

St Mary's newsletter

Allerton Bywater + Kippax + Swillington



Happy Easter!

**He is risen, he is risen indeed,
Alleluia!**

We're still in Easter! The world has moved on, all the Easter Eggs have disappeared along with the Hot Cross Buns, but we are still celebrating the great Good News of the Resurrection - Jesus is alive! Time seems to push us on to what comes next and already we're planning ahead for Ascension Day and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. As I get older time seems to take on a greater pace and, having been to two funerals in the last few weeks of friends slightly younger than myself, it has caused me to think that perhaps I would be better trying to appreciate all that goes on around me day by day, instead of thinking about what is to come!

I sometimes think this also applies to our church life as well as our individual walk with Jesus. There always seems so much to do and things to plan for and our worship, our prayers, our enjoyment of the great festivals and the regular Sunday services seem to rush

past with no time to stop, ponder, linger in the joy, or, sometimes the bitter sweetness of the moments.

In the Gospel readings for the next few weeks we hear Jesus speak directly to his disciples as he directs them, reassures, comforts and prays earnestly for them. If we listen, He speaks directly to us too. I can't possibly condense His words, all from John's Gospel, into this short piece but the ones that stand out for me in the readings on the next three Sundays are, 'I am the way and the truth and the life' – 'Love me and keep my commandments' – and 'Father protect them so that they may be one, as we are one'. He tells who He is, how to behave, and asks us to work together for the coming of His kingdom. And, as He was for his disciples then, He is speaking to us now.

At the Transfiguration when Jesus met with His Father, Moses and Elijah on the mountain, God said 'This is my son – listen to him'. I know that when I pray I am



constantly following my own agenda and rarely pause to listen to what our Saviour might be trying to say to me. But I also know that God has spoken to me at different times, in varying places and in a variety of ways and often when I'm least expecting it. I wonder if He tries to speak more often but I am too distracted, too busy planning ahead, to take the time to listen.

I hope that in the next few weeks we can take time and space to enjoy the words Jesus speaks, take them to heart and really hear what he has to say to us today.

(A big thanks to Margaret Forth for her wonderful reflection.)

sunday worship

May 3rd

5th Sunday of Easter

9am Allerton Bywater, Eucharist
10.30am Kippax, All Age
Eucharist with baptism of Noah
and Jason.

10.30am Swillington, All
Together Service

12.30pm Kippax Baptism of Finn

May 10th

6th Sunday of Easter

9am Allerton Bywater Eucharist

10.30am Kippax Sung Eucharist

10.30am Swillington Parish
Communion

12.30pm Swillington Baptism of
Ivy

May 17th


7th Sunday of Easter

9am Allerton Bywater,
Eucharist


10.30am Kippax,
Sung Eucharist

10.30am Swillington,
Celtic Service

4pm Thorner, Confirmation of
Glynn, Jess and Amy.



FIRST STEPS
Playgroup



St Mary's Church Kippax
Baby and toddler group
For 0-5 year olds
Every Thursday Morning
10am - 11.15am

We meet in the church for a short story
and song session followed by play
and refreshments in the hall

For further information
Contact Elizabeth: 07739151701

church news

APCM Our final Annual Parochial Church Meetings is coming up – a fantastic opportunity to look back on the last year and look forward to where God is leading us. All are welcome.

Allerton Bywater 17th May 11am.

Thank you everyone who attended the meetings at Kippax and Swillington.

Electoral Roll Revision It's still not too late to go on the Electoral role. Whilst the revision has taken place at Kippax and Swillington, If you feel that Allerton Bywater is your church please do still sign up. (Or sign up for Kippax and Swillington ready for next year!) The easiest way is online <https://stmarysbenefice.org>

