

A brief time-line

There has probably been a place of worship here since the birth of Christianity in Yorkshire.

At Kildwick, there is an important place where roads converge on a river crossing. Here people will have gathered – and where people gather, a hostelry will spring up and a priest will minister.

Simple wood, wattle and daub grew into a stone Saxon building dating from around the year 950.

In 1086 the Domesday Book states, *"In Kildwick Arnketil, 2 carucates to the geld and 1 church"*. There is Norman stonework in two pillars.

Between 1135 and 1140 Cecily de Rumily (*Romille*) granted the church to the Priory at Embsay, beginning a monastic connection which lasted till the 1539 dissolution of Bolton Priory by Henry VIII.

The Norman church of the 12th century may have remained till the disastrous early years of the 1300s. The early parts of the building we can see today follow this period. The more westerly arches closely resemble those of the old Kildwick bridge which also dates from about that time.

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

In 1873 the porch was added and in 1901-3 a very significant re-building and re-ordering was carried out with the re-siting of pews and roof repairs.

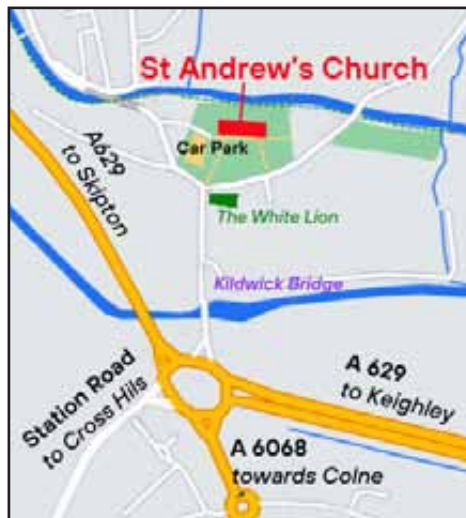


A building with a history that spans two millennia has a far more fascinating story to tell than can be compressed onto one sheet of paper! We can't provide the shelves of information you might want but there is

a gathering of material on our website, linked to the information boards about church. It's at kcbchurches.org.uk/index.php/exploring-church (or you may find it easier to scan the QR code).

Find Us

St Andrew's, Kildwick is perched above the main A629 road, about halfway between Skipton and Keighley. From the roundabout, go over the medieval bridge and pass the White Lion – which has a history as long as that of the church. Keep left then right to find the car park through the narrow gates.



It will be no surprise to learn that we need significant funds to maintain this ancient building and play our part in the mission of God's church.



