

St Mary's newsletter

Allerton Bywater + Kippax + Swillington
October 2026



"A Taste of Heaven on Earth"

I want to say a big thank you to everyone who gave financially to support some of our young people going to Hilfield Youth Camp in August. They had an amazing time and will want to tell you all about it! We also celebrated the 50th year of the camp with a wonderful Eucharist, cream tea for 135 people and inflatable assault course. It was lovely for myself and Jess to be camping nearby and meeting up with old friends. I first went to HYC aged 16 in 1987. It was a life changing moment. I knew very little about Christianity. On the way home from camp, I vividly remember thinking that my life would never be the same, that it would take me all my life to bring what I had experienced that week into my everyday living. What struck me was the passion, the seriousness of people's struggle with what it meant to follow Jesus. People cared and talked about the deeper questions of life with passion and frankness. During one discussion, I remember saying something that moved one of the Franciscan Brothers. Unsuspectingly I

was becoming a theologian! We were asked in small groups to prepare our own forms of worship. I was learning about liturgy, worship and preaching. In preparation for leading worship we learnt to reflect on the bible and compare this to our own experience with wider issues in the world. I was learning biblical exegesis. In faltering steps we prayed together, and without knowing it observed and absorbed the radical life of the Franciscans who were equal partners in this community. This wasn't theoretical study, but up close discipleship with real messy people, people just like me. I was discipling and being discipled. The variety of worship, guitars, the Eucharist, incense, Compline and silence, all seemed perfectly natural and rooted the experience. I was nurtured by more experienced adults and given opportunities to lead, to shape and change the camp, to experiment and make mistakes. I went on to nurture leaders, and the young people I brought to the camp are now leading and have gone to do inspirational work in the world, many serving

the church. The sense of community and

acceptance of me, just as I was, formed the glue which held the experience together. Reflecting on my first camp and the feeling life would never be the same, I now realise what I experienced was a taste of God's Kingdom, a taste of heaven on earth. The transforming power of that experience and the lessons continuing to be learnt now run deep in my life. And the most exciting thing? Watching a new generation know and trust in Jesus! So please pray for HYC 2027 and if you wish to give a little to help our young people go get in touch.
Rev Bob.



sunday worship

September 27th

Patronal Festival

9.00 am Allerton Bywater
All Age Eucharist
10.30am Kippax Eucharist
10.30am Swillington Celtic
Service of the Word
12.30pm Kippax Baptism
5.00pm. Sunday Social

October 4th

Harvest: Parable of the Tenants

9.00 am Allerton Bywater
Eucharist



10.30am Kippax All Age
Eucharist
10.30am Swillington
Parish Communion

3:00pm Assembly Bangers at
Swillington

October 11th

Trinity 19/ Parable of the Wedding Feast

9.00am Allerton
Bywater All age
Eucharist
10.30am Kippax.
Sung Eucharist
10.30am Swillington
Celtic Service
12:30pm Swillington
Baptism

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 Wed

church news

Why not join a house group? September is a great time to join in with a small group. A new series of bible studies at each of the 3 churches.

A house group is not only so you can gain a broader knowledge of the bible but also to offer support and friendship in a more social way.

Here is St. Mary-the-Less' house group all working together to get rid of the weeds around the church... oh and then we had scones and homemade Jam!!!

Contact Bob, Sarah or Jo for details of the house group in your parish.

Sunday Social



Every 4th Sunday
5pm-6.30pm
St Mary's Church Hall Kippax

and there's more....

Why not come to any of these events over the next few weeks?.



The CHOSEN™
SERIES 6
PREMIER
EPISODE 1

Come and watch together

 **Wednesday 14th October**
 **6.30pm**
 **St Mary the Less**
Station Road, Allerton Bywater



Contact Rev'd Jo Medhurst on
07470 052889 or joanne.medhurst@leeds.anglican.org

This film is not suitable for children.

Sign up for the Pre-Screening of "The Chosen" Series 6 Episode 1. [Click here](#)



We're back!
On the
7th September

BABY SPACE

St Mary the Less, Allerton Bywater
Every Monday
1-2:30pm

Baby weighing support
Friendly tips for feeding & weaning
Meet other local parents
Relaxed, welcoming space
Refreshments to finish





New season

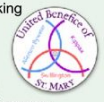
craft Café

Craft Café for all ages
Wednesdays fortnightly 2.30pm - 4pm
crafts • refreshments • share new skills
friendship • bring your own crafts

Drop-in anytime • donations welcome
After-school songs and story 3.45pm
St Mary's Church or Church Hall Kippax

Dates and themes
30 Sept Crochet
14 Oct Halloween pumpkin (and other veg) carving
11 Nov Remembrance poppy making
25 Nov Advent lantern and candle making
9 Dec Christmas decorations
21 Dec Messy Church 2-4pm
13 Jan Whittling
27 Jan Landscape painting workshop

For more information email rev.bob.bailey@gmail.com / 07885386932





BRICK Church

JOIN US ON:

WEDNESDAY 16th SEPTEMBER
WEDNESDAY 21st OCTOBER
WEDNESDAY 18th NOVEMBER
WEDNESDAY 16th DECEMBER

COME AND BUILD SOMETHING AMAZING!

TIME: 3.30-4.30 pm

For primary school aged children with parents/carers.

BUILD Use your imagination and build!
CREATE Get creative and make new things!
EXPLORE Discover Bible stories and big ideas!
FAITH Explore faith together!

Build • Create • Explore Faith Together
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!



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

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 [regular events & information](#).

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.

Baby Space Mondays 1pm-2:30pm

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>



“Bob getting very wet on his prayer pilgrimage in September as he prayed for the parish while walking The Cistercian Way in the South Lakes”



contacts

Clergy

Team Rector

Rev'd Bob Bailey

01132 869606 / 07885386932
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
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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

Allerton Bywater

Gordon Linton

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Swillington

Diana Puxty

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Treasurer

Allerton Bywater

Kathryn Bickerdike

stmarythelesstreasure@gmail.com

Kippax

Kathryn Bickerdike

treasurerstmk@gmail.com



family news

Please pray for Alannah who is to be baptised at Kippax on Sunday 4th Oct, during our all-age service and who is going on to Confirmation on Sunday October 18th at St Chad's, Headingley. Alannah also helps with our Youth Housegroup. If you have family news you would like to include in the newsletter, please contact Rev Bob, Sarah or Jo.

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 with Rev Bob, Rev Jo or Rev Sarah.

Confirmation

Could this be something you're interested in? There are some dates coming up. Speak to Rev'd Bob, Rev'd Sarah or Rev'd Jo for more information ☺

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 Archbishop of Canterbury, Sarah Mullally
- For the Bishop of Leeds, Toby Howarth
- For the Bishop of Kirkstall, Arun Arora
- 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.
- 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.



stmarysbenefice.org

Growing faith + friendship + community