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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

Summer 2021

THE JUBILEE PINNACLE, FARNHILL MOOR.

A Church Directory

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Memories

In my study, I have a couple of boxes that are very special and precious to me—they contain lots of special things that hold memories for me. There are all sorts of bits and bobs, right from my baby days up to the present – photos, certificates, school reports even! There are cards celebrating joyful occasions such as my ordination, and others from sad times, such as the condolences that I received when my Dad died last year. From time to time, I find it both comforting and challenging to look in these boxes and to go on the time-travel journey that the items contained in them take me on, remembering key events that are woven into the fabric of my life.

I'm sure many of you will have a similar repository stashed somewhere in your house. Or maybe you have things on display all around you at home that help you to remember: souvenirs from holidays in exotic or simply well-loved places; photographs placed lovingly on shelves and tables to remind you of good times and significant events, friends and those you love. Sometimes it's good to spend some time with

our memories, to remember and reflect on all that has been good in our lives, and especially having lived through this last year of enforced separation, to be thankful for the memories that have often kept us going.



“ There are memories of encounters with God in the Old Testament ”

Much of the Bible is based on memories too, written down with love and care to remind us of the story of God in the lives of so many through the age. There are memories of encounters with God in the Old Testament, later revealed in the person of Jesus in the Gospels; memories of friends made as the new followers of 'The Way of Jesus' began to grow in number with the spread of the early Church. Memories of the difference encountering God had made to their lives. Christian faith is based on the memories of those first followers of Jesus, who shared their memories of him so that others yet to come (including us) would hear their stories and believe for ourselves.

St Paul, separated from the people of the young church in Philippi, spoke with deep affection in his letters to them:

'I thank my God every time I remember you.'

Philippians 1:3

Of course, not all our memories are good ones. Some of them, including memories we have from this last year may be sad, upsetting or even disturbing. Some of us will have had more time on our hands than we were comfortable with; others will have found life challenging and lonely, with just their memories for company. Inevitably, some of those living in care settings with dementia have lost precious time with loved ones and suffered irreversible memory loss over the course of the pandemic. People in that situation

will have lost the connection with others that are sustained through memories, which sadly can never be retrieved – there is great sadness in that which should be acknowledged.

As we gradually ease back into a life of in-person connection again after such an extended time of deprivation – the first coffee with friends, the first meal with family, that first hug with grandchildren and the other people we've missed so much – we're starting the process of making new memories. May those fresh, new memories gradually take the place of more painful ones from the last year, becoming a source of new joy and thanksgiving, so that with St Paul we too can say 'I thank my God every time I remember you'.

With every blessing



Julie

Looking Forward...

Hoorah! We hope to re start Flapjack Friday on June 25th!

This is an important venture where Mums (mainly – but it's open to all!) can gather in church to enjoy a cuppa and, of course, something farinaceous (as Joyce Grenfell referred to biscuits etc)

Looking further ahead, it is probable that Sunday Tea and Scones will take a while before they can be resurrected but we are provisionally arranging a fundraising Cream Tea afternoon on Saturday August 21st in aid of Jigsaw Ministries who work among deprived children in Manila in the Philippines.

Obviously these arrangements depend on the progress of lockdown rules.

News from May's Annual Meetings and PCC

We have a new Churchwarden! Alongside Robert Hall and Joan McCartney, who have worked hard for us over the last year, we welcomed the election of Sandie Walton. This means we now have three of the four places filled – welcome, Sandie! They will have increased responsibilities as we move into a period of vacancy, so do keep them in your prayers.

Membership of the PCC remains stable; Lesley Cooke and I stood down and were re-elected to serve for a three year term. This was done so we have some succession in place and others will do the same at the next APCM. Janet Wade remains Treasurer, I'm still PCC Secretary and our Safeguarding Officer is Geraldine Sands, ably assisted by Andrew Symonds.

