



16th November, 2025

Newsletter

News from the Benefice of St. Mary's, Allerton Bywater, Kippax and Swillington

Gospel Reflection

"Trust is an act of defiance in an uncertain world"

Luke 21 v 5-19

I come from a family of builders and spent my school holidays helping my dad work on the roof of Ely cathedral, so I can easily picture the disciples looking up at the temple walls and thinking it would last forever. We live in a strange paradox. Fundamentally we know that everything we have worked for materially in life will be destroyed or handed to someone else. Yet at the same time, we are driven to build, create and acquire which in itself isn't bad. It is just keeping a perspective and placing things in the right order of importance in our lives. Imagine building a sandcastle on the beach. At the end of the day the tide will come and wash it away. We build our own kinds of sandcastles; our careers, our homes, our plans for the future. They're good things, but not eternal.

Jesus tells us not to hold onto these things, not to imagine we have to hold the world together on our own. These things are an illusion. When the stones fall or the tide washes away our parts of our life it is God's love that remains. As the tide moves and the sand is stripped back to the bare rock beneath, what is left is Jesus.

Do you remember being a child, on the beach, up to your waste in the sea holding tightly to your dad's hand when the waves were rough? It's like clinging to God when everything else feels uncertain.

Even in the hardest moments, Jesus says something beautiful: "This will give you an opportunity to bear witness." Every difficulty can become a place where God's love shines. When we stay calm in a fearful world, when we act kindly in a cruel one, when we speak peace instead of anger we show the world who we belong to. Our

very kindness and peace is an act of defiance. Lord give us faith to trust in your presence, courage to bear witness to your love, and hearts that stand firm in hope. Amen. (Rev. Bob).



Services

<p>Sunday 16th November</p> <p><i>Prayer in the style of the Taizé Community</i></p>		<p>09:00: Sung Eucharist at Allerton Bywater</p> <p>10:30: Sung Eucharist at Kippax</p> <p>10:30: Parish Communion at Swillington</p> <p>15:00: Taize Service at Swillington</p>
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Sundays

23rd November:	09:00:	All Age Eucharist at Allerton Bywater
	10:30:	Sung Eucharist at Kippax
	10:30:	Celtic Service of the Word at Swillington
	17:00:	Sunday Social at Kippax

Weekdays.

17th November:	09:30:	Morning Prayer at Kippax
18th November:	10:00:	Said Eucharist at Kippax
19th November:	09:30:	Morning Prayer at Swillington
	19:00:	Said Eucharist at Allerton Bywater
20th November:	09:30:	Morning Prayer at Kippax
	10:00:	First Steps at Kippax
21st November:	09:30:	Morning Prayer at Kippax
24th November:	09:30:	Morning Prayer at Kippax
25th November:	09:30:	Said Eucharist at Kippax
26th November:	09:30:	Said Eucharist at Swillington
	19:00:	Evening Prayer at Allerton Bywater
27th November:	09:30:	Kippax Morning Prayer
	10:00:	First Steps at Kippax
28th November:	09:30:	Morning Prayer at Kippax

(The rotas for Nov and Dec are now published here: <https://stmarysbenefice.org/enews>)

ALLERTON BYWATER PARISH COUNCIL

Christmas

LIGHT SWITCH ON

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22ND 2025
TIME: 4PM - 7PM

EVENT INCLUDES:

- DJ
- VISIT WITH SANTA
- FOOD & DRINKS
- GARFORTH BRASS
- CRAFT STALLS
- BROWNIES SINGING
- GIFT STALLS

ST MARY'S CHURCH, STATION ROAD, ALLERTON BYWATER, WF10 2GL

LIGHTS SWITCHED ON AT 6.30PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL ab.lightevent@gmail.com