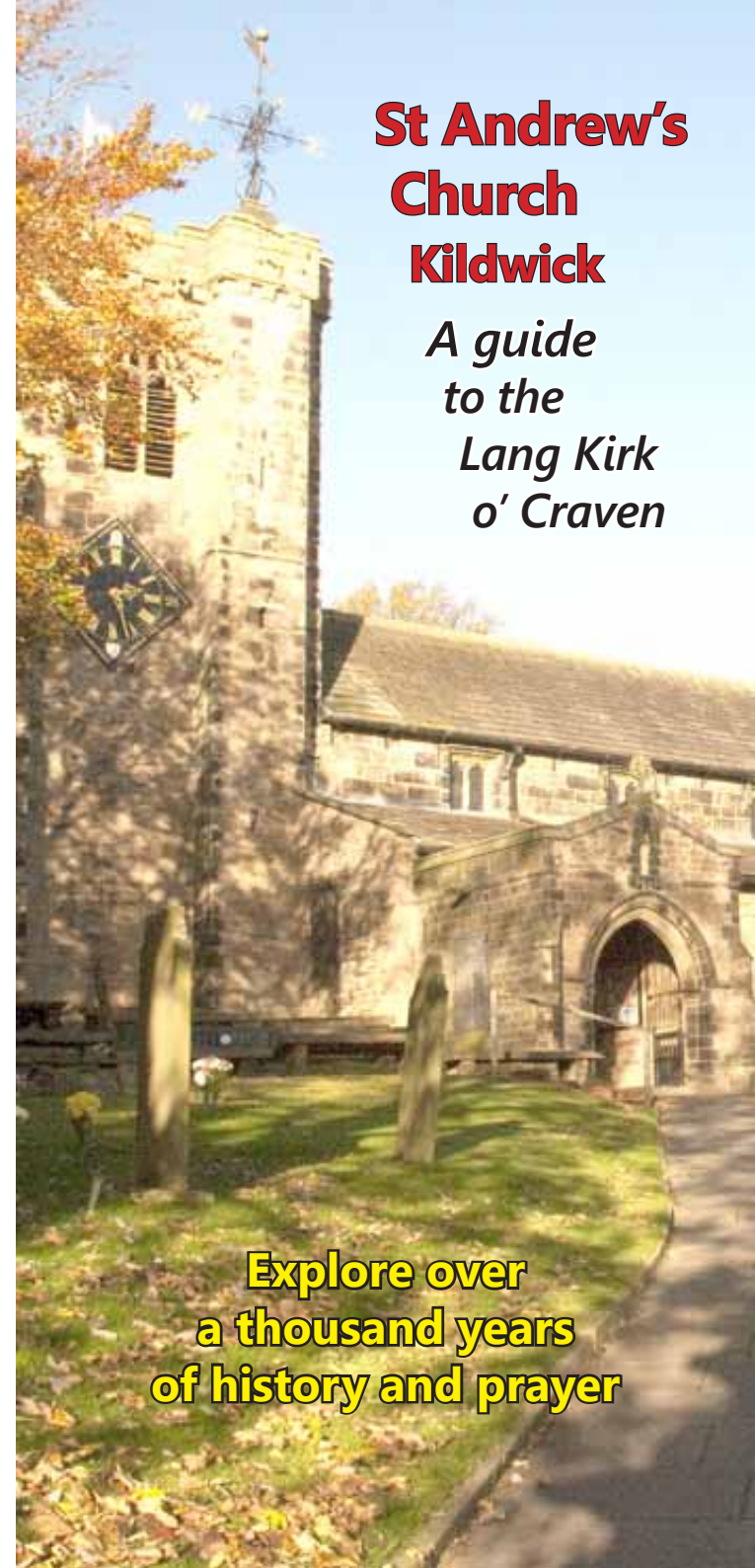
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If you can Gift Aid it, the Government will add 25p to every £1 you give – at no cost to you!

