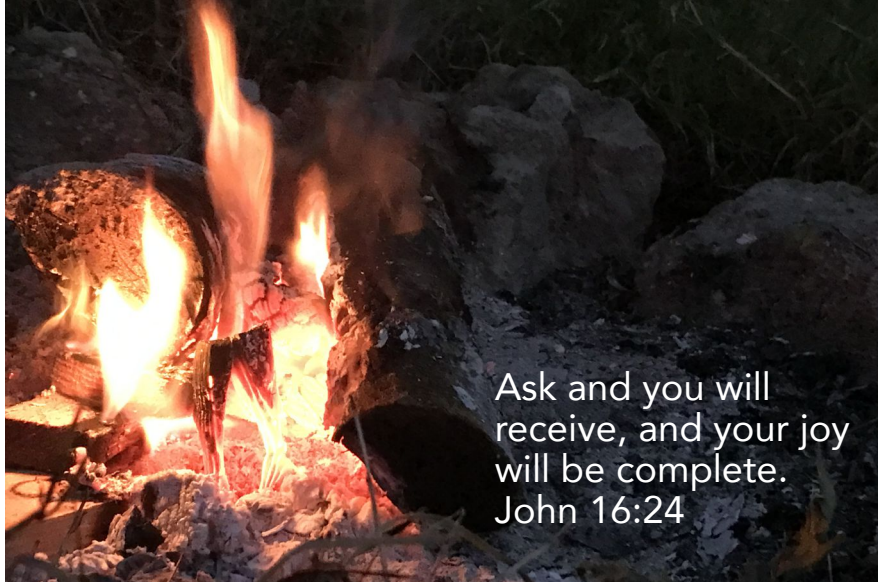


St Mary's newsletter

Allerton Bywater + Kippax + Swillington



Ask and you will
receive, and your joy
will be complete.
John 16:24

A call to prayer

In our final Lent Lunch/Supper on the 23rd March, we will be discussing the value of Constant Prayer and looking at the various resources we can use to help us keep in constant contact with God during the day. As Christians, the most important "work" we have is to pray and recently whilst in Highfield Care Home, one of the residents told me, it's the "only" important thing.

The church expect Priests to follow its own pattern of prayer each day ("Daily prayer") and if I'm honest, being the free spirit that I am, when I first started training I rebelled against this. "I pray enough" I thought. "I don't want to be tied down to praying what someone else has told me to pray!" (You can probably hear me saying it!)

However, as I joined in the rhythm of Morning and Evening prayer though I began to find more freedom and insight. It was totally liberating to read the bible verses and know that thousands of others were reading the same as me; that as one group, one church, one body we were all being given the same direction. As little old me on my own, my prayers can seem like a drop in a bucket but as a whole body, all over the world, I can dare to believe that our prayers do have an impact. I started to recognise that the words on the page, each time I joined in, were so relevant to the day ahead, or the day that had been. This particularly happened at Evening Prayer 2 weeks ago when Rev. Bob called a prayer vigil for those affected by the war in the Holy Land. As I read the words from Psalm 74, the words on the page became The Living

Word of God. "They said in their heart, 'Let us make havoc of them altogether, and they burned down all the sanctuaries of God in the Land'". This helped me to pray with humility that God would protect the innocent members of public in our world and particularly caught in a war, created from human greed and a need for power.

At college I remember being appalled when I was asked to write an essay entitled: "Can we change God's mind?" I had grown up with the theology that we must not question God. But, during one morning prayer recently, I learned that this question isn't as black and white as I had been taught. As we read about Jesus walking on water (for the gezillionth time!) seven words jumped out at me: "He was about to pass them by..." Jesus, was walking to somewhere else when he heard their cries and changed direction! When this same Jesus ascended into heaven we are told that He sits at the right hand of the Father and intercedes for us; He pleads our case! God became incarnate in order to understand what we go through. Then, In one of the talks by Bishop Philip North in our Lent series, a bold claim was made. "There is no such thing as unanswered prayer." I love the challenge of that. Really? What about those long periods of time when we feel our prayers are just going into thin air? What about those prayers when we really pray hard and loved ones still die?

sunday worship

March 22

5th Sunday of Lent

Ezekiel 37:1-14 • Romans 8:6-11 • John 11:1-45

9am	Allerton Bywater	All-age Eucharist
10.30am	Kippax	Sung Eucharist
10.30am	Swillington	Celtic Service

March 29

Palm Sunday

10.30am Kippax Team Eucharist

No services at Allerton Bywater or Swillington.