We were not able to present the Annual Accounts at that meeting; both Bradley's and Cononley's were with Independent Examiners. Kildwick's accounts are yet to be completed. Sandie Walton has done an exemplary job with the day-to-day book-keeping, but that cannot be said of the person employed to produce the year end Accounts. The Diocese Finance Department has been kept fully informed and is very sympathetic: we are not the only parish in this situation. Work is in hand to rectify the situation as quickly as possible. All of the Accounts will be presented at a specially convened meeting after the PCC has approved them.

The PCC heard from the Working Teams: Kildwick folk continue to work on the direction of travel for St Andrew's building. Julie reminded us about the questionnaire which will help us build a Parish Profile which will be used when the vacancy is advertised. The Worship Team has been making plans for covering services during the vacancy. Our next meeting is planned for June 22nd, so if you have ideas or comments, please get in touch!

Jill Wright



Christian Aid Week

Didn't we do well?! Thanks to your generosity, the parish as a whole (including Cononley's Methodist members) collected more than £960. With the Gift Aid which will be collected by Christian Aid, our total will come to well over £1000. Many thanks to Andrew Symonds and Janet Wade for organising the collection – money which is more needed than ever just now.

The Building of Farnhill's Jubilee Tower for Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887

Long-reigning Queen Victoria was Queen from 20 June 1837 to 22 January 1901. Her Golden Jubilee commemorating 50 years as sovereign was celebrated on 20 and 21 June 1887.

Local preparations for celebrating the Jubilee were very last minute but the legacy of 1887 is without doubt the most significant of all through the creation of Farnhill's Jubilee Pinnacle which has defined the local landscape ever since.



Newspaper reports in the months leading up to the Jubilee give the impression that every town and village across the country was pre-occupied with preparing their royal celebrations – everywhere that is except Farnhill and Kildwick. Perhaps the villagers were too busy preparing for Whitsunside or thought their needs would be catered for by jubilee events that were taking place elsewhere, such as Skipton or Saltaire. Maybe it needed an "offcumdun" (a newcomer) to get things off the ground.

Grand Celebrations in Skipton

By May 1887 plans in Skipton were coming together for a grand celebration that would take place over a number of days and included new bells (they turned out to be awful things!), processions and an ox-roast:

A Kildwick Exhibit in the Yorkshire Jubilee Exhibition at Saltaire

On 6th May, Queen Victoria's daughter Princess Beatrice and her husband Prince Henry of Battenburg opened the Royal Yorkshire Jubilee Exhibition at Saltaire. Among many displays was a map of Kildwick Parish which

had been awarded the first prize at the Geographical Exhibition held at Bradford. This remarkable map was entered by Mr Haswell, school master of Kildwick School.

A New Vicar to the Rescue ?

By the end of May there were still no plans to have any jubilee celebrations in Kildwick or Farnhill. In the week after the considerable Whitsuntide feast the new Vicar of Kildwick, the Revd Archibald Thompson convened a meeting in the Parish Room on 2 June when it was: *"unanimously resolved to have a public celebration of the Queen's Jubilee for the townships of Farnhill, Kildwick and Glusburn"* (*Craven Herald*).

The Revd Thompson was so recently arrived that he had not yet been formally inducted and was keen to make a good impression on his parishioners. He was elected president of the Jubilee committee and with the ideas and hard work of the villagers from the three townships, arranged a remarkable celebration, raising £112 12s ½d through subscriptions and guarantors to fund the events.

The Building of the Pinnacle

It was decided to rebuild the derelict cairn on Farnhill Crag. From the laying of the foundation stone on 14th June to the celebrations on Jubilee Day, 21st June, Farnhill Moor was a hive of activity with a constant stream of people with building materials and attending various ceremonies at the Pinnacle site. Inside the Pinnacle was placed a box containing jubilee medals, the "*Craven Herald*" and "*the Pioneer*" and a bottle with a parchment note inside it. According to Mr Greenwood, who helped build the Pinnacle, the signatures of all the men involved in its construction were included along with instructions that if the pinnacle were ever allowed to fall into ruin the box and its contents would be handed to the Vicar of Kildwick. When completed, the Pinnacle stood 9 feet in diameter and over 12 feet high with a stone cross surmounting it. The carvings on the cross, of a rose, thistle and shamrock, are still visible today. Representing England (including Wales), Scotland and all of Ireland these were important national emblems of the time and Queen Victoria herself, on the evening of the 22 June attended a banquet at Buckingham Palace wearing "an elegant gown embroidered with silver roses, thistles and shamrocks".



