



7th December, 2025



# Newsletter

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

## Reflection: "Getting Ready - Week 2".

Week 2 of Advent begins on Sunday and this week we concentrate on Faith. Sometimes the Candle is known as the Bethlehem Candle but according to our Church of England Tradition, I have learnt this week that it is known as the "Prophet's Candle" and this excites me. As a student studying English Language at Winchester University, my tutor group spent the first 6 months studying how the television show, "Only Fools and Horses" was so clever at helping the audience to understand comedy behind the script. There were several layers of carefully thought out layers of 'intersexuality'. This is a tool that works using the concept that all texts (books, films, music, etc.) are interconnected; shaping each other's meanings through references, allusions, or adaptations. No text exists in isolation, enriching interpretation by linking to prior works like Shakespeare's "to be or not to be" in modern media or a song title referencing a classic poem. If you want an example take a look here (Click): [Del Boy speaks French](#). Dale is an avid fan of "Dr. Who" which uses a similar technique of giving a hidden message, image, inside joke, or reference that creators intentionally embed within an episode, for eagle-eyed fans to discover. Normally this clue is so subtle that only those who really know the whole overview of the Dr's journey spot it. It's known as an Eater Egg and I often sit and wonder why Dale shout's "Woohoo!" at the television. It's not until he explains "that little picture in the background" is a hint to something which happened in 1976! And has an impact on the story today. Here is an example (Click and forward to 1:40min - 3:00min): [Dr Who link Easter Egg](#). Dale believes and loves the writer of this epic and iconic program and even emotionally feels let down if they miss something. He has faith that the Dr. will always being able to make this turn out well. He doesn't always know how the Dr. will do it, but he knows he will.

So what is a prophet? We may think that a prophet is some sort of fortune teller, someone that can see into the future, and they may well be but this is not all a prophet is. We are told in Acts 2, that through the gift of the Holy Spirit all will have authority to prophecy in Jesus' name. Verses 16 -18 say:

"In the Last Days," God says, "I will pour out my Spirit  
on every kind of people: Your sons will prophesy, also your daughters;  
Your young men will see visions, your old men dream dreams.  
When the time comes, I'll pour out my Spirit on those who serve me, men and women  
both, and they'll prophesy."

Those of us who love the New Testament think, "Wow... God is trusting  
us to hear him again." Those who have studied the bible

more can, at this point, shout "Woohoo!because  
this is not the first time the words have be said.  
Intertextually, hundreds of years before,  
humankind had been informed of this by the  
Prophet Joel in the Old Testament (2 v 28-32). As  
the crowds listened to this new prophetic  
preacher ,Peter, back in AD 40 ish, some may  
have said "Wow", and some "Woohoo"... as they  
recognised their teaching since birth from the

scrolls. (Still others would be think "Woah, hold your horses!" as they recognised what was being said but didn't believe it  
was the right time...). When I read it, I think I exclaim all three! Because actually I dream dreams and so that means I'm old!  
I'm not ready for that yet!

So as we enter week 2 of advent the question I posed last week to meditate on was: "What HOPE does Jesus bring me?"  
Here, I am given Hope that God is right beside me in His Spirit whatever this next chapter brings. This week, in the  
knowledge of all you know so far about God the question I pose is: "Where is my FAITH at the moment?" Our Gospel today  
(Matt: 3 v 1-12J, promises that Jesus "will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire". Do you believe this? The prophet Joel  
gives us a way to help our faith grow if we feel downhearted and He gives us the assurance that it will be worth it. "Change  
your life, not just your clothes. Come back to God, *your* God. And here's why: God is kind and merciful....This most patient  
God, extravagant in love always ready to cancel catastrophe. Who knows? Maybe he'll do it now, maybe he'll turn around  
and show pity. Maybe, when all's said and done, there'll be blessings full and robust for your God!" What an amazing Easter  
Egg to have at Christmas! Much Love, Rev Jo.x

(Week 3: What is my JOY based on?

Week 4: Who can I bring PEACE to?)





