

St Mary's newsletter

Allerton Bywater + Kippax + Swillington



And suddenly it's autumn. The nights are longer than the days again. The 30°C temperatures are a distant memory, and we are beginning the long road towards advent and, ultimately Christmas when the light starts to return. At the darkest, bleakest point of the year we welcome the Christ Light, Saviour, Hope in the darkness.

It's powerful imagery and it is of course the reason why Christmas is where it is (Jesus was almost certainly not born in the bleak midwinter). It seems natural, the dynamic of rescue when times are getting bleaker.

Except of course where it isn't. In half the world it's not autumn at all. It's possible that we have friends/family in Australia/ New Zealand but it is the same throughout the Southern Hemisphere. The months between now and Christmas are not increasingly dark and bleak but positive and hopeful; building towards Christ's arrival at the very high point of the year. It's powerful imagery. It seems natural, the dynamic of building light until the arrival of the Saviour at the climax. But it is all very different.

So - two completely opposite images of the last part of the

year; but which is right? They both are. We limit our experience of things by where we are. God does not. A few Christmases ago we were at my parents' house talking to my brother in America and our daughter who was in New Zealand. In Newcastle it was 3pm. In Maryland it was 10.30am and

(now) to our own planet. God is not.

And this carries over to other aspects of our lives and our faith. In the Bible we find poetry, strange apocalyptic visions, arguments and stories, Notably Jesus' parables. We can't draw an exact one-to-one correspondence between



in New Zealand it was already in the early hours of the following morning. But it was still now for all of us! Still a strange experience for most of us even though we know about time zones. We have to remember that all of this, time zones, times of day, even months are not completely natural. We have them to try to make sense of our experiences. We are bound to time and space and

this imagery and the complete truth of God and his kingdom. When Jesus starts a parable with "The Kingdom is like...." he is offering a glimpse. A true glimpse but partial nonetheless.

We almost certainly wouldn't understand the full truth. We are limited by our mortality and limited awareness. Again, God is not. *Gwilym*

Footnote

I am reliably informed that quite a few Australians and New Zealanders stick to the "light in the darkness" view of Advent that their ancestors brought with them from northern Europe "because it's traditional". Hey ho.

sunday worship

October 18th

9am	Allerton Bywater	Eucharist
10.30am	Kippax	Sung Eucharist
10.30pm	Swillington	Parish Communion
12.30pm	Kippax	Baptism of Alex Curran
4pm	St Chad's Headingley	Confirmation of Alannah Quayle

October 25th

9am	Allerton Bywater	All Age Eucharist
10.30am	Kippax	Sung Eucharist
10.30am	Swillington	Celtic Service of the Word
12.30pm	Kippax	Baptism of Isabella and Madison

November 1st

9am	Allerton Bywater	Eucharist
10.30am	Kippax	All Age Eucharist
10.30am	Swillington	All Together Service
3pm	Allerton Bywater	Memorial Service
3pm	Kippax	Memorial Service
6pm	Swillington	Memorial Service

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*

REMEMBERING
a Loved One
MEMORIAL SERVICE

A time to remember, give thanks,
and find comfort as we light candles
and pray for those we love
but see no longer.

SUNDAY 1st NOVEMBER 2026

3pm | St Mary the Less
Allerton Bywater

3pm | St Mary's
Kippax

6pm | St Mary's
Swillington

Contact Rev'd Sarah Harrison on
07572 232540 or sarah.harrison@leeds.anglican.org

All are welcome



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!



FAMILY DISCO

YOUR SPACE

Music • Dancing • Fun for all the family!

Saturday 17th October

5pm - 7pm

St Mary the Less Allerton Bywater



New season

Café Craft

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




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



COST
£25
per person

Pilgrimage to Durham Cathedral

Saturday 15th May, 2027



Travel by
coach



Depart 8am from
St Mary the Less
Allerton Bywater



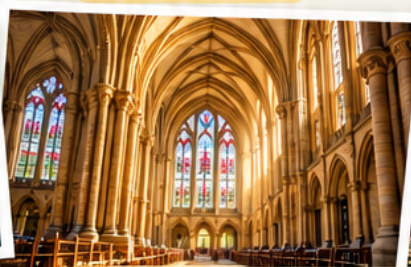
Optional
cathedral tour
at 11am
£6.50 (pre-book)



Service of
Holy Communion
at 12.30pm



Return
early evening



Lots of time to explore the **Durham Castle** and
Cathedral World Heritage Site as well as great food and drink
in the city.



SIGN UP VIA YOUR CHURCHWARDEN
PLACES ARE LIMITED – DON'T MISS OUT!

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.

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) 27th October, 10th November, 24th November, 8th December

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>

Sunday Social

chilled café style including
live music • baking
sing-a-long • hot-chocolate
cake • discussion • bonfire
quiz • DJ • origami • dance

4th Sunday in the month
5pm-6.30pm

St Mary's Church, hall
or Rectory garden

29th Nov Sing-a-long
24th Jan Cèilidh

Info: Rev Bob 07885386932 • www.stmarysbenefice.com



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

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janetpurcell558@yahoo.com

Kippax

Christine Bottom

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csbottom49@gmail.com

Swillington

Dawn Marshall

01132 862314

dawnandjonathan@tiscali.co.uk

Dianne Wilford

07983 977130

diannewilford87@gmail.com

Parish Safeguarding Officers

Allerton Bywater

Gordon Linton

07866 388580

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Kippax

Carly Pearson

07578 444396

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Swillington

Diana Puxty

07767 045511

psostmaryswillington@gmail.com

Treasurer

Allerton Bywater

Kathryn Bickerdike

stmarythelesstreasurer@gmail.com

Kippax

Kathryn Bickerdike

treasurerstmk@gmail.com



family news

Please pray for the family of Lynne Tomlinson – Brian, Lisa and Andrew in their time of mourning. Lynne was loved by all – family, church and community

Please pray for Alannah who is going to be confirmed at St Chad's Headingley on Sunday October 18th. Alannah also helps with our Youth Housegroup.

Please pray for Alex being baptised at Kippax on Sunday October 18th. He's part of the youth group.

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.

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