

**Growing Faith, Fellowship and Community
for Everyone!**

Newsletter

Sunday 28th September, 2025

"The Rich Man and Lazarus"

Team

Rector:	Rev. Bob Bailey	
	Email:	rev.bob.bailey@gmail.com
	Tel:	07885 386932
Team Vicar:	Rev. Sarah Harrison	On sick leave at present
Assistant Curate:	Rev. Jo Medhurst	
	Email:	joanne.medhurst@leeds.anglican.org
	Tel:	07470 052889
PTO Vicar:	Rev. Gordon Cooper	
	Email:	gordon.cooper1954@gmail.com
	Tel:	07896 329055
Wardens:	Janet Purcell (AB):	janetpurcell558@yahoo.com
	Lynne Tomlinson(AB):	lynnetom39@gmail.com
	Christine Bottom (K):	csbottom49@gmail.com
	Dawn Marshall (S):	dawnandjonathan@tiscali.co.uk
	Diana Puxty: (S)	dianapuxty@hotmail.com

Housegroups:

Mondays at 7pm (Swillington 7:30pm)

Kippax -	At the rectory.
	Contact: rev.bob.bailey@gmail.com
Allerton Bywater -	At 23 Davy Road, WK10 2EU.
	Contact: joanne.medhurst@leeds.anglican.org
Swillington -	At Swillington Sports and Social Club.
	Contact: dawnandjonathan@tiscali.co.uk



Readings, Hymns and Songs

Readings:

Jeremiah 32.1–3a, 6–15

Psalms 91.1–6, 14–end

Luke 16. 19–end

Kippax Hymns:

1. I will sing the wondrous story
2. Healer of the sick
3. Broken for me, broken for you
4. I watch the sunrise lighting the sky
5. The Kingdom of God is justice and joy

Do you have a favourite worship song or hymn?
Let us know and we'll try to use it

Allerton Bywater Hymns:

1. Praise my Soul, the King of Heaven.
2. The Steadfast Love of the Lord never ceases.
3. Blessed Assurance
4. I stand in the presence of Jesus the Nazarene
5. God of the Poor

Swillington Hymns:

1. Crown Him with many crowns
2. You laid aside your majesty
3. Brother, sister let me serve you
4. For the healing of the nations
5. My Jesus, my Saviour
6. Lord for the years



The next 2 weeks services in detail.

The new rotas for September and October are now published here:

<https://stmarysbenefice.org/enews>

Sundays.

28th September: 09:00: All-Age Eucharist at Allerton Bywater - Rev. Jo
 10:30: Sung Eucharist at Kippax - Rev. Bob
 10:30: Celtic Service of the Word at Swillington
 17:00: Sunday Social at St. Mary's Church Hall - Kippax

5th October:

(HARVEST)

09:00: All-Age Eucharist at Allerton Bywater - Rev. Jo
10:30: All-Age Eucharist at Kippax - Rev. Bob
10:30: Celtic Service of the Word - Rev. Jo and Team

Weekdays.

30th September: 10:00: Said Eucharist at Kippax - Rev. Jo
1st October: 09:30: Said Holy Communion at Swillington - Rev. Jo
 19:00: Evening Prayer at Allerton Bywater - Rev. Jo
7th October: 10:00: Said Eucharist at Kippax - Rev. Bob
 09:30: Morning Prayer at Swillington - Diana
 19:00: Said Eucharist at Allerton Bywater - Rev. Jo

House groups ...all are welcome.

Our groups aim to provide a space for deeper faith exploration and fellowship than may be possible during our Sunday services and hopes to foster connection and mutual encouragement within the Christian community.

We have 3 house groups in the benefice, all on **Monday nights from 7pm.**

Please see the front page of who to contact if you would like to become part of a house group and build stronger relationships in the community.

A Reflection on the Gospel this week. (Rev. Jo)

“The Rich Man and Lazarus”. Luke 19-End



In the parable we read this week, Jesus doesn't mince His words. This one is meant to hone us, to re-shape us. Like a carpenter chisels at a hard piece of wood, so Jesus' words chisel at our hearts. Jesus' call is for us to live differently.

Jesus is not saying you have to be poor to be able to believe in Him. Rather, using the contrast in the lives of the two men, Jesus is warning us that this life here on earth isn't the be all and end all and we need to show compassion in all situations. This can leave us with more questions than answers though.

Why does the rich man have no name and yet the beggar is given the name which means - "God helps?" Why does the rich man not see and help his poor neighbour? He must have been close to eat the crumbs from the table...

Jesus' words levels the playing field, because He is saying: "However much we have here on earth, our entry into Heaven is dependant on only one thing. Our relationship with God and Humankind."