Midweek worship

Allerton Bywater

**Evening Prayer or Said
Eucharist** 7pm *Wednesday*

Kippax

Morning Prayer 9.30am *Mon,
Wed, Thurs and Fri.*

Said Eucharist 10am *Tuesday.*

Swillington

**Morning Prayer or Parish
Communion**

9.30am *Wednesday*



Alternate
Wednesdays
2.30-4.15pm
Kippax Church
Hall



**All
TOGETHER
Service**

First Sunday of the month

all ages together worshipping God
and learning more about him

**St Mary's Swillington
10.30am**

news from the diocese

The Diocese of Leeds has been awarded over £11 million from the national church to significantly invest in children and young peoples' work, developing more leaders in our churches and supporting the next wave of grafts and plants in the city of Leeds. The funding, £7 million initially and a further £4 million in principle, has been awarded through the Church of England's Diocesan Investment Programme and will enable a new phase of the diocese's long-term strategy, Barnabas, which supports churches to live out our vision of confident Christians, growing churches and transforming communities. Our diocese is one of the largest dioceses in England, and this new funding recognises both the scale of opportunity and the scale of challenge facing churches across our diverse region, including areas of significant deprivation. The new award builds on earlier national investment and enables us to focus on four key areas, including equipping and empowering lay leadership, reaching and discipling children and young people, planting new congregations and revitalising existing churches, and further transforming the city of Leeds. Investment in these areas will continue to give every church the opportunity to grow in mission and sustainability. The Rt Revd Toby Howarth, Acting Bishop of Leeds, said: "This is very good news for the whole Diocese of Leeds. "It is a strong vote of confidence in our plans and in the direction we are travelling together. This funding will help us build on what is already bearing fruit, enabling confident Christians to be part of growing churches that truly transform their communities. "We are deeply encouraged that the national church shares our confidence in this vision and in the people and parishes who are bringing it to life."



Arch Bishop Stephen's visit to Leeds.

Rev Jo was both honoured and privileged to attend a small lunch on Tuesday 28th April, hosted by St. Barnabus Church, Alwoodly. It was as part of the tour of Leeds Diocese which Bishop Stephen was undertaking, urging those under his wing to "Pray, Sleep and then do what you can." His talk was informative and experiential as he spoke candidly of how he struggles to pray on his own, unless he is doing something, like walking. He also remarked that actually we are never alone when we do pray, quoting from the Eucharist prayers he reminded us that we "join with the Angels and the Arch Angels and the whole of Heaven" as we spend time with the Lord. It was a precious time of teaching and I will forever remember his example of humility.

"Sunday Social gets very vocal."

With a visit from the one and only "Jimmy Andrex" around 35 of us had tuition from a published poet and created a wonderful piece of creative writing in just 15 minutes written by those as young as 3 up to those in their 80's. Everyone wrote one line on a piece of paper and then we ordered the lines to make a poem. Why not join us for our next Sunday Social? A community meal - cooked by Dale and Jo.

*"April is the best month, it is the best we've found.
April, it can snow and winds can blow.
April it can rain, the rain showers the dry patched ground.
April it can shine, like newly washed hair with water and shampoo.*

*The flowers at the front look beautiful.
They brought a teardrop to my eye.
The baby in the womb will shortly rise
And his Glory will fill the skies.*

*The Altar is my home, my bread, my life
The window is so colourful....
Bob in church, church in Bob....
But the vestry roof is very old and it leaks!"*

(By Sunday Social 26th April, 2026)

Why not try it yourself? Send Rev Jo a poem, short story, a reflection or even a joke by June 30th. The theme is "My Church". If enough people write something we can publish it for our summer fairs!



Sunday Social



5pm-6.30pm
St Mary's Church Hall Kippax

29 March Old gospel praise night
scratch choir / just turn up with instruments
26 April Poetry and music workshop
with Jimmy Andrex & the Bible of Dreams
31 May Community meal
28 June Midsummer murder mystery
26 July Schools out for summer
disco + school pudding +
school bangers

Chilled café style including...
Sing-a-long • hot-chocolate • bingo
cake • discussion • quiz • DJ RICH • origami
Info: Rev Bob 07885386932 • www.stmarysbeneice.com



Coming up...

One for the ladies...

