



# Creating a Christian Timeline for Addingham

## The East entrance - for people from Low Mill and the Moorside



**W**elcome to the church and grounds of St. Peter's, Addingham.

The name **Addingham** derives from the Anglo-Saxon 'Adda ingaham', meaning 'the farmstead of the followers of Adda'.

The Christian history of this site goes back to the 8th or 9th centuries. Worship at that time may have taken place around the **Anglo-Saxon cross** whose shaft survives and may be seen in the church. It is also possible that there was a wooden church here, although nothing remains of it today.



Anglo-Saxon cross

The **earliest stone church** probably dates from around 1155. In 1189 we have the first record of a priest at Addingham, called simply 'Thomas the parson'. By then, Addingham had become part of the estate of the

Vavasour family, who remained patrons of the church until after the reformation and whose crest is to be seen carved in wood and stone within the church. Little of the Norman church remains - just a few stones which have been re-used in later re-buildings.



Vavasour family crest

Much of the interior of the church dates from the **Tudor period**, during the 1520s or 1530s. This includes the chancel arch, the arcade and the roof timbers in the nave and north aisle.



Tudor period roof timbers



The eastern approach to St Peter's

By the middle of the **18th century** the church was in need of repair. In 1753 plans were drawn up to demolish the Tudor church and re-build in the modern style at a projected cost of £1,135. Instead, a more modest repair was undertaken by local craftsmen.



The gallery

The south wall was rebuilt, a west gallery was constructed inside, and the tower was added. The date of 1757, together with the names of the church wardens, can be seen carved in the stone above the clock. The total cost came to £160.8s.4d.

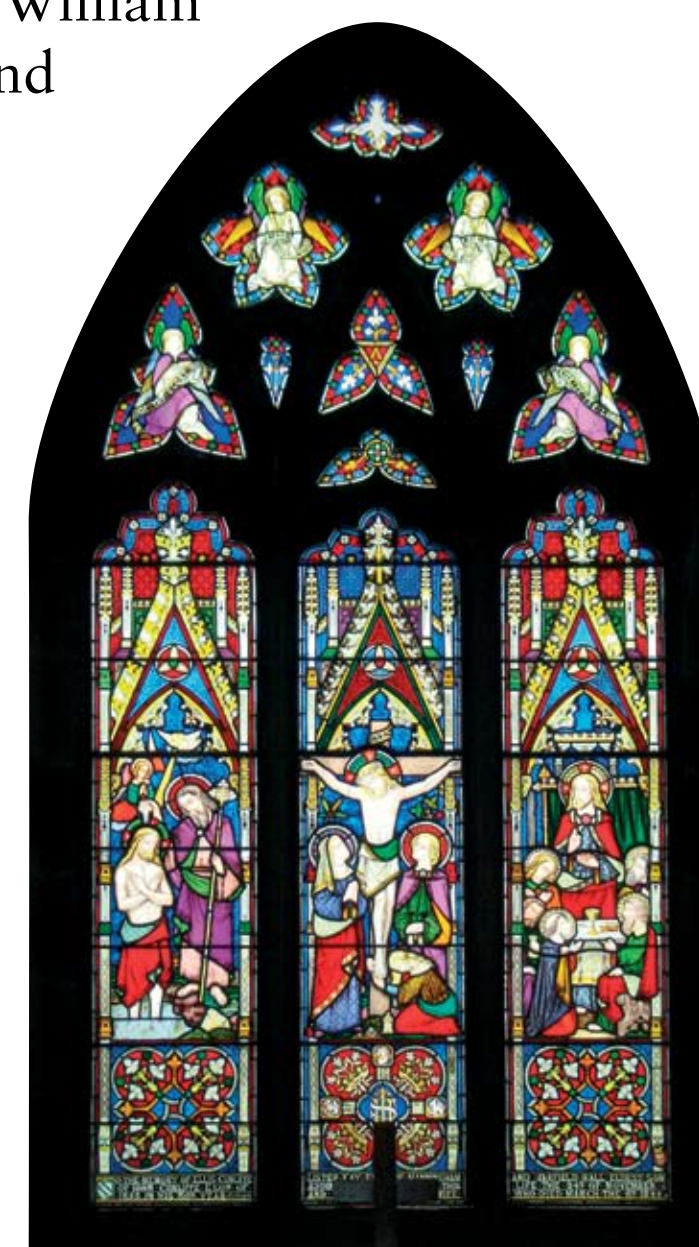
In 1759 six bells were brought from the Whitechapel bell foundry in London, at a cost of £285.1s.7d. Some of the bells have interesting inscriptions, such as this upon the 4th:

*"Our voices with joyful sound make hills and valleys echo round."*

These are the same bells you will hear rung today.

