

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

Newsletter

Sunday 7th September, 2025 - Trinity 12

"You discern my thoughts from afar".

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 (starting from 15/09/25)

Kippax - At the rectory. Leaders Rev.Bob and Jess.

Contact: rev.bob.bailey@gmail.com

Allerton Bywater - In the Annex at St. Mary-the-Less. Leaders Rev.Jo and Dale. Contact: joanne.medhurst@leeds.anglican.org

Swillington - In the kitchen at St. Mary's. Leaders Rev. Sarah and Dawn Marshall. Contact: dawnandjonathan@tiscali.co.uk



House groups are relaunching. Come along...all are welcome.

Otherwise known as a home group or small group, a house group is a small gathering of Christians in a relaxed, informal setting. It aims to build community, discuss the Bible, support one another, and pray together.

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 at 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.



UPCOMING EVENTS

The next 2 weeks services in detail.

Rev. Sarah is presently off sick. Please continue praying for her healing. She is starting to receive physiotherapy but as you can imagine her recovery is more likely to be a marathon not a sprint.

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

<https://stmarysbenefice.org/enews>

Sundays.

7th September: 09:00: Sung Eucharist at Allerton Bywater - Rev. Bob.
10:30: All Age Eucharist at Kippax - Rev. Bob and Team
10:30: All Together Service at Swillington - Dawn/Diana
(Rev. Jo is covering at St. James, Manston)

14th September: 09:00: Sung Eucharist at Allerton Bywater - Rev. Bob
10:30: Sung Eucharist at Kippax - Rev. Jo
10:30: Parish Communion at Swillington - Rev. Bob

Patronal Evensong 17:00: Kippax -

Rev. Bob, Rev. Jo and Choir.

(Come at 4pm and join in "Scratch Choir")



Weekdays.

9th September: 10:00 Said Eucharist at Kippax - Rev. Bob
10th September: 09:30 Morning Prayer at Swillington - Margaret
19:00 Evening Prayer at Allerton Bywater - Martin
16th September: 10:00 Said Eucharist at Kippax - Rev. Jo
17th September: 09:30 Parish Communion at Swillington - Rev. Bob
17th September: 19:00 Licensing of Rev. Bob as East Leeds Dean
- St. James, Manston.

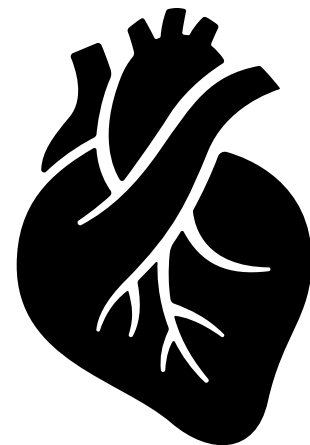
A Reflection on the Gospel this week. (Rev. Jo) **“You discern my thoughts from afar”. (Psalm 139)**

This week we are concentrating on Psalm 139 in our Sunday Services and the title is “You discern my thoughts from afar”. When I was growing up, there was a Bette Midler song in the charts and I used to love singing it. “From a distance”, was a song which spoke of how God watches us from heaven and at the time I took great comfort in it.

As my faith began to grow I realised that the Good News of God coming to earth to be amongst us in the form of Jesus, meant that he was no longer distant. When I had my first experience of God’s Holy Spirit working through me (at my Baptism) I understood that God lives in our hearts... He’s not distant, He doesn’t watch from afar.... He’s right inside my very soul.... He wants to be part of my everyday life, he wants to be part of my relationships, part of my decisions, part of my work life

I read the lyrics back from my Bette Midler song and found myself disagreeing with the words.

“From a distance,
we all have enough
And no one is in need
there are no guns,
no bombs,
and no disease,
No hungry mouths to feed -
God is watching us from
a distance”



No He’s not! He’s walking so close to us that he hears our heartbeat.
Where is he in war? He’s with the families that are torn apart.
Where is he in the earthquake? He’s with those who have lost their homes.
Where is he as a boat crosses the sea? He’s right beside those fleeing from danger.
Where is he with you? Today? As you read this? Where do you need him to be?

Our psalm tells us... there is nowhere we can hide from His spirit, nowhere we can flee from His presence so let’s stop running and let’s start welcoming Him into every situation we face. Why? Because He knit us together in our Mother’s womb,(v 13) He knows us intimately and He knows what we need to get through, He just longs for us to reach out to Him.

SAVE THE DATE!

Rev. Bob Bailey

We are all invited to the licensing of Rev'd Bob Bailey as Area Dean alongside Rev'd Daniel Miles as Assistant Area Dean. This will be a wonderful service with +Arun presiding. Please do come as we support Rev. Bob in the new mission. Service at St. James' Church, MANSTON.



All Welcome

**17th September
7pm**

Licensing Service

**Licensing of Rev'd Daniel Miles as
incumbent and Assistant Area Dean
&
Licensing of Rev'd Bob Bailey as Area
Dean**

**Refreshments
after service**

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

St James the Great
Manston

QR code

Saturday 13th September

"Afternoon Tea"

St

SOLD OUT!



Mary's Kippax
*Everyone Welcome, bring a
friend*

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.

27th September, 10am - 1pm



Let's have fun, let's make a difference.

Coffee morning
27th September
GET STARTED TODAY!

**Let's get
Coffee Morning
ready.**

Start fundraising now.

**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

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 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

A promotional graphic for a 'free event' at St Mary the Less Church. The graphic has a pink background with a black wavy line on the left. On the left, there are three small photos: people at a table, the church exterior, and people at a table. On the right, the text reads: 'free event' in a curved font, 'YOUR SPACE' in a logo, 'SATURDAY' in large bold letters, '10am-1pm' in bold, 'St Mary the Less Church, Allerton Bywater' in a smaller font, and 'Join us for games, crafts, music and more' in bold. At the bottom right is a small logo for 'United Benefice of ST MARY'.



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

joanne.medhurst@leeds.anglican.org

On Saturday, August 30 the Friends held the first Swillington Scarecrow Festival. There were over 35 scarecrows throughout the village, and a trail map was produced for people to follow which started in Church where there were also games, drinks, and hot and cold food.



Margaret Forth, PCC Secretary at the church, said: “The whole village seemed to participate creating a lovely community buzz with groups of people traveling the route and talking about the very creative exhibits. The church was a hive of activity with everyone enjoying the hospitality and fun, and £2,000 was raised in total.

Spot anyone familiar?

It has been rewarding to work with these enthusiastic people and has led to many more people visiting our church building to take part in these events, giving us opportunities to interact with a wide variety of families, children and older residents.”

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.



Notices for the E-News.

If you have an event you wish to be added to this e-news each week, please email: joanne.medhurst@leeds.anglican.org with the information by Wednesday 5pm each week and we will endeavour to include it where possible.

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 through rev.bob.bailey@gmail.com at first port of call. There is more information on the posters displayed around our churches.

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 and can provide:

- ❖ Someone to listen – compassionate and friendly, without interfering
- ❖ Non-judgemental, confidential support
- ❖ Befriending for people of all ages, any faith or none

If you would like support in any way, please contact:

Rev. