO WORK FOR PEACE AND WHO MODEL MERCY</p>  <p>MAY YOU KNOW COMFORT, MAY YOU KNOW CALM, AND MAY THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, AND THE LOVE OF GOD, AND THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, BE WITH US ALL. AMEN</p> |   |

## A Clueless Crossword

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|    | 8  | 23 | 25 | 3  | 1  |    | 14 | 23 | 25 | 24 | 25 | 22 | 5  |    |
| 20 |    | 16 |    | 16 |    | 17 |    | 25 |    | 14 |    | 16 |    | 14 |
| 25 | 13 | 24 | 25 | 12 | 26 | 25 | 18 | 8  |    | 8  | 4  | 15 | 18 | 22 |
| 18 |    | 20 |    | 5  |    | 18 |    | 22 |    | 4  |    | 7  |    | 19 |
| 23 | 25 | 16 | 4  |    | 14 | 24 | 2  | 25 | 5  |    | 16 | 18 | 15 | 16 |
| 6  |    | 8  |    | 13 |    | 21 |    | 8  |    | 22 |    | 26 |    | 4  |
|    | 14 | 8  | 7  | 18 | 26 | 15 | 14 |    | 11 | 26 | 4  | 8  | 23 | 6  |
| 15 |    |    |    | 15 |    | 5  |    | 2  |    | 10 |    |    |    | 5  |
| 6  | 26 | 11 | 26 | 24 | 10 |    | 3  | 16 | 8  | 6  | 13 | 16 | 10 |    |
| 25 |    | 24 |    | 4  |    | 17 |    | 23 |    | 4  |    | 10 |    | 8  |
| 22 | 16 | 26 | 24 |    | 7  | 18 | 14 | 18 | 14 |    | 4  | 14 | 12 | 4  |
| 13 |    | 4  |    | 17 |    | 24 |    | 9  |    | 8  |    | 1  |    | 25 |
| 18 | 24 | 4  | 26 | 1  |    | 10 | 16 | 9  | 14 | 4  | 4  | 14 | 14 | 15 |
| 8  |    | 14 |    | 14 |    | 16 |    | 26 |    | 16 |    | 8  |    | 5  |
|    | 26 | 21 | 14 | 16 | 1  | 1  | 5  |    | 16 | 13 | 5  | 8  | 8  |    |

This crossword has no clues in the traditional sense. Each number printed represents one of the 26 letters of the alphabet. (They all feature!) We've given you three to start you off – so where there's a "6", you can fill in a "H".

All 23's become "C" - and so on. As you identify words that appear, so you can fill in the grid.

A B ~~C~~ D E F G ~~H~~ ~~I~~ J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |

H
C
I



## Sudan Link picture calendar - July

*Beyond the broad cultural differences that create barriers between us, all human beings form one family. Whatever our culture, our race, our age or our history, we share a longing, a thirst for life in fullness, a mark engraved by God in us to draw us towards him.*



Seeing this woman kneel before Archbishop Ezekiel for confirmation, I imagine

her heart-longing to be just like ours, wanting this to be a moment of truth, to experience God as he is, to break beyond faith – to know. She may not yet have grasped that in Christ we discover God has been seeking us all the time and that the Risen Jesus communicates the Holy Spirit to us, an invisible presence drawing us towards the fullness of God.

She kneels in front of a bishop dressed in 16th century English robes – a massive contrast of Gospel and Culture! To the woman the robes speak of authority and dignity. To us they should speak not so much of colonial history as of connection. This man confirming Christians in Sudan is one of us, part of our team, part of the Anglican Communion.

So many circles intersect at this moment, a missionary encounter between ways of life that meet in the very life of the Christian community. Whatever the history, here Gospel and culture connect. The timeless Gospel of God is to be interpreted in the cultural shape of human life in Sudan today.