The clock was made by William Cryer of Carleton, around 1830. It is considered a very fine piece of craftsmanship.

From the end of the 18th and throughout the 19th centuries Addingham became a thriving industrial village. The dedications on the windows and memorials in the chancel testify to the importance of the Cunliffe-Lister and the Coates Thompson families here.



The east window, 1856

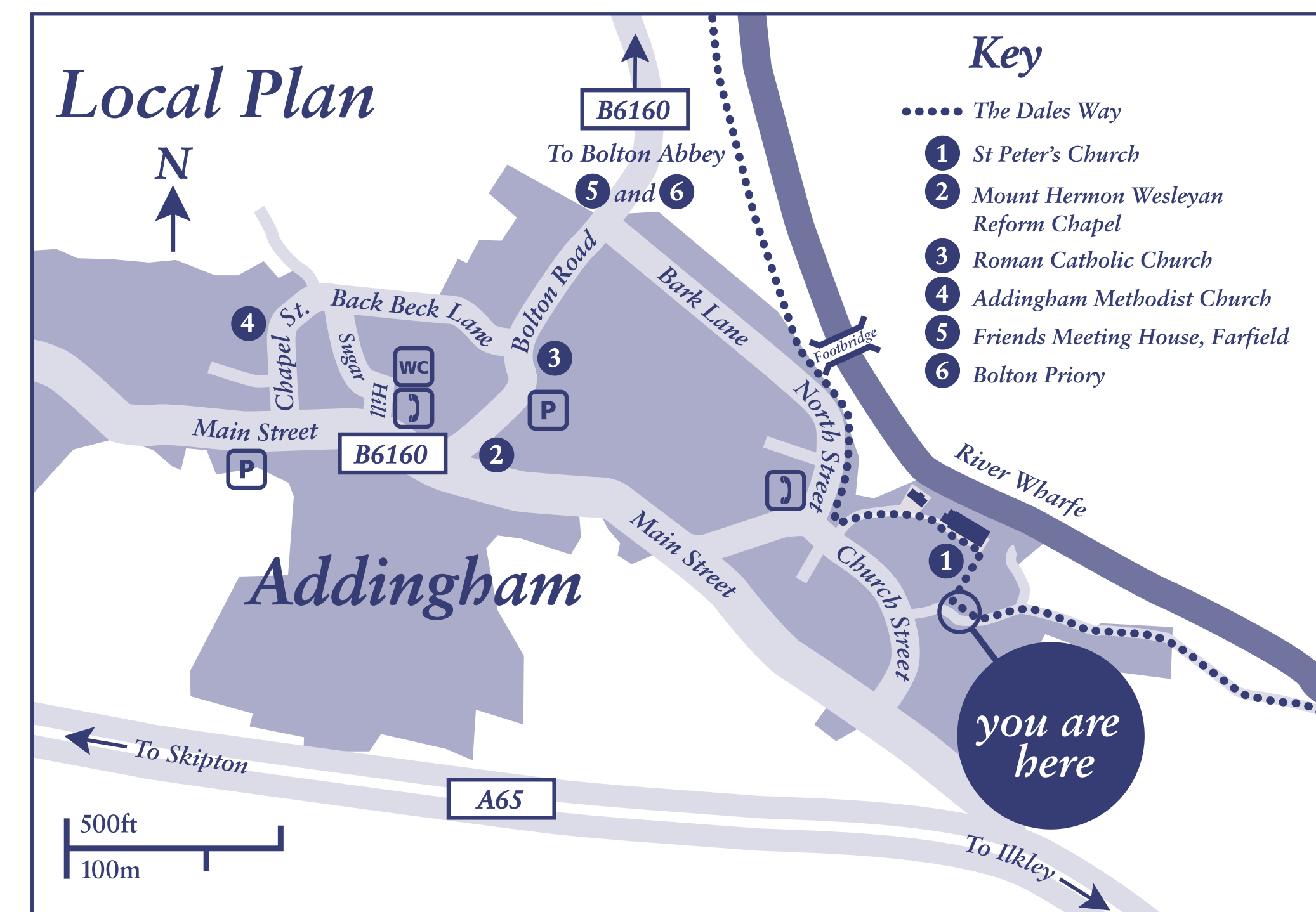
### An Anglo-Saxon riddle:

*"What am I?"*

*"Companions pass me from hand to hand.  
Men and women are proud to lift me to their lips and worship,  
To many there I become the source of mercy and blessedness."*

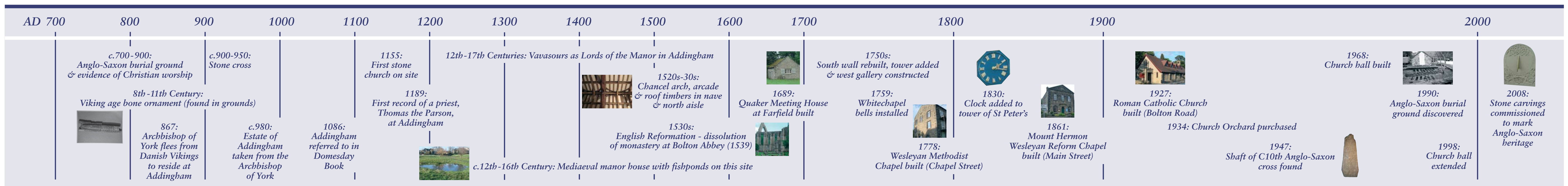
You will find the answer to this riddle on the information board at the far side of the field. The answer to the riddle on the other board is:

*"A fish in the river"*



*We hope that you may have time to visit the church and enjoy the special quality of peace which is the heritage of centuries of prayer.*

## Timeline for Christian worship in Addingham





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## The West entrance - for people from the village



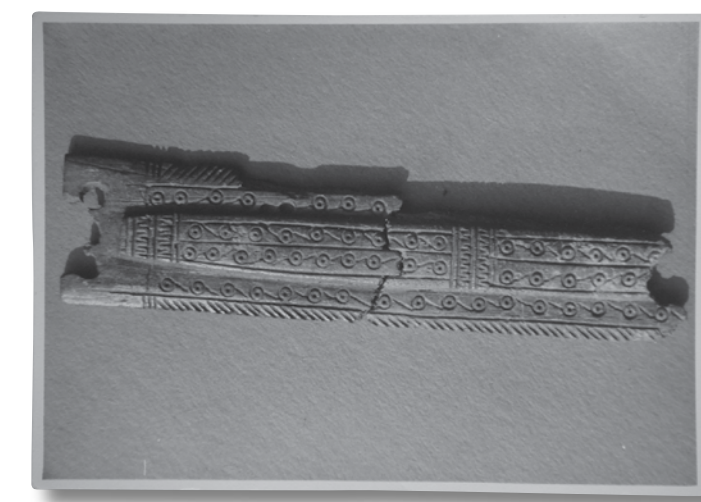
### The Church Field

(known as the 'Church Orchard')

The field surrounding the church and burial ground is protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument because of its archaeological importance.