St Andrew's Church Kildwick

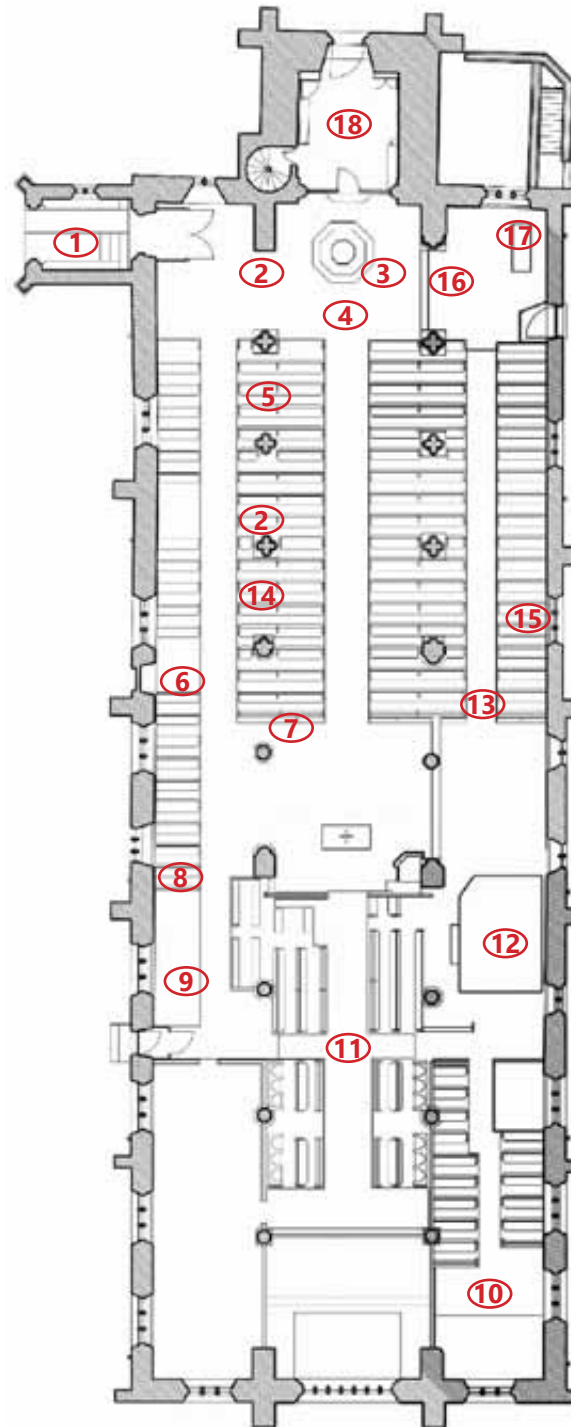
*A guide to the
Lang Kirk
o' Craven*



**Explore over
a thousand years
of history and prayer**

A walk around the church

- 1 The porch** is the youngest part of the building. It was built in 1873. There's a (steep) ramp for wheelchairs which probably needs assistance.
- 2 The oldest bits of the building.** In the 11th-12th century, the "dog-tooth" carving at the base of the pillar was once the top of a Norman pillar.
- 3 The 15th century font** is near the door – symbolising the moment of "arrival" as a new Christian is baptised. It bears emblems of the crucifixion. The font cover is a 1869 copy of the medieval original.
- 4 The Lang Kirk o' Craven.** Stand by the font and look eastwards. The church (at 45m or 146ft) is the longest in this part of Yorkshire.
- 5 The first three pairs of pillars** are rounded. The fourth pillars are squared-off and may mark the limit of the 1350's post-Norman building. The western arches are very similar to the contemporary arch of the Kildwick bridge.
- 6 A blocked doorway.** When opened up in the 1900 restoration, a St Andrew's cross was discovered under the lintel.
- 7 The pews are relatively modern (1868-70).** Don't be fooled by the carving on the front pew! These are made from old Jacobean woodwork.
- 8 A piscina.** This is a "sink" for pouring holy water. It probably marks the site of a side chapel.
- 9 Old stone crosses.** These fragments may be from six or seven different Saxon/Scandinavian crosses. They were found during a major restoration in the early 1900's and suggest an ancient stone church.
- 10 The Currer Chapel.** in the major restoration of 1901-3, the enormous Currer family vault was largely removed from this area. The old Farnhill Hall "Eltoft" family pew (1633) was moved westward and new pews installed. Read the story of the "Rycroft" window while you are here.



- 18 The Bell Tower** There is a fine ring of 8 bells with rare double-ended "Yorkshire tail ends". Two peal boards mark some significant pieces of ringing. *Above the west door*, see the early Norman corbel; one of the oldest identified stones in the church.
- 17 The Stiveton tomb** Marked "Robert of Stiveton (Steeton), died 1307", it shows a knight in 1350's style armour. This is probably his grandson (also Robert) who died in 1353 and who may have built the west end of the church we see today.
- 16 The Parish Chest.** Literally a strong box! Made from a single oak log and armed with three locks, it could only be opened by the vicar and both wardens together. It held church records, the silverware and any alms posted through the slot.
- 15 The "Stiveton" window** marks the site of the of the Stiveton monument between the pillars.
- 14 Clerestory windows.** From this side, see the high windows ("clerestory" = "clear storey"). Probably installed with the new roof in the 16th century when the long chancel was added. Note the chopped-off tops of the south windows.
- 13 Cross-slab stone.** Such a stone with a cross usually marks the grave of a senior cleric but we don't know who. It probably dates from the 15th or 16th century. Unusually the ends of the arms have two "buds" rather than the usual three.
- 12 The Organ.** Rebuilt in 1901-3 by the Cross Hills firm of Laycock and Bannister. See the Laycock family tomb at the bottom end of the car park.
- 11 The Chancel Pews.** An eclectic mix of pews, assembled in this layout in the 1901-3 renovation. Much of the timber is old Jacobean work – but was probably made as wall panelling. Some early carved dates show that this woodwork has a long history but it needs careful interpretation. *Look up and see the enclosed roof space above the main altar. Puzzle with us as we wonder what might be found up there...*