Garforth Elmet Soroptimists
11th May 2026 @ 7.30 pm,
Garforth Country Club

Raising Thinkers – Rachel Day (Co Author) is Helping Children to Think for Themselves. Raising Thinkers is an invitation to slow down, tune in, and trust your instincts as you support children to grow into thoughtful, confident, resilient young people. In a world full of noise, pressure, and constant influence, it offers a refreshing, human approach to nurturing independent thinkers. In this talk, Rachel will share insights from over 30 years of the 'Thinking Environment', developed by Nancy Kline, and explore the ten components that reliably improve the quality of thinking, both in ourselves and in others including our children and young people. In Raising Thinkers, Rachel and co-author Sophie Stephenson translate these components into the world of growing up, offering stories and practical ways to bring them to life in everyday moments. This is a free event – open to all, but especially parents, carers, teachers and those working with children and young people - exploring why the spaces we create shape children's confidence, curiosity, and sense of self. Ladies - have a chat to Lynn Tomlinson if you would like to go. (Church Warden at Allerton Bywater.)

ASCENSION DAY SERVICE



Join us in worship and reflection



THURSDAY
14TH MAY



7:00 PM



ST MARY THE LESS
ALLERTON BYWATER



All are WARMLY WELCOME!

JOIN OUR
COMMUNITY
CHOIR!
EVERYONE
WELCOME



Every Wednesday
Starting Wednesday 21st January
5-6:30pm

St Mary the Less, Allerton Bywater



Saturdays

ST MARY THE LESS
ALLERTON BYWATER
10-12:30

**30TH MAY - MESSY PLAY
AND LOTS OF FUN!**

**13TH JUNE - GARDEN PARTY
TO CELEBRATE THE
TROOPING OF THE COLOUR**

**19TH - JULY - SUMMER
BEACH PARTY**

WE CANT WAIT TO SEE YOU

regular events & information

For whom to contact and more information please see our contacts page below.

Across the Team

Pastoral care: Do let us know if you are unable to attend church and need a visit or Home Communion. Please let a Church Warden know if someone needs praying for or speak to Bob, Sarah, Jo, or Gordon.

Baptisms, weddings, funerals, burials, renewal of wedding vows or blessings: please book at church or contact a member of the clergy or a Churchwarden.

Safeguarding: for any concerns please contact the relevant Parish Safeguarding Officer or clergy.

Youth House Group for bible study, prayer, worship, friendship and fun; ages 11-17 yrs old, Kippax Rectory, Sunday 5pm - 6.30pm.

Messy Church rotates around the churches seasonally - Join the mailing list (stay in touch below) to hear about future events.

Allerton Bywater

Home Group Mondays 7pm. A chance to study, pray and socialise together. 23 Davy Rd, Allerton Bywater, Castleford WF10 2EU

Coffee Morning 1st Saturday of the month 10am with Council Surgery, play and stay, bingo etc.

Your Space 3rd Saturday of the month 10am - 1pm, A family space with singing, craft, board games and regular community activities. Free coffee, tea and snacks.

Community Choir Wednesdays 5pm - 6.30pm.

Swillington

Home Group Mondays 7.30pm in church.

Coffee Morning with bacon sandwiches 1st Saturday of the month 9.30-11.30am.

Bellringing practice Mondays 7.30pm - 9pm.

Church Choir practice Tuesday afternoon 2.30pm.

Kippax

House Group most Mondays term time, 7pm. A chance to study, pray and socialise together. The Rectory, Church Lane, Kippax, LS25 7HF.

NEWSFLASH!!! Anyone interested in a daytime house group in Kippax? If so, get in touch with Rev'd Bob

First Steps for play and friendship (pre-school aged children) Thursday, 10 - 11.15am.

Kippax Food Pantry (organised by Kippax Parish Council and hosted in the hall) Saturdays 10am - 11am, Kippax Church Hall.

Church Choir practice Saturday morning at 10.15am.

Bellringing practice Wednesdays 7.30pm - 9pm.

Craft Cafe alternate Wednesdays 2.30 - 4.15pm (see publicity) drop in for refreshments, craft making, story and song.

Sunday Social last Sunday of the month 5pm - 6.30pm (see publicity) with a variety of social events for all ages including quizzes, boardgames, sing-a-long, crafts and refreshments.

Keep in touch

Contact rev.bob.bailey@gmail.com or any of the clergy to be added to the **mailing list**.

Facebook search for St Mary's and the name of the village. INCLUDING LIVE STREAMING FOR SWILLINGTON.