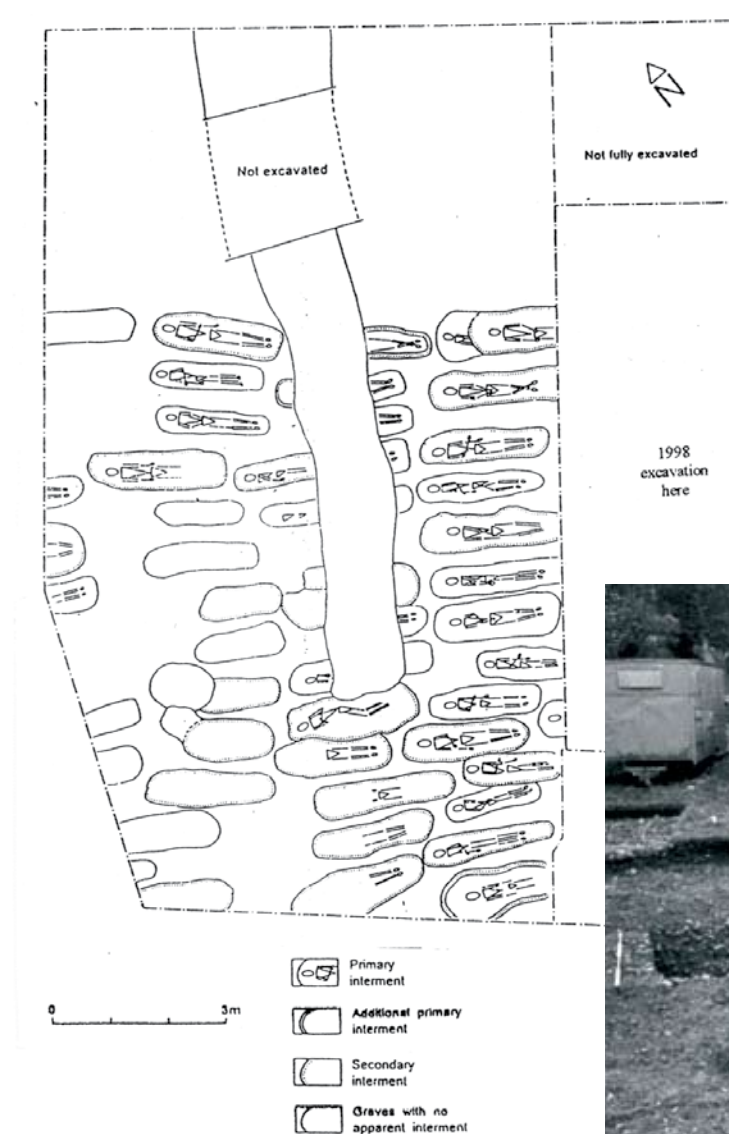
Around the church and the Old Rectory there is an ancient ditch, possibly of Iron Age origin. The western embankment of the ditch is visible to the right of the path as you enter the churchyard.

During excavations of this ditch a Viking-age bone ornament (dating from the late 8th to 11th centuries) was found. This can be seen inside the church.



Viking-age bone ornament

When the church hall was extended during the 1990s an Anglo-Saxon burial ground was discovered. The skeletal remains of about eighty people of both sexes and all ages were found in fifty five graves. Radio-carbon dating of the bones suggests they date from the 8th to 10th centuries.



Anglo-Saxon burial ground excavated in 1989-90. The plan shows primary and secondary interments and graves with no apparent interments.



The Archbishop of York appears to have had a residence here at this time. An early historian (writing in 1130AD) records that when the Vikings ransacked York in 867 AD, "Bishop Wulfhere kept aloof, residing at Addingham in the Western part of Yorkshire in the valley which is called Wharfedale between Otley and the castle of Skipton."



Anglo-Saxon stone cross

The carved shaft of an Anglo-Saxon stone cross, probably 10th century, was discovered in the churchyard in 1947. This is on display in the side chapel of the church.

There was a mediaeval manor house on this site which stood near the church on Wharfe brow. Nothing remains of the building as the land it



Old manorial fishpond

was built on was eroded by the river, but two manorial fishponds are still clearly visible today. This field was then known as 'Hall Orchard' or 'Lord's Orchard'.

In the early twentieth century there were plans to build houses on the this land. In order to prevent this, the Parochial Church Council purchased the 'Church Orchard' in 1934 for the sum of £310.

One of the proposed 'ecclesiastical purposes' for the land was for the building of a church hall. The first hall was duly built in 1968, and extended in 1998.

In 2008, the church commissioned some carved stone memorials to mark the site of the Anglo-Saxon burial ground, bearing words of the Venerable Bede, "We cannot be so wise that we will not need to consider what shall be decided for our souls."



### An Anglo-Saxon riddle:

"What am I?"

I am silent but my house is loud.  
We travel together -  
Sometimes I am faster than he,  
But sometimes I rest while he moves on.  
For as long I dwell in him I am alive,  
As soon as I leave him I will die."