Living in a Muslim area of Bradford, this Ramadhan I spent some time gardening with a neighbour. He said "I don't want my children to be Christians: I want them to be Muslims." It's a statement that shocked me because of its affirmation of Islam as a satisfying way of life and its denial of the desirability of Christianity. To the woman in the picture, to Archbishop Ezekiel, and to me, Christ is altogether beautiful, the Way, the Truth and Life.

Let us pray for Archbishop Ezekiel and the team of five other bishops in Sudan for an anointing to be channels of God's Spirit, an anointing to open the kingdom of heaven, and an anointing to be inspiring of discipleship.

## The Birds in Your Garden

### Starlings



Such is the strength of association between the Starling and humans that they are pretty much unmistakable. While their size is close to that of a Blackbird, the overall appearance is of a more rakish, bustling, social bird, often noisy and flighty. At distance, the adults appear black, but on closer viewing

the iridescent nature of the plumage becomes evident. It is possible to tell the sex of two adults, but only during the breeding season. Males have glossier plumage and a blueish blush at the base of their bills whilst females have a pinkish blush (!) at the base of their bills. Both have a yellow bill. Young Starlings are dull brown in colour, often with a pale throat and can easily be confused with Blackbirds.

I was prompted to write this piece after watching our local birds fighting over the suet balls, and then going out onto the lawn to probe for larvae: they spend the summer months feeding mostly on soil-dwelling invertebrates, such as leatherjackets (the larvae of crane flies), plus my suet balls – by the kilo. From late summer their diet will change and they will eat increasing quantities of plant material.

With the first eggs laid in April around here, our resident Starlings begin looking for nesting cavities early in the year. The loss of suitable cavities is thought to be yet another factor in their decline. Cavities under roof tiles or within barge boards and soffits are now less common than they once were, reducing opportunities for the urban component of our Starling breeding population.

By the time you read this, the earlier broods will have developed a brighter plumage, but the later ones will still be around and kicking up a fuss, demanding to be fed NOW. A pair will typically raise two broods per year, and within two months most juveniles will have moulted and gained their first basic plumage. They will acquire their adult plumage next year.

Starlings show a certain amount of adaptability when it comes to food. In addition to probing the ground for invertebrates, they will also flycatch or actively pursue insects across the ground. Large food scraps are taken regularly, and they have even been known to tackle small lizards, newts and frogs. This resourceful nature is one reason why the Starling has adapted so well to living alongside us within our urbanised landscapes.



As those of us who remember vast flocks of Starlings will be aware, they are not doing very well at the moment, despite their sometimes still being seen in fair sized flocks. Breeding numbers in the UK fell rapidly during the early 80s particularly in the south and west of Britain, and their UK conservation listing was changed from amber to red as the decline became more severe. Their breeding performance has gradually improved, suggesting that their continued low numbers may be due to poor survival rates of young birds.

Wintering Starlings roost communally and vast flocks may congregate at favoured sites, typically performing amazing aerobatic displays (known as 'murmurations') before dropping into the roost, which may be a reedbed, a group of conifers or a human structure such as a pier. These vast flocks



have more humble beginnings, with small flocks of Starlings coming together as dusk approaches. You can see them in late winter in quite a few places, one being Portrack Marsh reserve on Teesside.

*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 or visit the BTO Garden BirdWatch website it's still free for the moment ([www.bto.org/gbw](http://www.bto.org/gbw)). If you know of an organisation no more than 30 miles from York which would like a talk on garden birds whenever such activities resume, call: Mike Gray [gbwmike@gmail.com](mailto:gbwmike@gmail.com).*

b  
a  
c  
k  
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p  
e



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### *Deadlines*

The next scheduled edition is due on the first of September.  
Who knows what the situation will be by then!

The deadline for this is

**Monday 24th August**

Please let us have your material at least by then (earlier is better!)  
We'll try to have the magazine ready for Tuesday, 1st September

*Thanks to Theresa Clarke for the "Pinnacle" cover photo and to John Lancaster for the image of Bradley on the Prayer Page.*

*Could **you** share **your** photos of the parish?*