YouTube

INCLUDING LIVE STREAMING FOR ALLERTON BYWATER.

<https://www.youtube.com/@stmarysbenefice>

Website

<https://stmarysbenefice.org>



Every 1st Saturday in the month. Even on bank holidays!



contacts

Clergy

Team Rector

Rev'd Bob Bailey

01132 869606 / 07885386932

rev.bob.bailey@gmail.com

Team Vicar

Rev'd Sarah Harrison

07572 232540

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Assistant Curate

Rev'd Jo Medhurst

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Permission to officiate

Rev'd Gordon Cooper

07896 329055

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Churchwardens

Allerton Bywater

Janet Purcell

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Lynne Tomlinson 01977 554285

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Kippax

Christine Bottom

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Swillington

Dawn Marshall

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Diana Puxty

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Parish Safeguarding Officers

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Diana Puxty

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Treasurer

Allerton Bywater

Kathryn Bickerdike

stmarythelesstreasurer@gmail.com

Kippax

Kathryn Bickerdike

treasurerstmk@gmail.com



family news

It seems like things have been pretty busy as usual.

Glynn Pearson, Jess Earle (Jones) and Amy Thursfield are all wanting to be confirmed by Bishop Arun Arora on the 17th May at 4pm. They would value your prayers and support and you are all welcome to attend the service and refreshments afterwards. Please could you let Rev. Jo know if you are intending to come so that she can liaise with St. Peter's Church. [Confirmation](#) Could this be something you're interested in? We are now looking at September 13th now...Speak to Rev'd Bob, Rev'd Sarah or Rev'd Jo for more information ☺

If you have any other family news please do let us know. This is a photo taken at the lovely Callum and Rebecca's wedding.



Newsletter publication dates

We plan to publish the Benefice newsletter at three-week intervals. If you would like something in the magazine, please email it to one of the clergy before the publication date.

If you would like to include a longer article, please get in touch.

April 30th	Rev'd Jo
May 21st	Rev'd Bob
June 11th	Rev'd Sarah
July 2nd	Rev'd Jo

Treasurer

Swillington

James Puxty

james.puxty@yahoo.com

Choir

Kippax

Gaynor Chaplin

gmchaplin1948@gmail.com

Swillington

Susan Wheeler

susanwheeler6228@aol.com

Bellringing

Kippax & Swillington

Tim Cox (Tower Captain)

07708 049084

timcox381@gmail.com

House/homegroups/midweek bible study

Allerton Bywater

Dale Medhurst

dalemedhurst@gmail.com

Kippax

Trudi Roberts

trudiroberts@btinternet.com

Swillington

Dawn Marshall

dawnandjonathan@tiscali.co.uk

Youth House Group

Benefice wide

Jess Bailey

jessovey@gmail.com

07773 651573

1st Steps baby and toddler

Kippax

Elizabeth Thomas

elizabethanne54@hotmail.co.uk

other support

NSPCC – For adults concerned about a child – 0808 800 5000

ChildLine – For children and young people – 0800 1111 **Action**

on Elder Abuse helpline – 0808 808 8141

24-hour National Domestic Violence Helpline – 0808 2000 247

NAPAC – Support and advice for adult survivors of childhood abuse – 0808 801 0331

Stop It Now – Preventing child sexual abuse – 0808 1000 900

Cruse – Bereavement helpline – 0808 808 1677



prayers

Don't forget that we have opportunities to pray together during the week.

I always like to quote, "Time wasted in prayer is never wasted."

Here are some suggestions for prayer at home...

- For our new Archbishop of Canterbury Sarah Mullally
- For the appointment of the next Bishop of Leeds
- For those sick or bereaved.
- Local food pantry hosted out of St Mary's Kippax.
- Growth in numbers, spiritual depth and service to our community.
- Work in the seven local schools and the Brigshaw Community Leaders networking group
- The housebound and the care homes we visit
- Our three house groups that study and pray together.
- Children's and youth work, especially our monthly all-age/ All Together services, Messy Church, Your Space, Craft Café and our Youth House Group.
- Peace in our hearts, communities and the world.
- Those being confirmed soon.



stmarysbenefice.org

Growing faith + friendship + community