This map from "*Glusburn; the Old Community*" by Alec Wood shows the area covered by Mr Haswell's map.



Jubilee Day Celebrations – Tuesday 21 June 1887

The day's proceedings got off to an early start with a salvo of bells from the church and by six o'clock everyone was astir. There were numerous flags and a red awning across the road near the church gates. A large procession wound its way to Cross Hills and Glusburn, to a field near the station at the level crossing.

It was a hot, sunny day and this, along with clouds of limestone dust kicked up by the procession made it very uncomfortable, especially for the 600 children who took part.

A substantial hot meal took over an hour and a half to serve. Gas was provided free of charge by the Kildwick Parish Gas Company which was situated on the Kildwick side of the level crossing.

Sport and Entertainment

Throughout the afternoon the Kildwick Brass Band played selections of music and "much dancing was indulged in". After tea, there was a range of sports including running

races, tug of war, skipping for girls and an old men's race. In the tug of war, after a long struggle, Mr Hargreaves' team of twelve from the south of the Aire (Glusburn, Crosshills and Junction) beat Mr Haswell's team of twelve from the north side of the Aire (Kildwick and Farnhill). The result was reversed in the tug of war for youths of 18 when Mr Haswell's team were the victors.



The Beacon

The principal attraction of the evening was the lighting of the bonfire near the Pinnacle at 10pm. The bonfire was described as "a splendid pile" and its flames rose rapidly, shooting several yards into the air, and could be seen over the entire area as far away as Settle in one direction and beyond Shipley in another. Rockets were also set off and by next morning, a large patch of moor was ablaze but was put out with little trouble.

From an elevated point of the moor to the east of the Pinnacle it was possible to see 19 other fires in the area including those at Raven Stone (Sutton), the Gib (Cononley) and Earl Crag (Cowling) which was first lit around 8pm in broad daylight and where the enthusiasm continued through the evening with the ringing of the church bells, the sounding of mill buzzers at Ickornshaw and frequent cannon shots from Knott Hill. The Earl Crag beacon was again ablaze on Wednesday evening.

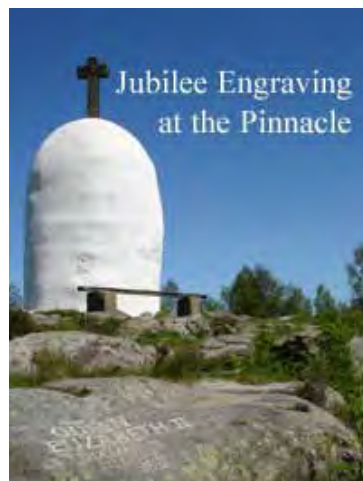
After the Celebrations

It was understood that a full account was going to be written in the Parish minute books so that *"in the event of a future royal Jubilee the inhabitants may have for their guidance a faithful record of the manner in which this celebration was conducted in the year of Grace 1887."* Whether this was done and what happened to Mr Haswell's award winning map of Kildwick Parish is not known, but one thing is for certain, Farnhill's Jubilee Pinnacle remains as a **"monument to the loyalty and unity of the inhabitants of Kildwick and Farnhill"** as wished for by J Brigg Esq. 125 years ago.

In commemoration of the current Queen's Diamond Jubilee an engraving was commissioned by Farnhill Parish Council. The engraving was done by Shaun Bradley and says "1952 Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee 2012".

