

St Mary's newsletter

Allerton Bywater + Kippax + Swillington
September 2026



Dear friends. As many of you will know, the past three years has been a period of great change for my family. Some of it incredibly challenging, quite a lot of it deeply painful, some definitely confusing, much of it joyful. These unforeseen changes have led to a revision of personal priorities and a radical shift in perspective. A move away from what I knew as 'normal'.

So I asked myself, what is important and meaningful? What is irrelevant and superfluous? For someone like me, one of life's great over-thinkers it has not been a straightforward task. Should I have behaved differently? Did I say the right thing? Could I have been more proactive and so on! The Bible reveals that our God is a God of fresh starts, constantly offering hope, renewed purpose, and unconditional grace.

Lamentations 3:22-23 tells us, "Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning;"

He invites us to leave our past behind, assuring us that His compassions and his love are refreshed daily and that He is actively working to create something beautiful in our lives.

God offers us unconditional forgiveness and mercy each and every day which is a great comfort. Time moves on and now we've arrived at September - the time of year when Summer is ending and it is beginning to feel a bit "backendish" as my mother used to say. We see changes all around us as nature begins the journey into Winter and we have to adapt to the changes, more so perhaps, than on the 1st of January. Dare I say it, is Christmas is on its way., Nature is making it clear that the year is moving to a close.

However it's also a time of new beginnings. A fresh academic year, shorter days, developing new routines, renewal of purpose. The concept of renewal is a constant theme throughout the bible.

Isaiah 43:18-19 tell us, "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." This passage encourages believers to forget former concerns because God is doing "a new thing," making a way even in the wilderness, that place of vulnerability and transition. And we can take great comfort from this passage because God will always protect and shelter us with his love and faithfulness. Remember Moses leading the people through the wilderness to the land of promise? He didn't take the direct route; it took 40 years. Because at this point the Israelites hadn't learned to trust God and allowed doubt and fear to distract them and so He tests their loyalty and faith. God provides for their basic daily needs during this time of trial and what they learn is that the key to surviving in the wilderness is to listen to God's voice. And so it is with us.

However, discerning God's will is never going to be an easy task. It starts with prayer, recognising that God is ever with us and knowing he hears our prayers and listens to our hopes and our worries and our anxieties about the future.

Ultimately, God's promise is that your tomorrows do not have to be defined by your mistakes, traumas, or old errors.



There is a lesson worth hearing from the loyal and devoted Mary Magdalen that tells us the past need not dictate our future.

Mary Magdalene also teaches us that repentance is not about remaining imprisoned by our past, but about allowing Christ to transform it! When she discovers the empty tomb her tears are not the end of her story; they become the beginning of a new life. Remember she is the first to see the risen Christ, the first to give this amazing news to the disciples and the world. And what does this teach us? It informs us that by laying down our burdens, being prepared to rethink how we approach life we can go forward holding the cross in our hearts and thereby allow the Lord, who calls each of us by name, to give us new life. (Written by Trudi Roberts)

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." Proverbs 3:5-6 (ESV)

sunday worship

September 6th

Trinity 14/ Creation in Christ (A new festival)

9.00 am Allerton Bywater
Eucharist
10.30am Kippax All Age
Eucharist
10.30am Swillington All
Together Service
1.00pm Allerton Bywater
Baptism

September 13th

Trinity 15/The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant

9.00 am Allerton Bywater
Eucharist
10.30am Kippax
Sung Eucharist

10.30am Swillington
Parish Communion

1.00pm Allerton Bywater.
Baptism

18:00pm Confirmation
Service at St. James,
Manston

September 20th

Trinity 16/ The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard

9.00am Allerton
Bywater All age
Eucharist
10.30am Kippax.
Sung Eucharist
10.30am Swillington
Celtic Service
12:30pm Swillington
Baptism
15:00pm Allerton Bywater
Service of Healing

Look what's new!!



midweek worship

Allerton Bywater

Evening Prayer or Said Eucharist 7pm Wednesday

Kippax

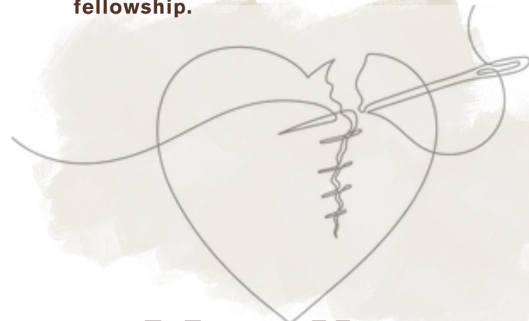
Morning Prayer 9.30am Mon, Wed, Thurs and Fri.
Said Eucharist 10am Tuesday.

Swillington

Morning Prayer or Parish Communion 9.30am Wed



A Christian service offering God's restoration for physical, emotional, and spiritual needs through prayer, scripture, testimony and fellowship.



Healing Service



20
SEPT

3pm

St. Mary-the-Less,
Allerton Bywater

CONTACT REV. JO FOR MORE INFOR:
JOANNE.MEDHURST@LEEDS.ANGLICAN.ORG

Sunday Social



Every 4th Sunday

5pm-6.30pm

St Mary's Church Hall Kippax



Holiday at Home

church news

“Holiday At” Home was fantastic! Hosted by St. Mary-the-Less and in conjunction with “Baby Space and Your Space”, We saw so many families and grew to be a really wonderful community over the Summer. Here are just some of the wonderful memories made this summer. We’re hoping to do something similar this time next year. What might you want to bring to the party? Email ideas to Bob, Sarah or Jo.





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.

and there's more....

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

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!

Beetle Drive

Friday 11th
September 2026
7pm

**St Mary's Church
Allerton Bywater**

Adults £4
Children £1

Price Includes Refreshments
Pay on the door

There'll be a whole lotta shakin' going on!

**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

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>



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



Every other Wednesday at
2.30pm in St. Marys Hall, Kippax



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

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

gordon.cooper1954@gmail.com

Churchwardens

Allerton Bywater

Janet Purcell

janetpurcell558@yahoo.com

Lynne Tomlinson 01977 554285

lynnetom39@gmail.com

Kippax

Christine Bottom

07789 902666

csbottom49@gmail.com

Swillington

Dawn Marshall

01132 862314

dawnandjonathan@tiscali.co.uk

Diana Puxty

01132 864465

dianapuxty@hotmail.com

Parish Safeguarding Officers

Allerton Bywater

Gordon Linton

07866 388580

psostmaryallertonbywater@gmail.com

Kippax

Carly Pearson

07578 444396

psostmaryskippax@gmail.com

Swillington

Diana Puxty

07767 045511

psostmaryswillington@gmail.com

Treasurer

Allerton Bywater

Kathryn Bickerdike

stmarythelesstreasure@gmail.com

Kippax

Kathryn Bickerdike

treasurerstmk@gmail.com



family news

It seems like things have been pretty busy as usual.

Please pray for Jodie Mary as she is confirmed on 13th September at Manston and for all those being baptised.

Dale will be in South Korea for 2 weeks from Tuesday meeting Rev. Jo's and his newest grandchild Anna. Please pray for safe travelling.

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.

April 30th Rev'd Jo

May 21st Rev'd Bob

June 11th Rev'd 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