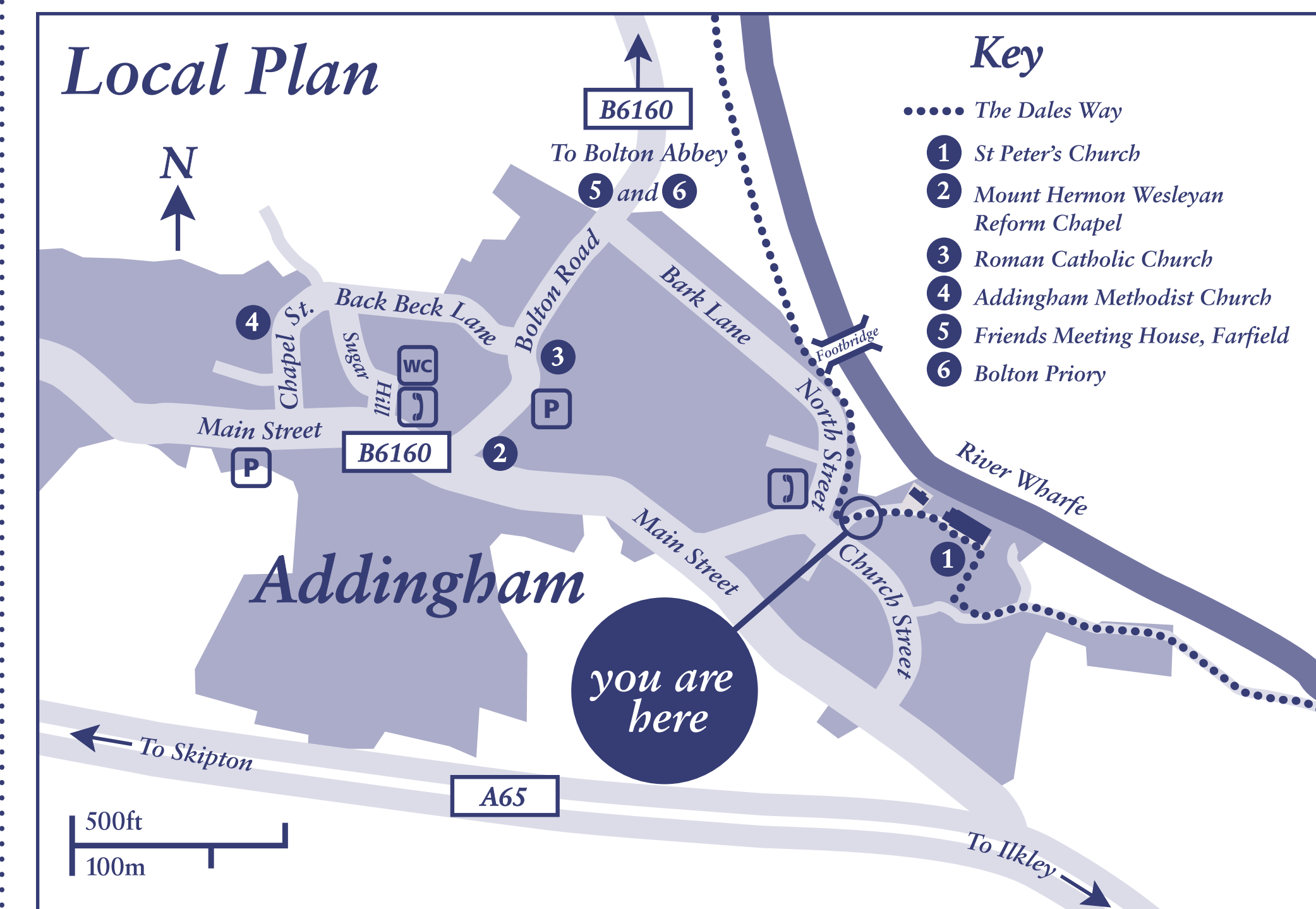
You will find the answer to this riddle on the information board at the far side of the field. The answer to the riddle on the other board is:

"Chalice or Cross"



Welcome to the church and grounds of St. Peter's, Addingham. As you enter these grounds you tread in the footsteps of countless Christians who, over the centuries, have come to this church to worship God, to marry, to baptise their children and bury their dead. Nowadays, many walkers pass through this field on the Dales Way.

Whatever brings you here and wherever you are going, may God bless you as you continue on your journey.



The church congregation is pleased to share this beautiful and peaceful place with the village community, and with walkers and visitors from further afield.

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