

St Mary's newsletter

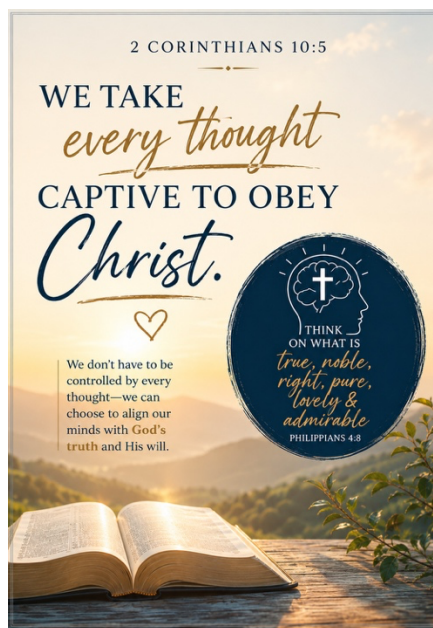
Allerton Bywater + Kippax + Swillington



I've noticed recently that it's easy to get bogged down in negativity. I'm not saying that every day should be sunshiney but we do have God with us. In Philippians 4:4-9 it says, ⁴Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. ⁹Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.' Paul wrote this letter when he was in prison, not a great place (!) but encourages us to rejoice in God. He even says it a second time. Rejoice! He also says not to be anxious about anything followed by instructions for how to tackle this.

I know that probably seems easier said than done but we can pray and present our

requests to God because he hears us. We may feel that a particular situation is too small for God. God knows how many hairs we have on our heads. He knows the details of our lives which means we can come to him at any time with anything and everything. As we bring our situations to God we can know his peace – like no other. We might not see change in a particular situation, but we may change in the process of God being at work in our lives. We can know peace from God which is his gift to us. We can have peace with God because of the death and resurrection of Jesus. And his Holy Spirit lives in us.



We're then given a list of good fruit for our minds – to think about whatever is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, praiseworthy. In 2

Corinthians 10:5 it says, 'and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.' Thinking about whatever is true, noble, right, pure etc is a practical way to do this. It's about keeping our eyes on Jesus in all things – when it's tough and when it's ok and when we don't really feel like it either.

The passage is about how God is near; we have no need to be anxious as we bring our prayers to him; God's peace is with us, and we can look to him in every situation. Romans 12:1-2 says,

¹⁻²So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognise what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.'

With every blessing
Rev'd Sarah

sunday worship

August 16th

9am	Allerton Bywater	Eucharist
10.30am	Kippax	Sung Eucharist
10.30pm	Swillington	Parish Communion
12.30pm	Swillington	Baptism of Cooper Williams

August 23rd

9am	Allerton Bywater	Eucharist
10.30am	Kippax	Sung Eucharist
12.30pm	Kippax	Baptism of Leo Carter
10.30am	Swillington	Parish Communion

August 30th

10.30am	Team Service in Kippax Rectory Garden	
1pm	Swillington	Burial of Ashes Maureen Harris

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

YOUR SPACE

Holiday at Home

MONDAYS
1-3PM
ST MARY THE LESS
ALLERTON BYWATER

27TH JULY - BEACH PARTY
3RD AUGUST - LETS GO WOMBLING
10TH AUGUST - DIY SOS - FAIRY GARDEN
17TH AUGUST - 999 WHAT'S YOUR EMERGENCY?
24TH AUGUST - YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND IN US
31ST AUGUST - MESSY PLAY AGAIN

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING
Basic Awareness

Helping us create a safe, welcoming and caring church for everyone.

United Benefice of
Allerton Bywater Kippax Swillington
ST. MARY

Everyone who serves in our church has a part to play in keeping others safe.

DATE
Saturday 12th September

TIME
10.00 – 12.00

VENUE
St Mary's Church, Kippax

Please contact
Rev'd Sarah
to let her know
if you're coming via
sarah.harrison@leeds.anglican.org

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

I have come that they may have
life in all its fullness
John 10:10

Assembly BANGERS Afternoon

A joyful afternoon of singing together favourite school assembly hymns and songs!

Come along, raise your voice and enjoy a wonderful afternoon together!

SUNDAY
4TH OCTOBER 2026

3.00 PM

ST MARY'S CHURCH, SWILLINGTON

No school uniform required!