# Services

## Sundays

7th December::	09:00:	Eucharist at Allerton Bywater (Advent 2)
	10:30:	Sung Eucharist at Kippax (Advent 2)
	10:30:	Altogether Service at Swillington (Advent 2)
	15:00:	Christingle Service at Swillington
14th December:	09:00:	Eucharist at Allerton Bywater (Advent 3)
	10:30:	Sung Eucharist at Kippax (Advent 3)
	10:30:	Parish Communion Service at Swillington (Advent 3)
	15:00:	Christingle Service at Kippax
21st December:	09:00:	All Age Eucharist at Allerton Bywater (Advent 3)
	10:30:	Sung Eucharist at Kippax (Advent 3)
	10:30:	Altogether Service at Swillington (Advent 3)
	16:00:	Christingle Service at Allerton Bywater
28th December:	09:00:	Eucharist at Allerton Bywater
	10:30:	Sung Eucharist at Kippax
	10:30:	Altogether Service at Swillington

## Weekdays.

5th December:	09:30:	Morning Prayer at Kippax
8th December:	09:30:	Morning Prayer at Kippax
9th December:	10:00:	Said Eucharist at Kippax
10th December:	09:30:	Parish Communion at Swillington
	19:00:	Evening Prayer at Allerton Bywater
11th December:	09:30:	Kippax Morning Prayer
	10:00:	First Steps at Kippax
12th December:	09:30:	Morning Prayer at Kippax
22nd December:	14:00:	Craft Cafe Christmas Messy Church at Kippax
	18:00:	A Quiet Christmas service at Swillington
23rd December:	19:00:	Benefice Candle Lit Carols 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 Eucharist at Allerton Bywater
	10:30:	Christmas Morning Eucharist at Kippax
	10:30:	Parish Communion at Swillington

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



# It's Christmas!

**Christmas at St. Mary-the-Less**

**7th December**  
9am-10am: Advent Service  
"Love" - followed by refreshments

**13th December**  
10am-12:30: "Your Space"  
Christmas Crafts and refreshments

**14th December**  
9am-10am: Advent Service  
"Joy" - followed by refreshments

**21st December**  
9am-10am: Advent Service  
"Peace" - followed by refreshments  
4pm: All Age Christingle Service

**23rd December**  
7pm: Carol service with the Benefice Community Choir

**24th December**  
2pm: Carol Singing at "Co-op"  
4pm: Crib Service "The Grumpy Innkeeper"

**25th December 9am All-Age Eucharist**



**Christmas**  
St Mary's Kippax

O come let us adore Him

**6th Christmas Fair** 10am-2pm

**14th Christingle** 3pm

**17th Christmas Crafts**  
Craft Cafe & Carols at Kippax Library 3.30-5pm

**21st Kippax Band Concert** (ticketed) 7.30pm

**22nd Messy Church** 2-4pm

**24th Carol Singing** Kippax Co-op 10am  
**Crib Service** 4pm  
**Midnight Eucharist** 11.15pm

**25th Family Christmas Day** 10.30am

AND EVERY SUNDAY 10.30am

[www.stmarysbefice.org](http://www.stmarysbefice.org) / 07885386932 for events across the Benefice

**Christmas at St Mary's Swillington**

**Sunday 7th December**  
10.30am All Together Christmas Service  
3pm Christingle Service

**Sunday 21st December**  
6pm Carol Service

**Monday 22nd December**  
6pm A Quiet Christmas  
A reflective service for those who find Christmas a difficult time

**Wednesday 24th December Christmas Eve**  
4pm Crib Service  
11.15pm Midnight Communion

**Thursday 25th December Christmas Day**  
10.30am Christmas Communion



**Merry CHRISTMAS**

FROM YOUR SPACE

COME AND JOIN US FOR SOME SPECIAL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

**6th December** - Christmas Fair 10-11

**13th December** - Christmas crafts & story time with Rev Jo 10-11

**21st December** - Christingle Service 4pm

**24th December** - Christmas Eve Crib Service 4pm

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU



**Christmas Concert**

**St. Mary's Church, Kippax**  
Sunday 21st December 2022  
7:30pm

**KIPPAX BAND**  
Established 1814

Tickets are £10, including refreshments

Available from:  
Nicola Darbyshire 07761 033 455 or  
Christine Bottom 07789 902 666




**Community Choir Every Thursday Until Christmas**  
5pm - 6.30pm, St. Mary-the-Less, Allerton Bywater,  
Come and Sing Carols Old and New! All welcome and bring your friends!



**ST MARY'S CHURCH SWILLINGTON**

*A quiet Christmas*

\* A reflective service for those who find Christmas a difficult time

**22nd December, 6pm**








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.  
**LAST CHANCE THIS WEEK!**

## Crib Service

4pm on Christmas Eve



Come dressed as an angel, shepherd, Mary, Joseph, wise men!  
Everyone's welcome! St Mary's, Swillington

 **Christmas CRAFTS**

AT **YOUR SPACE**

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December**  
**St Mary The Less, Allerton Bywater**  
**10-1**

Join us for a festive session of making, creating and Christmas fun. A warm welcoming space for children (and adults) to craft decorations to take home. All materials provided, just bring your Christmas spirit!