Postscript: John Brigg Esq of Kildwick Hall was M.P for Keighley from 1895 to his death in 1911 and was knighted in 1909. The Revd Archibald Douglas Cavendish Thompson, M.A. Clerk in Holy Orders was instituted as Vicar for Kildwick in 1887 and continued in post until retiring in 1899, a year in which a typhoid outbreak in Kildwick saw 51 parishioners infected and left ten of them dead.

Helen Moran
Farnhill and Kildwick Local History Group



Creator of all,
Sustainer of all,
Saviour of all,
Your glory and majesty
are beyond our understanding,
Your power too awesome to behold.
And yet your love enfolds us as a gentle breeze.
Saviour of all ,
Sustainer of all,
Creator of all,
We bless your holy name. Amen

Light of light,
Lord of Lords,
God of this world
and the next,
We give you thanks
for the promise of this day,
We give you thanks
for the challenge of this day,
We give you thanks
for the blessings of this day.
Light of light,
Lord of Lords,
God of this world
and the next,
We give you thanks. Amen

This world is yours, planned in eternity,
created in a moment of sheer exuberance,
permeated with love,
well made.
This place is yours, in its simplicity,
blue sky and countryside, pure creativity,
painted with care,
well made.
This day is yours, pure generosity,
given for moments of gentle reflection,
in the bustle of a day,
well made.
This moment is yours in its entirety,
a drop of time in an ocean of history,
gifted with joy,
well made. Amen

Labyrinths

A Labyrinth is not a maze. (Though it can be amazing!)
A maze is designed to confuse – to get you lost.
Labyrinths are different. They are a single path.
There are no junctions and no blind ends.
A labyrinth is an aid to contemplation as you follow
its tortuous path towards the centre

Caring for God's Acre



The KCB Churches have signed up as members of an organisation called "Caring for God's Acre". Started as a small Shropshire based initiative in 1997, Caring for God's Acre was established in 2000 as a national charity, promoting the conservation of burial sites and supporting the volunteers who look after and maintain them. In due course, we will be asking for their help in undertaking a survey of at least St Andrew's churchyard as we work with the school to develop a maintenance plan.

They produce a regular newsletter. Here is this month's:

Time for a new hobby?

This is a perfect month for enjoying wildflowers and the buzz of insects, and what better place to do this than your local churchyard or cemetery? With over 20,000 burial grounds in England and Wales these are fantastic wildlife hotspots, scattered like gems across our cities, towns and villages. Since the onset of coronavirus, we may have been taking exercise in our local 'patch' or enjoying the wildlife to be seen from windows or in gardens. For those lucky enough to have access to a churchyard or cemetery there are many wonders to see and this could be a good time to learn how to make a biological record for the Caring for Gods Acre national database. Why not give it a go? Have a look on our website and use the iRecord form or email or post a list to us.

If you are new to recording, start with something easy. Is there a yew tree in your churchyard, or perhaps a grey squirrel, blackbird or robin? This could be a good year to focus on some of our familiar wild-flowers; oxeye daisies, selfheal, lesser stitchwort and cow parsley all flower around now. Does corydalis or ivy grow on the wall? What about Peacock Butterflies, bright yellow Brimstones or (flying at tree height), the Holly Blue?

Making a record is simple – just write down your name, what you saw, where you saw it and the date. For example **Chris Wright, Ladybird, 5/06/21, St Andrews Churchyard, Kildwick, North Yorkshire.**

We have a 'Starter Guide' to help you get going. Excellent for all ages including children, these are free to good homes! Please email me or order via our website and I will pop one in the post.

Andrea Gilpin
andrea@cfga.org.uk
www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk

Service Times

Kildwick:

First Sunday	11.00am	Eucharist (Holy Communion)
Second Sunday	9.30am	Eucharist (Holy Communion)
Third Sunday	11.00am	Family Worship
Fourth Sunday	11.00am	Eucharist (Holy Communion)

Cononley

First Sunday	11.00am	Methodist-led Service
Second Sunday	11.00am	Holy Communion
Third Sunday	11.00am	Holy Communion
Fourth Sunday	11.00am	Morning Prayer

Bradley

First Sunday	9.30am	Holy Communion
Second Sunday	9.30am	Morning Prayer
Third Sunday	9.30am	Holy Communion
Fourth Sunday	9.30am	Holy Communion

Services other than Eucharist or Communion are normally led by a lay member of the congregation.

