

The Erringden Eagle



Mytholmroyd & Cragg Vale News Feb 2026 Visit our website

www.erringdenbenefice.org.uk

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A Prayer for Lent

Holy God,

our lives are laid open before you:
rescue us from the chaos of sin
and through the death of your Son
bring us healing and make us whole
in Jesus Christ our Lord

Amen.



Lent begins this year on Wednesday 18th February. There will be a service at St Mary's, Luddenden starting at 7.30pm. All are welcome and lifts can be arranged.

The Lent study groups, organised by Churches together in Hebdenroyd, will start in the week beginning February 23rd. There will be sign-up lists in the Churches for the next two weeks. The groups are great opportunities to meet other Christians and to learn more about our faith.

There will be details of our Holy Week activities in the next edition of the Eagle but please note the events listed on page 10 - the Lent Lunches and the Agape meal at St Michael's.

Events and activities in February

Date	St John's	St Michael's
Sun 1st	9.30am Worship	11am Worship
Mon 2nd	Yoga 6pm and 7pm	10.30am BREW
Tue 3rd	12-3pm Cragg Community Hubhub	2.00pm Guild meeting — AGM 7.00pm PCC meeting
Wed 4th		
Thu 5th		9.30am Angels 6.00pm Bell ringing practice 7.30pm Choir Practice
Fri 6th	Yoga 6pm	9am Benefice prayers 7 for 7.30pm Quiz Night
Sat 7th		10am Coffee in Erringden Room
Sun 8th	9.30am Worship	11am Worship
Mon 9th	2pm YCA Yoga 6pm and 7pm	10.30am BREW
Tue 10th	12-3pm Cragg Community Hubhub	
Wed 11th		2.00pm Book Club
Thu 12th		9.30am Angels 6.00pm Bell ringing practice 7.30pm Choir Practice
Fri 13th	Yoga 6pm	9am Benefice prayers
Sat 14th		10am PCC coffee morning

Date	St John's	St Michael's
Sun15th	9.30am Worship	11am Worship
Mon16th	3.30pm PCC meeting Yoga 6pm and 7pm	10.30am BREW
Tue 17th	12-3pm Cragg Community Hubbub	
Wed 18th	7.30pm Ash Wednesday Service at St Mary's, Luddenden	
Thu 19th	7.30pm History group	6.00pm Bell ringing practice 7.30pm Choir Practice 8pm Wives AGM
Fri 20th	Yoga 6pm	9am Benefice prayers
Sat 21st	6.30pm Curry club –see poster	10am Coffee in Erringden Room
Sun 22nd	9.30am Worship	11am Worship
Mon 23rd	2-3pm Over 75s exercise class Yoga 6pm and 7pm	10.30am BREW
Tue 24th	12-3pm Cragg Community Hubbub	
Wed 25th		
Thu 26th		9am Benefice prayers
Fri 27th	Yoga 6pm	10am Coffee in Erringden Room
Sat 28th	9.30am Worship	11am Worship



This joyful picture was taken on November 30th, 2025 when Ali and Brenda were confirmed by Bishop Smitha at St Mary's Todmorden. The church was packed to witness the event with candidates from Todmorden, Mytholmroyd and Luddenden.

St John's Church, Cragg Vale

Come and join us at



Please note change of date!

Cragg

Curry Club!



Saturday 21st February

from 6.30pm

Come and enjoy a delicious meal with family and friends!



A choice of curries
+ rice, naan bread etc!

£14

Donations bar

Email gjwsa2@gmail.com or text 07443420907

to book your place!

A brief history of certain facets of Church Architecture

by Mike Darke

I have numerous interests of which the history of Church Architecture is among them. This includes ground layout of Churches and Cathedrals and their origin, the stone used, the shape of windows and doors, the tower and spires etc. The Normans, of course, invaded Britain in 1066 under William the Conqueror and as a consequence few Saxon churches remain, as most were constructed of wood and people believed that Anglo-Saxon churches were old-fashioned and therefore, within 100 years, replaced almost every Cathedral and Abbey with stone, which was seen as having more grandeur and was Romanesque in style. Simon Jenkins recently described this demolition of Saxon churches as 'Cultural genocide'.

The Romans were converted to Christianity in 324 AD and the Anglo-Saxons later around the 7th century. Those Saxon stone churches that remain are characterised by semi-circular arches over doors and windows, the latter usually having small external openings, often triangular headed, but deeply splayed through to the interior. The 7th Century St Martin's Church, Canterbury is the classic example in the UK but other prominent examples are churches in Bradford -on Avon, Brixworth and Escombe and Barton-on Humber.



Norman churches are characterised by windows, doorways and the tops of columns having semi-circular arches and are often in a prominent position. Durham Cathedral is perhaps the most classic example in the UK.

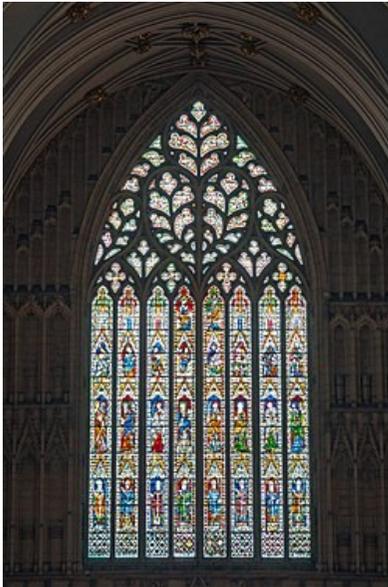
Norman



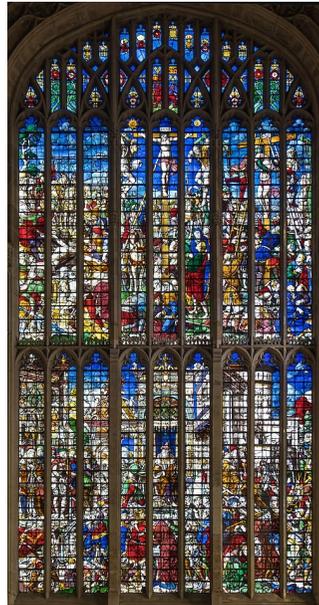
In the 13th century, however Early English became the dominant style characterised by narrow lancet windows with an arched pointed top but in the 14th century this was replaced by the rebirth of Gothic architecture and the Classical Geometric emerged in style to be replaced in the 15th century by the Classic Perpendicular which is especially seen in the windows and is