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Join us for the

KIPPAX PARISH COUNCIL CHRISTMAS EVENT

SUNDAY 23rd NOVEMBER
2:00PM - 5:30PM

- * Lights switch on & fireworks, 5pm
- * Visit Santa, GG&Co Salon
- * Festive Funfair, Kippax Hall Surgery car park
- * Stalls full of Christmas goodies: Kippax Methodist Church, The Legion & St Mary's Church Hall

"It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas"

SWILLINGTON LIGHTS & SHOPPING FAYRE

8th November 2025

Amazing Local Stall Holders & Santas
Grotto 14:00-18:00
Lights Switch On with Fireworks 18:00
Swillington Sports & Social Club
Raising funds for St Mary's Church


Lucy's Pop Choir
17:00 - 17:30


Musical Performance from Elf the Musical
17:30 - 18:00

Save the Date!

22nd November:	16:00:	Christmas Light Switch On/Fair at Allerton Bywater
23rd November:	12:00:	Christmas Light Switch On/Fair at Kippax
	15:30:	Bishop Nick's Farewell service at Ripon Cathedral
	17:00:	Sunday Social at Kippax
	18:30:	"New Wine" Celebration at St. George's.
6th December:	09:30:	Coffee Morning at Swillington
	10:00:	Allerton Bywater Christmas Fair
	10:00:	Kippax Christmas Fair
7th December:	15:00:	Christingle at Swillington
13th December:	10:00:	Your Space: "Making Christingles"
14th December:	13:00:	Christingle at Kippax
21st December:	16:00:	Christingle at Allerton Bywater
	18:00:	Carol Service at Swillington
22nd December:	14:00:	Craft Cafe Christmas Messy Church at Kippax
23rd December:	19:00:	Team candle lit carols and 9 lessons at Allerton Bywater
24th December:	16:00:	Crib Services at Allerton Bywater, Kippax and Swillington
	11:15:	Midnight Communion at Kippax and Swillington
25th December:	09:00:	Christmas All Age Service Eucharist at Allerton Bywater
	10:30:	Christmas Morning Eucharist at Kippax
	10:30:	Christmas Morning Parish Communion at Swillington
29th December:	09:00:	All Age Eucharist at Allerton Bywater
	10:30:	Sung Eucharist at Kippax
	10:30:	Parish Communion at Swillington



A **BIG** Thank you to Julia Garner from Allerton Bywater for donating all the profit from her Christmas orders of AVON to St. Mary-the-Less!!! There's some amazing gifts for all the family here. Do take a look at: [Julia's Avon Shop](#). (Just click the link)



Administrator needed for Allerton Bywater and Kippax. Are you?

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**Organised
Conscientious
Trustworthy
Flexible**

Someone who likes Spreadsheets....

We have a part role as administrator majoring on the finances for the churches at Allerton Bywater and Kippax. This will be an initial commitment for around 26 hours a month on a flexible arrangement. If this is of interest to you contact Rev. Bob in the first instance for a job description and application form.
rev.bob.bailey@gmail.com



Songs & Readings



We need to know your favourite carols for the carol services !!
Email Rev. Bob, Rev. Sarah or Rev. Jo to make sure we sing them over the Christmas period.



Sunday Readings:

- Psalm Malachi 4:1-2a
- 2 Thessalonians 3.6-13
- Luke 21:5-19

Allerton Bywater Hymns

- Praise to the Lord
- God is working his purpose out
- O God you search me
- Let us break bread
- Great is Thy faithfulness

Kippax Hymns:

- Fight the good fight
- GLORIA
- Make me a channel of your peace
- You laid aside your majesty
- Lead me Lord
- Restore O Lord

Swillington Hymns:

- Praise to the Lord
- Jesus stand among us
- God is working his purpose out
- O God you search me
- Let us break bread
- Great is Thy faithfulness

Past Events



God, it's difficult to see the point of wearing a poppy, or what difference two minutes' silence will make when we could be shouting protests. But we as we have recognised a broken life being valued, a gift being given, and as we have taken two minutes to reflect on how much we have. We look to the future, not to the past. We cannot change what has been but do not need to repeat its mistakes. So as old and young have come together before you, take the very best of our lives; bind us into one people of faith and help us to share our common values, love of Jesus and care for each other; to build dreams, and, with your Holy Spirit, turn them into reality. Knowing we are truly sorry.