April 5

Easter Sunday

Jeremiah 31:1-6 • Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

John 20:1-18

5.30am	Kippax Rectory Gnd	Dawn Service
7.30am	Kippax	Service of light followed by breakfast
9am	Allerton Bywater	Said Eucharist
10.30am	Kippax	Sung Eucharist
10.30am	Swillington	Parish Communion

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.

SEE BELOW FOR HOLY WEEK SERVICES.



Our all-age / All-together services are a blend of tradition and activities for all ages and abilities. Allerton 3rd Sunday, Kippax and Swillington 1st Sunday of the month.

continued from front page...

What about the wars which still continue to rage? Surely these prayers are unanswered, otherwise, how can we believe in a loving God?

I believe, like Bishop Philip, that God does answer our all our prayers. He either tells us "Yes", "No" or "Not Yet". Why else would Psalm writer David proclaim "How long Lord?". He hears our prayers and as overseer and creator of the whole of creation decides whether He will allow our prayers to be a "Yes". Sometimes, we need to understand that God has said "No" and if we believe we are not hearing maybe just maybe, Jesus is interceding for us, and pleading with His Father, to listen to our prayers. As humankind, if we listen to God for his will for the whole of His creation, through regular

committed and specific bible passages, our prayers can become united and God will respond. My prayer always is: "Your will be done", But leading up to this I pray for my hopes and dreams and aspirations to align with His and in the hard times, when we don't understand... when it seems He is not listening, I remember the words of Jesus on the cross: "Why have you forsaken me?" And draw on all my faith to remember that eventually, as Jesus was raised from the dead... God will bring about good... (Why don't you give it a go? Download the Daily Prayer app and start following it or join us for morning prayer Mon, Wed-Fri at Kippax at 09:30am. Revd Jo Medhurst

