

Growing Faith, Fellowship and Community for Everyone!

Newsletter

Sunday 21st September, 2025

The Feast of St. Matthew

"Why does your teacher eat with tax-collectors and sinners?"

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

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. (2 weekly)
	Contact: dawnandjonathan@tiscali.co.uk



Readings, Hymns and Songs in our Services this week

Readings:

Proverbs 3 v 13-18
2 Corinthians 4 v 1-6
Matthew 9 v 9-13

Kippax Hymns:

1. Forth in the Peace of Christ We Go
2. I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say
3. God Forgave My Sin
4. As We are Gathered
5. Will You Come and Follow Me

Do you have a favourite worship song or hymn?

Let us know and we'll try to use it in our worship planning.

Allerton Bywater Hymns:

1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
2. Praise is Rising
3. Psalm 23 (I Will Trust)
4. Come as You Are
5. Here I am, Wholly Available

Swillington Hymns:

1. As we are gathered
2. Blessed assurance
3. I am trusting you Lord Jesus
4. Make me a channel of Your Peace
5. O Lord my God



The next 2 weeks services in detail.

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

<https://stmarysbenefice.org/enews>

Sundays.

- 21st September: 09:00: Sung Eucharist at Allerton Bywater - Rev. Jo
 10:30: Sung Eucharist at Kippax - Rev. Bob
 10:30: Parish Communion at Swillington - Rev. Jo
- 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

Weekdays.

- 23rd September: 10:00: Said Eucharist at Kippax - Rev. Bob
- 24th September: 09:30: Morning Prayer at Swillington with Dawn
- 24th September: 19:00: Said Eucharist at Allerton Bywater with
 Rev.Gordon.
- 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

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. Bob)
““Why does your teacher eat with tax-collectors and sinners?””.



Last Sunday's Holy Cross Day made a strange contrast with the London march where the far right Tommy Robinson defended Christianity with St George's flags and crosses. Yet what does the cross mean? The Cross is a stumbling block to many. It is a crime scene. An innocent man has been killed illegally by the state. Jesus' death representing all suffering. When we understand our humanity through the Cross, Jesus' death and resurrection, we understand that humility and suffering are central to God's love for us. I don't agree with all that is happening politically or the way the most needy and poor in our society are paying for the mistakes of the wealthy and greedy. Yet Jesus himself was, a refugee, Jewish, dark skinned, oppressed under a military occupation, died because of an unfair trial where the political authorities were more frightened of the mob than the rule of law or justice. Jesus told us to care for the sick, homeless, hungry and love our enemies. He asked us to treat our neighbours as we would ourselves and share the riches God has given us with those in need. Nicodemus (John 3) asked questions in the dead of night and we ask God the difficult questions from our own dark places? There are no clever, pithy replies from Jesus. Instead we see Jesus' humanity in the Gospels; tears in a garden, pain and humiliation on a cross. A call to follow, to sacrifice, to seek and desire for relationship with God and one another. To be born again, A new you. A new me. A new world. Not from flesh but from above. Light, not dark. Love not hatred. Beauty not ugliness. Life, not death. Reaching out. Making all things new. So please do not let me have to drive over flags with crosses on, explain to my children why some people are hated because they come from somewhere else or have a different colour skin or worship God in a different way. This cross is a stumbling block to the world, its humility beyond most understanding, but it is everything to me; "that whoever believes in him may have eternal life."

SAVE THE DATE!

Come and Vote for Faye!

Faye is hoping to become the next Leeds Children's Mayor. Come and meet her at Your Space at **10am on Saturday** and help her to "make a difference".



ST MARYS
SWILLINGTON

Open Day



20/09/2025
10am until 3pm

Step into history with free Church Tower Tours at St Mary's Swillington - discover our story and enjoy refreshments while you're here!

**20th
September:
2025 from
10am.**

Pop along to St. Mary's, Swillington for their Open Day.

Very low key - quiet day to have a cuppa and share stories of the church.



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.

Tickets are Going! 2 weeks to go!

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.

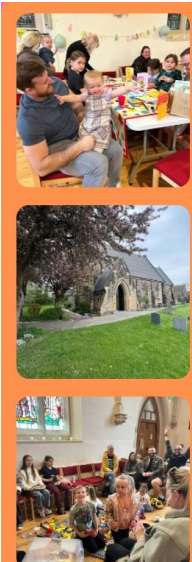
rev.bob.bailey@gmail.com

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

We have a new Area Dean!

“A big thank you to everyone who came to what was a fantastic time of worship, preaching and celebration on Wednesday evening.” Rev. Bob

Rev. Bob chairs Deanery Synod



Rev. Bob thanks Rev. Anne for all she has done as former Area Dean



Bishop Arun Licenses Rev. Bob as our new Dean



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 Puxley:	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.