Groups

Youth

House Group:



Are you aged between 11 and 17?

Come along to Kippax Rectory, Church Lane, Kippax, LS25 7HF every Sunday from 17:00-18:30 for A Bible study, prayer, worship, games and discussion group.

Please register at: [Youth House Group Registration](#)

Adult

House Groups:

Mondays at 19:00 (Swillington 19:30)

- Allerton Bywater -
23 Davy Road, WK10 2EU.
Cont: joanne.medhurst@leeds.anglican.org
- Kippax - At Kippax Rectory.
Cont: rev.bob.bailey@gmail.com
- Swillington - At St Mary's Church,
Cont: dawnandjonathan@tiscali.co.uk



Craft Cafe

Join Rev. Bob, Elizabeth and team every other Wednesday at 14.30-16:15 at St. Mary's Church Hall, Kippax. All welcome to come and enjoy cake, a drink, some company and crafty creations with a bible story theme. Contact Rev. Bob for more details.

rev.bob.bailey@gmail.com

Your Space - Goes Monthly.

Join Rev. Jo and team once a month at St. Mary-the-Less, Allerton Bywater. A family space with singing, craft, board games and regular community activities from 10:00-13.00. Free coffee, tea and snacks. Contact Rev. Jo for more details and to join our WhatsApp group: joanne.medhurst@leeds.anglican.org so that you can find out about the next exciting event on 13/12.



free event



SATURDAY

10am-1pm

St Mary the Less Church,
Allerton Bywater

Join us for games, crafts,
music and more



Sunday Social



Sunday Social

Rev Bob and Team every 4th Sunday in the month for a time of informal worship, fun and laughter. Join in the Quiz and a theme sing-a-long at Kippax Church (5-6:30pm). Neurodiverse friendly with no screens. Contact Rev. Bob: rev.bob.bailey@gmail.com

Pastoral Support

Are you unwell, lonely, bereaved or just finding life a bit too much to handle? The Pastoral Team in St. Mary's Benefice are always ready to listen. If you would like support in any way, please contact Rev. Bob, Rev Sarah or Rev. Jo in the first instance.

Clergy Team.

Rector:

Rev. Bob Bailey

Email:

rev.bob.bailey@gmail.com

Tel:

07885 386932

Team Vicar:

Rev. Sarah Harrison:

Email:

Sarah.harrison@leeds.anglican.org

Tel:

07572 232540

(Presently on phased return to work which includes altered hours and amended duties.)

Assistant

Curate:

Rev. Jo Medhurst

Email:

joanne.medhurst@leeds.anglican.org

Tel:

07470 052889

PTO:

Rev. Gordon Cooper

Email:

gordon.cooper1954@gmail.com

Tel:

07896 329055

Wardens.

Allerton Bywater:

Janet Purcell

janetpurcell558@yahoo.com

Lynne Tomlinson

lynnetom39@gmail.com

Kippax:

Christine Bottom

csbottom49@gmail.com

Swillington:

Dawn Marshall

dawnandjonathan@tiscali.co.uk

Diana Puxty

dianapuxty@hotmail.com

Safeguarding.

The care and protection of children, young people and adults involved in Church activities is the responsibility of us all. If you have a safeguarding concern please contact a member of the safeguarding team or any of the Clergy. (For more information, please see the posters displayed around our churches.)

Safeguarding Officers.

Allerton Bywater:

Gordon Linton

notnilg@aol.com

Kippax:

Carly Pearson

carlypearson22@gmail.com

Swillington:

Diana Puxty.

dianapuxty@hotmail.com