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU**

Pop-up and drop-in anytime

 **SHARING CRAFTS**  
SKILLS AND MAKING FOR DIFFERENT AGES & ABILITIES  
TEA COFFEE & CAKE

**Craft Café alternate Wednesdays**  
**2.30pm - 4.15pm**  
**St Mary's Church Hall Kippax LS25 7HF**

**+ AFTER SCHOOL STORY AND SONG**  
WITH REV. BOB @ 4pm

Sept 10	Back to school bag blessing - bag making
Sept 24	The Lost Sheep - learn to knit/crochet
Oct 8	Harvest - baking class
Oct 22	Jonah and the whale - soft toy making
Nov 5	The burning bush - soup making
Nov 19	Christ the King - DIY Christmas cards
Dec 3	Advent - lantern making
Dec 17	Nativity Party

Monday Dec 22 Craft Café Messy Church 2pm - 4pm

For more information Email rev.bob.bailey@gmail.com / 07813986932


 **Let's Celebrate CHRISTINGLE**

JOIN US FOR OUR CHRISTINGLE SERVICE - A BEAUTIFUL, CHILD-FRIENDLY CELEBRATION FILLED WITH LIGHT, HOPE AND COMMUNITY. EVERYONE IS WELCOME ALONG, MAKE SPECIAL MEMORIES AND SHARE IN THIS FESTIVE MOMENT TOGETHER

**Sunday 21st December**  
**St Mary The Less, Allerton Bywater**  
**4pm**

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU



 **Baa, Baa, Christmas Sheep**

Find all the sheep in all the businesses around Allerton Bywater.

Find the letter each sheep is holding and make the title of a well known Christmas Carol.

Bring your Answers to the Crib Service on the 24<sup>th</sup> December at 4pm!!! at St. Mary-the-Less

**Premier**

KAOS PRODUCTIONS

# Rapunzel

11th - 14th December 2025

**St Mary's Church Hall**  
Church Lane, Kippax, LS25 7LY  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/kaos-productions](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/kaos-productions)  
A Pantomime from TOM WHALLEY PANTOMIMES

 **CHRISTMAS CRIB SERVICE**

24TH DECEMBER 2025 - 4PM  
ST. MARY-THE-LESS, ALLERTON BYWATER

**JESUS CHRISTMAS PARTY**



Come dressed as Angels and Shepherds or in you best party outfit.



# 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, WF10 2EU.  
Cont: [joanne.medhurst@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:joanne.medhurst@leeds.anglican.org)
- **Kippax - At Kippax Rectory.**  
Cont: [rev.bob.bailey@gmail.com](mailto:rev.bob.bailey@gmail.com)
- **Swillington - At St Mary's Church,**  
Cont: [dawnandjonathan@tiscali.co.uk](mailto: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. Contact Rev. Bob for more details. Next Cafe: 17th Dec.



#### 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: [Your Space](#) 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](mailto: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](mailto:rev.bob.bailey@gmail.com)

Tel:

07885 386932

### **Team Vicar:**

Rev. Sarah Harrison:

Email:

[Sarah.harrison@leeds.anglican.org](mailto: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](mailto:joanne.medhurst@leeds.anglican.org)

Tel:

07470 052889

### **PTO:**

Rev. Gordon Cooper

Email:

[gordon.cooper1954@gmail.com](mailto:gordon.cooper1954@gmail.com)

Tel:

07896 329055

## Wardens.

### **Allerton Bywater:**

Janet Purcell

[janetpurcell558@yahoo.com](mailto:janetpurcell558@yahoo.com)

Lynne Tomlinson

[lynnetom39@gmail.com](mailto:lynnetom39@gmail.com)

### **Kippax:**

Christine Bottom

[csbottom49@gmail.com](mailto:csbottom49@gmail.com)

### **Swillington:**

Dawn Marshall

[dawnandjonathan@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:dawnandjonathan@tiscali.co.uk)

Diana Puxty

[dianapuxty@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:notnilg@aol.com)

### **Kippax:**

Carly Pearson

[carlypearson22@gmail.com](mailto:carlypearson22@gmail.com)

### **Swillington:**

Diana Puxty.

[dianapuxty@hotmail.com](mailto:dianapuxty@hotmail.com)