Retiring collection for the
Church Roof Fund.

ALL AGES WELCOME!

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

SING TOGETHER PRAISE TOGETHER ENJOY TOGETHER

Everyone welcome – the more the merrier!



We'd love to run Brick Church at Swillington starting in September. There are a few things that we need: 1. Bricks – do you have a loft that you're clearing out? 2. Volunteers to help – (training and DBS check/safer recruitment needed). Please get in touch with Rev'd Sarah if you're able to help ☺



The last week of July was a very special week for St Mary's, Kippax, it was very privileged to be hosting its first ever musical in the church yard! The Plague - what a brilliant setting for this, a funny story telling the tale of the plague and the village of Bogsfield, it sounds dour, but it was just the opposite. The audience loved it; the atmosphere was electric & the feedback was amazing. Well done KAOS Productions for trusting St Mary's to host this amazing musical.

NEWS!!

The new Bishop of Leeds will be the Rt Revd Dr Toby Howarth, it was announced by the Prime Minister's office on 31/7/26, after the King approved his nomination for election.

+Toby said: "I have a deep sense of joy and longing. Joy to have been called to serve as Bishop of Leeds in this glorious Diocese that I've grown to love over the last twelve years. Joy to be working with such a rich diversity of churches and cathedrals, schools and chaplaincies, faith and community partners, businesses, institutions and statutory services filled with faithful and creative people working in often challenging contexts. Joy to be part of such a committed and talented diocesan staff team.

"But also longing. Longing for us all to experience more and more of God's abundant love in Jesus transforming our lives, our homes and our communities."

+Toby will lead on the next stage of the Diocese of Leeds vision of becoming confident Christians, growing churches and transforming communities.

From September onwards, Bishop Toby will be undertaking a programme of visits to meet and listen to people from churches, organisations and communities around the Diocese.

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

1. Most Mondays term time, 7pm. A chance to study, pray and socialise together. The Rectory, Church Lane, Kippax, LS25 7HF
2. Daytime bible study / house group Tuesday fortnightly in St Mary's Kippax, 11am (after service at 10am) June 16, 30. July 14, 28. August 11, 25

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>



Do you know about Leeds Faith in Schools?

You can find out about their work which includes Brigshaw and Garforth. Their latest newsletter can be found here

<https://shorturl.at/j4CtX>

contacts

Clergy

Team Rector

Rev'd Bob Bailey

0113 286 9606 / 07885 386932

rev.bob.bailey@gmail.com

Team Vicar

Rev'd Sarah Harrison

07572 232540

sarah.harrison@leeds.anglican.org

Assistant Curate

Rev'd Jo Medhurst

07470 052889

joanne.medhurst@leeds.anglican.org

Permission to Officiate

Rev'd Gordon Cooper

07896 329055

gordon.cooper1954@gmail.com

Churchwardens

Allerton Bywater

Janet Purcell

07725 722470

janetpurcell558@yahoo.com

Lynne Tomlinson

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Kippax

Christine Bottom

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Swillington

Dawn Marshall

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Dianne Wilford

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Parish Safeguarding Officers

Allerton Bywater

Gordon Linton

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Kippax

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Swillington

Diana Puxty

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psostmaryswillington@gmail.com

Treasurer

Allerton Bywater

Kathryn Bickerdike

stmarythelesstreasurer@gmail.com

Kippax

Kathryn Bickerdike

treasurerstmk@gmail.com



family news

If you have family news you would like to include in the newsletter, please contact us.

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.

September 3rd Jo

September 24th Bob

October 15th Sarah

November 5th Jo

November 26th Bob

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.

1. For Bishop Toby the new Bishop of Leeds
2. For the appointment of the next Bishop of Bradford
3. For those sick or bereaved.
4. Local food pantry hosted out of St Mary's Kippax.
5. Growth in numbers, spiritual depth and service to our community.
6. Work in the seven local schools.
7. The housebound and the care homes we visit
8. Our three house groups that study and pray together.
9. Children's and youth work, especially our monthly all-age/All Together services, Messy Church, Your Space, Craft Café and our Youth House Group.
10. Peace in our hearts, communities and the world.



stmarysbenefice.org

Growing faith + friendship + community