20th June is the day we say “farewell” to Julie. There will be a single service for the whole parish at St Andrew’s Kildwick that day. It will start at 11.00am. This is our opportunity to say good bye - and to thank Julie for what she has done for us during this period of Interim Ministry. Even though we are a day before Stage 4 arrives (we hope!), there should be plenty of space for all to gather in a proper socially distanced manner.



Readings for June

6th June	1st Sunday of Trinity	Genesis 3. 8 – 15 Mark 3.20 – end
13th June	2nd Sunday of Trinity	Ezekiel 17. 22 – end Mark 4. 26 – 34
20th June	3rd Sunday of Trinity	Job 38.1–11 Mark 4.35 – 41
27th June	4th Sunday of Trinity	Lamentations 3. 23 – 32 Mark 5. 21 – end

When vaccination was compulsory

Smallpox was a deadly viral disease with a 30% chance of death, and survivors often suffering terrible scarring or blindness. It killed over 400,000 per year in Europe in the 19th century. In 1796 Edward Jenner had introduced an effective, safe, vaccination for Smallpox by injecting Cowpox, which is a similar virus but not infectious to humans.

But just as now not everybody believed it to be safe. There was much “fake news” about the vaccine especially because it came from an animal, the cow. This is reflected in the famous cartoon by Gillray showing Jenner delivering the vaccine to people who are then growing Cow’s heads. Despite this scepticism smallpox vaccination became generally accepted and countries began to make it compulsory. In 1853 England made vaccination compulsory for children within the first three months of life and followed this in 1867 with an act making vaccination compulsory for all children under 14 years. After a smallpox epidemic in 1871 the law was strengthened, forcing local authorities to strongly manage it including prosecuting people who failed to get their children vaccinated, with the liability of a fine or a prison sentence.

But the anti-vaccination movement gained increasing strength. Anti-vaccination journals appeared and leagues to fight compulsory vaccination emerged, encouraging civil disobedience to the law. Leicester became a centre for resistance to the vaccination with over 3000 people prosecuted in 1884 for refusing to vaccinate their children. In 1885 there was a mass anti-vaccination rally in Leicester which focused national attention on the movement.

With continued disobedience to the vaccination law a “conscientious objection” clause was added in 1898. This meant that parents could affirm their objection to vaccination as a matter of conscience. The ability to declare a conscientious objection had been established in the 18th century through the refusal by Quakers to undertake military service, but this was the first example of its use to refuse medical treatments. Finally, in 1909, the compulsory vaccination laws were rescinded.

The last naturally occurring case of smallpox was 181 years after Jenner’s vaccination was established, in 1977. The World Health Organisation declared the world free of smallpox in 1980 – the only human infectious disease to be eradicated so far.

Richard Woolf

A tribute to bubble friends

I was talking with friends. We spoke of how much harder these 14 months would have been without our bubbles. We would have been really lonely. That's a stark word, and one we older people are reluctant to use. It seems to imply weakness.

Of course there's more to it! We were meant to socialise with other people – to share the everyday difficulties and joys and to learn from each other. Back in one of the strict lockdowns there was a week when I saw no one at all except the staff at the Co-op. *(In passing I'd like to pay tribute to them. You saw them taking time to talk to obviously lonely people – I experienced that myself. They really have been almost a community centre!)* Of course I exchanged phone calls and texts but it isn't the same as seeing friends. I didn't want another week like that, so my bubble friend and I arranged to meet every weekend. We take it in turns to cook for each other and it's been a vital part of surviving all this with, on the whole, a positive attitude. I'm sure I'm not alone in this.

Now we're hopefully through the worst, I want to thank her!