St Mary's Easter Services

30th March – 5th April

Monday

Reflection & Compline

Allerton Bywater, 7pm

Tuesday

Said Eucharist Kippax 10am

Stations of the Cross

Swillington 2pm

Wednesday

Tenebrae Service Kippax 8pm

Maundy Thursday

Eucharist & foot washing

Allerton Bywater 7pm

Good Friday

Reflection

Swillington 2pm

Saturday

YourSpace Easter Fun

Allerton Bywater 10am

Good Friday

Messy Church

Kippax 10am-12pm

**Liturgy of Good Friday &
Veneration of The Cross**

Kippax 7pm



Easter Sunday

Dawn Service & Bonfire

Kippax Rectory Garden 5.30am

Service of light Kippax 7.30am

Breakfast Kippax Church Hall 8am

Sung Eucharist

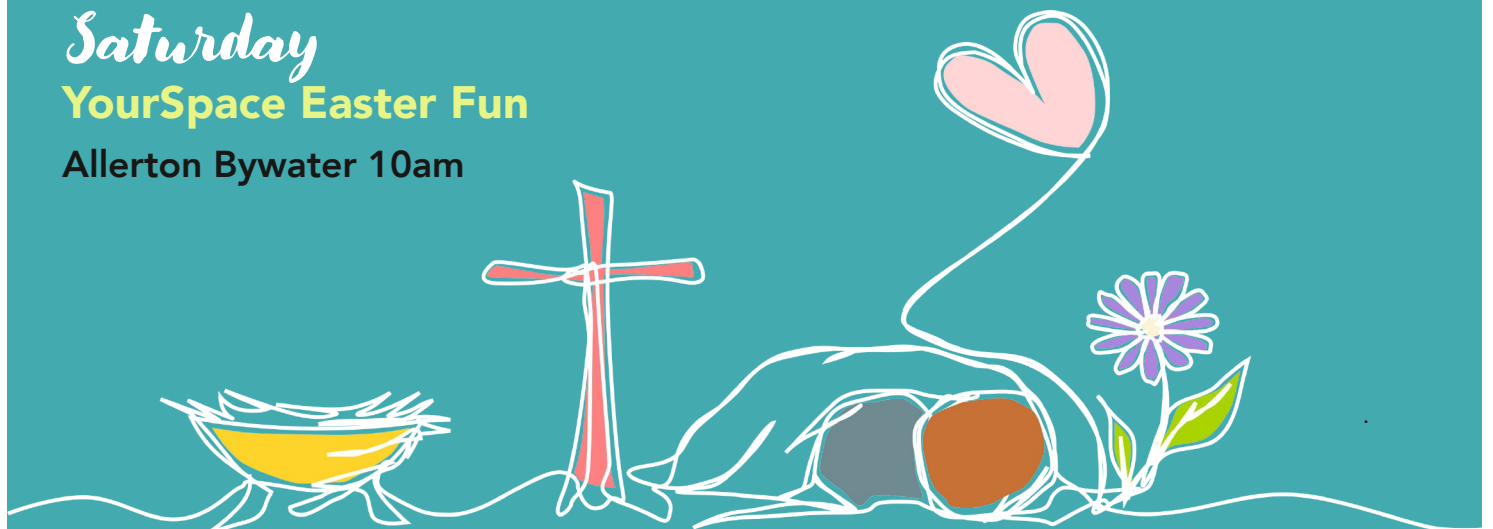
Allerton Bywater 9am

All-age Eucharist

Kippax 10.30am

Parish Communion & baptism

Swillington 10.30am



thank you

Thank you to everyone who has attended our Lent study group and provided soup and cake. So far we have raised well over £250 in donations to help fund some of our young people to go to Hilfield Youth Camp this August. We have had wonderful fellowship together and learn't a great deal about prayer. I hope you have been encouraged. *Bob*



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



JOIN US FOR
YOUR SPACE
EASTER FUN

SATURDAY 4TH APRIL
10-12:30

ST MARY THE LESS, ALLERTON BYWATER

Bring a decorated egg or Easter bonnet to receive a special Easter treat!

Don't worry if you don't have chance to make anything We will have lots of crafts to do on the day - just come and enjoy the fun



4.

swillington prayer

Third Saturday of the month
@ 11am

21/3, 18/4, 16/5, 20/6, 18/7, 15/8

Praying together for our church, our local community and those in need



church news

APCM. Our Annual Parochial Church Meetings are coming up. These are a chance to look back on the last year and look forward to where God is leading us in the future. All are welcome. The dates are...

Allerton Bywater 17th May 11am.

Kippax and Swillington 26th April 12noon.

Electoral Roll Revision. Our membership list is updated yearly. If you did not apply to go on the Electoral Roll last year when a new roll was published or you have joined us in the last year, then please do consider joining. The easiest way is online to www.stmarysbenefice.org

Inclusive Church Network. Allerton Bywater and Kippax PCC have decided to trial joining the Inclusive Church Network for one year (if accepted). We hope the network will encourage us on our journey of inclusion for all people, carrying on and developing the welcome we already offer. <https://www.inclusive-church.org>

Robots! Kippax PCC has been approached as a venue to home Startship Robots on a night for charging. You will see them delivering groceries for the Co-op around Kippax. We hope the Robots will have their night time sleep next to the Church Hall.



Good Friday

10am - 12pm • 3rd April

Messy Church



crafts,
refreshments,
easter egg hunt,
songs and dramatic
re-telling of the
Easter story

10am Crafts • 11am Refreshments
11.30am The Easter Story/walk of witness

St Mary's Kippax Church Hall

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 9th	Revd Sarah
April 30th	Revd Jo
May 21st	Revd Bob
June 11th	Revd Sarah
July 2nd	Revd Jo