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and all your mind", and "Love your neighbour as yourself". (Matt 22). The kingdom of God does not measure life by what you have but by what you share.. Death is the equaliser. Rich or poor and all inbetween,, respected or rejected and all in between... black or white. Black or white and all in between....I could go on.

Heaven and hell aren't just about where we'll "end up".. They're about present choices. Each time the rich man stepped over Lazarus to get to his table, his life, his career, his wealth, his success... so he created a chasm for his after life... the chasm that separated him from God for eternity.

Everytime we "step over" someone to get what we want without showing compassion, everytime we turn our backs on someone in need and everytime we refuse to share the blessings God gives us on this earth and the hope of our future in Jesus, we are also building that chasm. Faith without compassion is a closed gate. Compassion opens the door to the kingdom.

SAVE THE DATE!

Come and Vote for Faye!

Faye is hoping to become the next Leeds Children's Mayor. If you have children get them to vote!! (She will be at St. Mary-the-Less on Sunday, if you want to meet her.)



Saturday, 27th September at "Your Space".

Come and see what goes on and have a coffee with us as we raise money for "Macmillan Cancer Support". St. Mary-the-Less, Allerton Bywater, 10am - 1pm.

St. Mary's Church, Swillington PRAYER DAY

Saturday 11th October
10.00am – 3.00pm

Church will be open for anyone who would like to call in to say a prayer

*Have a time of
peace and quiet
or as a group*



Tickets are Going! Last Chance to Order!!!

Friday 3rd October at 7pm: working with Allerton Bywater Primary School, come to our Beer and Hymns night at the St. Mary-the-Less, Allerton Bywater.. An informal Celtic Style Band of professional (and not so professional) musicians will entertain with tunes old and new. Tickets are £5.00 per person and will include traditional bar snacks, soft drinks and a Ltd edition "Hymn Book". Beer and Wine will be on sale at very reasonable prices to aid the singing!!! (All proceeds to go into the work of Allerton Bywater Primary School and St.Mary-the-Less for running costs. Tickets are limited and on a first come, first served basis.)

Contact Jo for tickets:

joanne.medhurst@leeds.anglican.org



Join Rev. Bob, Elizabeth and team every other Wednesday from the 10th September at 3-4:30pm at St. Mary's Church Hall, Kippax. All welcome to come and enjoy cake, a drink and some crafty creations with a bible story theme.

Contact Bob for more details.

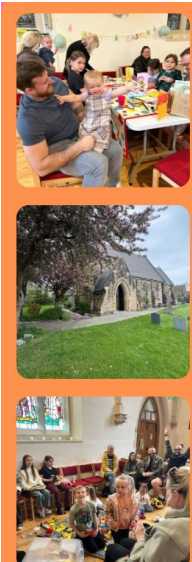
rev.bob.bailey@gmail.com

Join Rev. Jo and team every Saturday (from 20/9/25) at St. Mary-the-Less. A family space with singing, craft, board games and regular community activities from 10am - 1pm.

Free coffee, tea, snacks and even a light lunch. (Must pre-book for lunch.)

Contact Jo for more details:

joanne.medhurst@leeds.anglican.org



free event



SATURDAY

10am-1pm

St Mary the Less Church,
Allerton Bywater

**Join us for games, crafts,
music and more**





I'd love this page to have more on it!

Send in your photos of events in the Benefice so that we can add them to this page.

joanne.medhurst@leeds.anglican.org

What goes into a bottle a ketchup? Rev. Bob and Rev. Jo at St. Mary's Swillington for the school harvest. Teaching how all the ingredients of Tomato Sauce, with all their diverse flavours, makes something so good!! (Send us your captions!! Thanks Christine for the idea.....)



News on Bishop Nick.

Bishop Nick is retiring and will be having 3 farewell services, one in each of the diocese' Cathedrals.

Everyone is welcome to attend these.

Bradford Cathedral 19 October – 3.00pm

Wakefield Cathedral 26 October - 3.30pm

Ripon Cathedral 23 November – 3.30 pm



Please do pray for Bishop Nick as he starts to handover responsibilities to Bishop Toby for the interim.

Safeguarding.

The care and protection of children, young people and adults involved in Church activities is the responsibility of us all, but if you have a safeguarding concern please contact a member of the safeguarding team:

Allerton Bywater: Gordon Linton: notnilg@aol.com

Kippax: Carly Pearson: carlypearson22@gmail.com

Swillington: Diana Puxty: dianapuxty@hotmail.com

(Or any of the Clergy at anypoint.)

(There is more information on the posters displayed around our churches.)



A big **THANK YOU** to Carly Pearson for taking on the Role of **Safeguarding Officer for Kippax**. She will be working closely with Rev. Bob, Rev. Jo our other safeguarding officers to consolidate our records and be on hand if anyone has any worries about Safeguarding at Kippax.

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. Jo or Rev. Gordon in the first instance.