Glyn Evans

WI Cononley



Hello everyone

It's getting warmer and things are beginning to look up. At our Committee meeting it was decided to hold a picnic on the Sports Field. The picnic will take place on the 27th May at 12 midday, so do come along with your chairs, blankets and picnics. We will have lots of news to share with each other and no doubt talk about how we have coped during these difficult times.

Looking forward to welcoming everyone on the 27th May. In the meantime do take care, stay safe and well.



**Pauline Link – President
WI Cononley**

Cononley Art Group

Cononley Art Group has decided not to meet at the Institute because of the restrictions still in force for indoor spaces but will meet in my garden for a while until we see how the rules are eased. We are reliant on the weather so we hope for a lovely May and June but we will be able to meet each other and talk and maybe even paint a little.

Ruby Sedgwick

Discs from a Deserted Island

Elsbeth Barfoot asks: "Am I allowed 10?"

Perhaps the answer should be "no" – but as others have squeezed ten in already, I guess it would be churlish to do that...

Guide me O Thou Great Redeemer This was my Dad's favourite hymn – his love for it came from the words and the wonderful music.

No.6 Pastoral Symphony Beethoven When our children were little they had a cassette recording and Ladybird book of 'Wind in the Willows' and this music was what we listened to every bedtime along with the narration from the story.

Moonlight Serenade Glenn Miller Mum and Dad's favourite music from during the war – easy listening.

Bridge Over Troubled Water Simon and Garfunkel I first heard this at College in 1971 – then one of the thrills of my life was seeing them at the Manchester Arena in 2004 and the Everly Brothers came on as a huge surprise to sing 'Bye Bye Love'; another great favourite of mine.

I Want to Break Free Queen In my opinion the greatest rock band ever. Freddie Mercury was iconic – he died too young.

The William Tell Overture Rossini As children we used to watch 'The Lone Ranger' and the music was exciting and just fitted in with the action

Hallelujah Leonard Cohen There have been lots of versions of this song but this one is the best. I saw him perform in Leeds soon before he died – I have a book of his poetry/song lyrics which are memorable.

I Will Fly Away Alison Krauss and Gillian Welch From the film 'O Brother where art Thou', I can listen to this over and over again. I love the words, the harmony and the accompaniment.

I Will Always Love You Dolly Parton She is amazing and so talented and the lyrics of this song are so emotive. I took my daughter to see her perform in Manchester in September 2011. We had a wonderful time together!

Love Divine A timeless hymn which we, like many before us, chose for our wedding in 1974. The words are beautiful – it always makes me know that I am loved.

Elsbeth Barfoot

(I wonder which of the ten she would save from being swept away? Ed)

Lockdown Bellringing

Back in April, I reported a win in the ART Awards for this year. We also heard of a “virtual striking competition” due to take place.

On the appointed day, with beating hearts, we took part. As we expected, we didn’t get through the eliminator heats, but they rang the test piece as well as ever they have and, when we listened to the efforts of one of the four finalists, we actually felt that our rendition was pretty well up there with them!

One result of this was that the MiniRingers received an invitation to join the Brumdingers in an online practice. This was an exciting time, led by one of the country’s foremost ringers and involved, for some of the time, ringing on 16 bells!



We continue to work hard at our ringing. Last night we made our first foray back into the tower for the first practice since March 2020. We were delighted to find that “muscle memory” has lasted and that we all coped really well with real bells and real ropes. Some of our young ones had a good extra taster last Sunday when they joined the Yorkshire Tykes who are the Yorkshire Association youth branch. Their more senior members (all up to the age of 18) are preparing to take part in the National Youth contest in September. They won this in 2017 and always show well at this prestigious event, held this year in Worcester. Kildwick provides some of the youngest members of the Tykes.

It’ll be a while before our lot are ready to join the contest band, but Erin is our youngest recruit of all. She astounded two of the adult leaders of the Tykes as she took a pair of handbells and rang with them nearly faultlessly. She has never tried that before on real bells; her only experience has been on the Ringing Room computer screen.

Our ringers won’t be able to practice this for a while. This small amount of ringing demonstrated very clearly how badly our set of hand bells need restoration. Some of them will hardly sound on both “strokes”. We are taking advantage of the fact that a friend will shortly be travelling to one of the foremost handbell restorers who lives in Sussex. He will assess the condition – and the restoration can be paid for with the £400 prize money from the ART foundation. We may have to raise a little more but we’ll have to wait and see about that...

Jackdaws



I've had a pair of Jackdaws pretty much dominating my feeders recently. One is far more successful in clinging on than the other, but both are persistent, and keep coming back. If the suet balls run out, they attack the mixed seeds intended for the sparrows. They've only been around

the last couple of years and then only during winter and early spring, probably because their favourite food is in short supply, but with their numbers steadily climbing in the UK we'll doubtless be seeing more of them.

Our smallest crow, the Jackdaw, is a bird of woodland, parkland, coasts and urban areas. They are sociable birds, often seen in flocks, and given a good breeze, will perform joyous looking aerial acrobatics all the time repeating their short, loud 'kya' call. Their overall appearance is of a striking shiny black bird with a grey sheen to the back of the head; adult birds have a characteristic startling pale eye too.

Their intelligence is legendary, and they figure in myths throughout Europe, being reputed to steal shiny objects to keep in their nests, though there seems to be no truth in this. They were originally described by Carl Linnaeus in his *Systema Naturae*, when, due to this supposed fondness for picking up coins, Linnaeus named them *Corvus monedula* from the Latin word for money. Their common name probably comes from two separate words: 'Jack' meaning rogue or thief and 'daw' from their call.

Jackdaws pair up in their first year, but only breed from the second. Genetic analysis of offspring shows no evidence of extra-pair mating, and though some pairs do separate in the first few months, most form for life. Widowed or separated birds fare badly, often being ousted from nests and territories.

Pairs can be seen keeping together even in big feeding flocks, the size of which increases in the autumn with birds congregating at dusk for communal roosting, sometimes in their many hundreds.

They usually breed colonially with pairs collaborating to find a nest site and defending it from other pairs and predators. They build their nests in cavities in trees or cliffs, in church steeples, ruined or occupied buildings and in chimneys, sometimes blocking them with nests crashing down into fireplaces, maybe with birds still on them. The essential requirement is a sheltered site. A nest platform can be reused and will increase in size each year: the pair drop sticks from above onto the chosen crevice, and build their nest on the platform so formed.

When the female is laying, the male is especially vigilant and both adults put a lot of effort into rearing the young. As a survival strategy four or five eggs are laid, with the female starting incubation halfway through laying so that the last two chicks are smaller and thus subordinate if food is short.

Jackdaws have increased in abundance since the 1960s, following reduced persecution by farmers and gamekeepers and, helped by their highly varied diet of invertebrates and their larvae, seeds, nuts, fruit and carrion. Young songbirds nestlings are also taken, but this is not a major food source. Although not a particularly welcome visitor to feeding stations, Jackdaws will eat almost anything available, and, despite their size, are able to cling on to feeders. On the ground they will try jumping, pecking, clod-turning, probing the soil, and occasionally, digging. They catch flies around cow pats by jumping from the ground or by dropping from above onto the cow pat and can be seen riding on the backs of sheep seeking ticks, as well as gathering wool or hair for nests. Add to all the above grain (barley, wheat and oats), weed seeds, elderberries, acorns, and various cultivated fruits, and you can see why they are so successful.

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 visit the BTO Garden BirdWatch website (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: Mike Gray gbwmike@gmail.com.

The Back Page



Deadlines

Into new territory! The Summer Edition covers July and August – our first two months of Vacancy... So it is up to us!

The deadline for this copy is

Thursday 24th June

Please let us have your material at least by then.

Photos

This month, our front page photo is an old postcard of the Jubilee Pinnacle (see the article inside) – and the Prayer Page photo shows the Labyrinth on the Church Green at Kildwick.