Alternate
Wednesday
2.30pm - 4.15pm
Kippax
Church Hall.
Next April 15th

Sunday Social



5pm-6.30pm

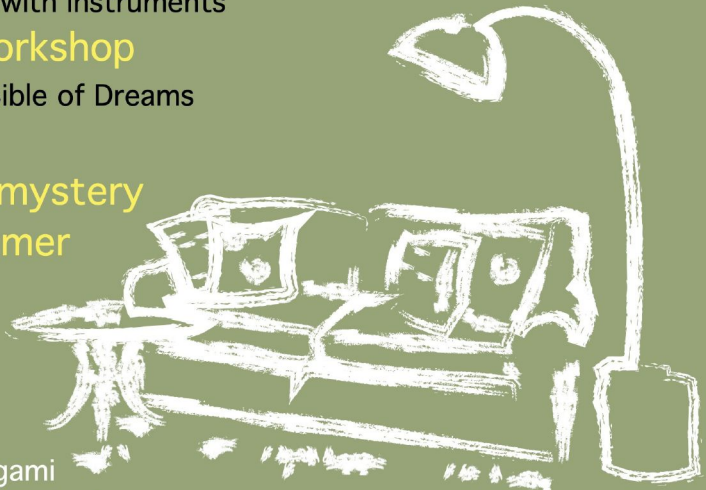
St Mary's Church Hall Kippax

- 29 March **Old gospel praise night**
scratch choir /just turn up with instruments
- 26 April **Poetry and music workshop**
with Jimmy Andrex & the Bible of Dreams
- 31 May **Community meal**
- 28 June **Midsummer murder mystery**
- 26 July **Schools out for summer**
disco + school pudding +
school bangers

Chilled café style including...

Sing-a-long • hot-chocolate • bingo
cake • discussion • quiz • DJ RICH • origami

Info: Rev Bob 07885386932 • www.stmarysbenefice.com



regular events & information

For who to contact and more information please see our contacts page below.

Across the Team

Pastoral care; please 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, UK.

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. See *publicity*.

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.

First Steps for play and friendship (pre-school aged children) Thursday, 10am – 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 2.30pm - 4.15 (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-log, crafts and refreshments.

* *Begin again after Easter.*

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>

contacts

Clergy

Team Rector

Revd Bob Bailey
01132 869606 / 07885386932
rev.bob.bailey@gmail.com

Team Vicar

Revd Sarah Harrison
07572232540
sarah.harrison@leeds.anglican.org

Assistant Curate

Revd Jo Medhurst
07470 052889
joanne.medhurst@leeds.anglican.org

Permission to officiate

Revd Gordon Cooper
07896329055
gordon.cooper1954@gmail.com

Churchwardens

Allerton Bywater

Janet Purcell
janetpurcell558@yahoo.com
Lynne Tomlinson
01977554285
lynnetom39@gmail.com

Kippax

Christine Bottom
07789902666
csbottom49@gmail.com

Swillington

Dawn Marshall
01132862314
dawnandjonathan@tiscali.co.uk
Diana Puxty
01132864465
dianapuxty@hotmail.com

Parish Safeguarding Officers

Allerton Bywater

Gordon Linton
07866 388580
psostmaryallertonbywater@gmail.com

Kippax

Carly Pearson
07578444396
psostmaryskippax@gmail.com

Swillington

Diana Puxty
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psostmaryswillington@gmail.com

Treasurer

Allerton Bywater

Kathryn Bickerdike
stmarythelesstreasurer@gmail.com

Kippax

Kathryn Bickerdike
treasurerstmk@gmail.com

contacts continued on next page...



7.

family news

Thank you for all your prayers after the death of my dad in January and your continued prayers for my mum Carol. It has been very much appreciated, Rev Bob.

We give thanks for the baptism of Phoebe at Kippax on Sunday 22nd March and we pray for all the family on the loss of Enid whose funeral was on March 11th. Also this Sunday we celebrate Lola's baptism at Allerton Bywater's all-age service. Lola is being baptised by full immersion with her brother Harry using less water! The following weekend we celebrate the baptism of Nevaeh at Kippax at 12.30pm. At Swillington on Easter day Joshua will be baptised.

Callum and Rebecca's wedding is very soon at Kippax. Also Jessica and Ryan are getting married on March 28th. We pray for them and rejoice together at the beginning of their married life.

We also mark the passing of Les Gummerson and pray for their family giving thanks for their long service to church.

If you have family news you would like to include in the newsletter, please contact Rev Bob, Sarah or Jo.

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)

07708049084

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*

We have been learning more about prayer over Lent and we love to pray together as a Benefice. There is regular prayer nearly everyday in our churches (see page 2). Here are some suggestions for prayer at home...

- 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 housegroups 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