13th Century Early English

found in many UK churches today. Those churches built later in the UK often have the window behind the altar that is vaguely modelled on some Classical style like St Michael's in Mytholmroyd.



14th Century Classical Geometric



15th Century Perpendicular

Towers and the exterior of churches illustrate the use of local stone and both St Michael's and St John's are built in hard local millstone grit whilst elsewhere in the country you find, for example, churches built in sandstone like Nantwich in Cheshire or magnificent cathedral like the Anglican Cathedral in Liverpool. Flintstone churches are found in East Anglia and the South-East, carboniferous limestone churches and the Peak District and oolitic, softer yellowish, limestone churches in the Cotswolds. The latter are often called Wool churches as they were financed by wealthy wool merchants between the 14th and 16th centuries. The cathedral and churches of Cirencester provide good illustrations.

Incidentally, both St Michael's and St John's were partly financed and built using funds from the 'Million Pound Fund' that was set up to serve the growing industrial population of each community in the 19th century. Mytholmroyd was an emerging nucleated Pennine industrial village with St Michael's being opened in 1848 whilst Cragg Vale was an older industrial linear community with St John's being consecrated in 1839 replacing an earlier, poorly constructed, church. St Michael's is a more modern ornate structure and reflects the rebirth of Gothic architecture and in its dominant eastward facing window behind the altar it also has a vague appearance of 14th century Classical Geometric. The windows have elaborated versions of cusped-Y tracery and at their top very small cusp-like windows to allow additional light. It also has an interesting roof structure, especially the five-bay nave arches consisting of double-flat- chamfered arches supported on octagonal piers. (A more detailed exposition of these windows and all the church features are to be found in Eric Alston's book 'A History of Mytholmroyd Church' 2025). You may also wish to look at Rev D Hodgson's 'A History of St Michael's Church, Mytholmroyd' and 'Mytholmroyd Heritage Walk, Part 1' by Mike Darke.



In its exterior features St Michael's is best identified by its dark stone and by it being the village clock with its regular chimes but also by its unusual octagonal spirelet at the north-east corner of the tower.

St John in the Wilderness is an older church with very tall lancet windows with a narrow, acutely pointed arch reflecting the 13th century Early English style. The main window facing north, behind the altar does not appear to reflect any style and consists of four vertical columns separating narrow windows above which are some diamond shaped windows. It has an interesting interior



roof ceiling constriction that spans the entire width of the church without vaulting. The south tower is the entrance to the church and contains a stone spiral staircase to the balcony. It is hoped shortly to install a lift to the balcony. It should be added that the interior has undergone extensive change and refurbishment and now also acts as a community hub.

I hope this brief outline of some aspects of church architecture may perhaps be of help to you as you gaze around the interiors of churches and cathedrals.

Dates for your diary in March and April

Lent Lunches

March 1st Quakers

March 8th Hebden Royd

March 29th St Michael's



MAUNDY
THURSDAY

Thursday 2nd April

**Join us for our Agape Meal
when we celebrate the Last
Supper**

**The Rev John Flood will lead
us.**

FEBRUARY ROTAS

Rotas St Michael's	Stewards	Readers	Prayers	Coffee
1st February	Madeline Daphne	Libby	Daphne	Jackie Kathryn
8th February	Geraldine Linda	Lesley	Jackie	Sheila Libby
15th February	Mary, Pam Louise	Daphne	Margaret	Madeline Sandra
22nd February	Jenny Linda K	Margaret	Christine	Nancy Gloria
1st March	Libby Ali	Gill J	David	Christine Margaret

Rotas St John's	Stewards	Readers	Coffee	Communion assistant
1st February	Anne B Geraint	Sylvia	Julie	Ed
8th February	Howard Sylvia	Angela	Carol	Pat
15th February	Ed Geraint	Ann	Amanda	Sylvia
22nd February	Sue Anne B	Sylvia	Viv	Ann
1st March	Amanda Howard	Pat	Sylvia	Julie

	Readings	Gospel
1st February Candlemas	Malachi 3.1-5 Hebrews 2.14-end	Luke 2.22-40
8th February 2 before Lent	Genesis 1.1 – 2.3 Romans 8.18-25	Matthew 6.25-34
15th February Sunday before Lent	Exodus 24.12-end 2 Peter 1.16-end	Matthew 17.1-9
22nd February Lent 1	Genesis 2.15-17; 3.1-7 Romans 5.12-19	Matthew 4.1-11
1st March Lent 2	Genesis 12.1-4a Romans 4.1-5, 13-17	John 3.1-17

Our Vacancy Prayer

All knowing and loving Father, we bring before you our three parishes of St John's, St Mary's and St Michael's as we look forward to the appointment of our New Vicar.

We pray that the person you are calling to lead us will hear and respond to that call. We ask that your Holy Spirit will prepare us to respond, with open hearts and minds, to all the future holds for our three churches and the communities around them.

We ask this in our Saviour's name. **Amen**

Please send articles and detail of events for March
by 15th February