



Happy New Year!

You might be thinking that I've gone totally crazy (nothing new there!), but it is a new year for the church. This began the other week on Advent Sunday and in Advent we have an opportunity to prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas when 'The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighbourhood.' John 1:14 (MSG) Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us dwelt among us and continues to do so today.

We have a fantastic opportunity to invite people to a variety of events and services: from bacon rolls to Christmas crafts, to carol services, to Christmas fairs to Crib Services, Christingles and Christmas Day. Sometimes people are more open to giving things a try at church over the Christmas period. Unfortunately for some, the period of Christmas isn't an easy one. Last Sunday evening we held our first Blue Christmas service. People have commented that they found the time helpful so maybe we'll have another one next year.

This morning I was at Hollins Grove sheltered accommodation with students from Brigshaw for a Christmas coffee morning; earlier in the week we've had schools into our churches or we've been in the schools plus Christingles.

So let's spend the next few weeks preparing room in our hearts for the coming of Jesus and I pray that the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ child be yours this Christmas; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen. *With love and prayers, Sarah x*

Clergy Team

Team Rector

Revd Bob Bailey

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Team Vicar

Revd Sarah Harrison

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Curate

Revd Jo Medhurst

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Revd Gordon Cooper
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Churchwardens

Allerton Bywater

Janet Purcell

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Lynne Tomlinson

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Kippax

Christine Bottom

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Swillington

Dawn Marshall

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Diana Puxty

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Safeguarding in the Benefice

As you know we take Safeguarding very seriously, of children as well as vulnerable adults.

We want to ensure that everyone feels safe in our churches and this is reflected in our recruitment of volunteers who go through a Safer Recruitment process which includes obtaining two non-church references, a discussion about the role and regular support.

We're very grateful to Jane, Diana and Gordon in their roles as Parish Safeguarding Officers. If you have a concern, please speak to them or one of the clergy team. You can find more information here <https://stmarysbenefice.org/safeguarding>

Team Prayer Tree:

Names of the deceased (RIP) to be remembered in prayers and prayers of comfort for their families and friends

Swillington:

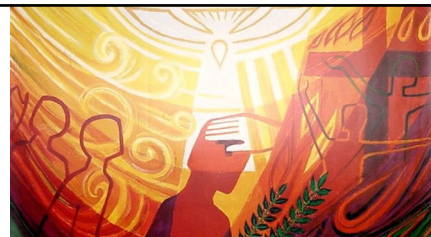
John Cotton (21/11 Pontefract) SH

Kippax:

Margaret Brabbs (4/1 ashes) BB
Doreen Burras (7/1 Pontefract) JM

Allerton Bywater:

George Purchon (18/11) BB
Robert Ferguson (23/12 ashes) BB
Frank Punchard (11/1) ashes) SH
Mick Greaves (15/1) ashes) BB
John Baldwin



CONFIRMATION

Have you been confirmed?

Would you like to be?

You might be wondering what confirmation is?

Confirmation is a special church service in which a person confirms the promises that were made when they were baptised. At a confirmation service, you make these promises for yourself. Friends, family and Church family will be there to promise to support and pray for you. The bishop will lay their hands on your head and ask God's Holy Spirit to give you the strength to live God's way for the rest of your life. If you're interested, please come and speak to Rev'd Bob, Rev'd Sarah, Rev'd Jo and then we can arrange some sessions to discuss what it's all about.

Confirm, O Lord, your servant with your Holy Spirit.

Regular events and information

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 and funerals Please book at church or contact a member of the clergy or a Churchwarden.

Midweek Services *Weekly Morning/Evening Prayer, with the Eucharist/Holy Communion as below:*

Allerton Bywater 7pm Wednesday Eucharist 4th December; 15th January; 22nd January

Swillington 9.30am Wednesdays Holy Communion 11th December; 8th January; 22nd January

Kippax: 10am Tuesday Eucharist.

Morning Prayer Kippax; Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 9.30am.

Regular events around the Benefice

Across the Team:

- Youth House Group ages 11-17 yrs old, Kippax Rectory, Sunday 5pm - 6.30pm term time.
- Messy Church rotates around the churches seasonally - Join the mailing list (stay in touch below) to hear about future events.

Allerton Bywater:

- Coffee Morning at St Mary's, every Tuesday 10am - 12noon. Donations to Garforth NET.
- Coffee Morning 1st Saturday of the month 10am with Council Surgery.

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 Saturdays 10am - 11am, Kippax Church Hall.
- Church Choir practice Saturday morning at 10.15am.
- Bellringing practice Wednesdays 7.30pm - 9pm.

Swillington:

- Home Group: Mondays (dates tbc) St Marys Rectory, Wakefield Road, Swillington, LS26 8DS.
- Coffee Morning with bacon sandwiches 1st Saturday of the month 9.30-11.30am.
- Bellringing practice Mondays 7.30pm - 9pm.
- Church Choir practice on Tuesday afternoon at 2.30pm.

Other Events/Services - See below for our regular pattern of worship

Stay in touch Contact rev.bob.bailey@gmail.com to be added to the email list.

Facebook search for St Mary's and the name of the village. **INCLUDING LIVE STREAMING.**

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@stmarysbenefice> **Website:** <https://stmarysbenefice.org>

Sunday Worship

Regular monthly pattern of worship

1st Sunday

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

3rd Sunday

Allerton Bywater 9am All-age service.
Kippax 10.30am Sung Eucharist.
Swillington 10.30am Sung Parish Communion.

2nd Sunday

Allerton Bywater 9am Sung Eucharist.
Kippax 10.30am Sung Eucharist/Celtic Service.
Swillington 10.30am Sung Parish Communion.

4th Sunday

Allerton Bywater 9am Sung Eucharist.
Kippax 10.30am Sung Eucharist.
Swillington 10.30am Celtic Service of the Word.

5th Sunday *Team service together alternating between our three churches.*

Sunday Social

Sharing life

26th January 5pm-6.30pm

St Mary's Church Hall
Kippax

chilled café style
live music
hot-chocolate - cake
discussion



Dementia and neurodiverse friendly • Info: Rev Bob 07885386932 • www.stmarysbenefice.com

Growing + faith + friendship + community

Some 18 months ago we started a vision process for Kippax church with a consultation and questionnaire. Since then the PCC has worked on a plan so we can focus our efforts. The role of Team Rector was advertised to look at four areas of church life, engaging with families and young people, enhancing our pastoral care especially around the area of occasional Offices (Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals), using new technology and developing ever stronger community links. When I first arrived we also pledged as a PCC to look at three areas with immediate effect. Firstly do what we could to improve our carbon footprint and we declared a climate catastrophe. Secondly to introduce high quality live streaming and finally to make better provision for children and young people. From those discussions we introduced a monthly all-age service and have a youth group alongside the all ready existing work of God's Little Acre, 1st and More Steps and Team seasonal Messy Church.

The Church Council has worked hard to develop a plan to develop the church and its activities across three priorities: growing faith, friendship and community. Our prayers are for the church to be relevant and a witness to the saving grace of God for this generation and well into the future. The strap line breaks down as follows:

Growing...

Faith: growing in our discipleship and commitment to Jesus.

Friendship: enfolding those in need.

Community: reaching out to our community with God's saving grace through action, service and prayer.

From this work and looking at the resources available to us we have begun work on a range of projects spread over the next 5 years. These include...

1. New Service/Congregation (see Sunday Social poster).
2. Coffee and Craft group.
3. Pastoral Group (visiting and especially supporting the bereaved).
4. Church Hall upgrades/environmental improvements.
5. Church re-ordering (live streaming and improved PA/AV)
6. Communications and publicity.
7. Replacement vestry roof.

If you have a passion for or skills in any of the above or know people in the community who may be able to help us please do get in touch. We have a project lead for each area and will be looking to develop plans in the coming year. We have already begun work on the hall with a successful grant bid from the diocese and we are trying different services in the coming months to see if a new congregation is feasible. Thank you to everyone who has helped so far. Prayers and help gratefully received. Finally the LYSIG (Leading your church into growth) prayer which we have been using at PCC.

God of Mission

**Who alone brings growth to your Church,
Send your Holy Spirit to give vision to our planning,
Wisdom to our actions,
And power to our witness.
Help our church to grow in numbers,
In spiritual commitment to you,
And in service to our local community,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

With blessings, *Bob*



Christmas highlights December 2024

St Mary's Church ~ Allerton Bywater, Kippax & Swillington

Carol Services

Sunday 1st ~ 10.30am Kippax

Sunday 22nd ~ 6pm Swillington

Christmas Fayres

Saturday 7th ~ 10am - 2pm Kippax & Allerton Bywater

Christingle

Sunday 8th ~ 4pm Allerton Bywater & Kippax (at Kippax Methodist)

Sunday 15th ~ 3pm Swillington

Blue Christmas Service

Sunday 8th ~ 6pm Swillington

Candlelit Nine Lessons & Carols

Wednesday 18th ~ 7pm Kippax

with scratch choir rehearsing Tuesday 17th at 7pm - all welcome

Community Carol singing in aid of St George's Crypt

Christmas Eve ~ 10am-12noon Kippax Co-op

Christmas Band Concert

Sunday 22nd ~ 7.30pm Kippax (ticketed event tel. 07789 902666)

Crib Services

Christmas Eve ~ 4pm, Swillington, Kippax & Allerton Bywater

Midnight Communion

Christmas Eve ~ 11.15pm Kippax & Swillington

Christmas Day Services

9am Allerton Bywater

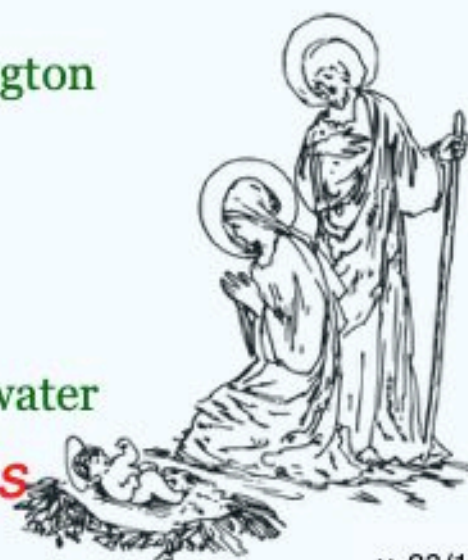
10.30am Kippax & Swillington

Epiphany Party Messy Church

Saturday 28th ~ 10am-12noon Allerton Bywater

Blessings & Peace this Christmas

www.stmarysbenefice.org





Advent and Christmas

Previous page. Top; Kippax Christmas Fair. Left: Kippax Community Group nativity with Bob and Jo, one of many community nativities and carol services. Right; Revd Sarah wedding with Dee and Neil at Swillington. **This page.** Top left; Christine and Allison on the Tombola. Right; Advent quiet day led by Trudi and Revd Sarah. Bottom; PCC Christmas party. **Next page.** Top left; Allerton Bywater Christmas Fair. Top right; Revd Jo and Bob at Kippax lights switch on. Bottom; Team preparations for putting a sparkle into Christmas as 5 schools come into our churches to hear the Christmas story.



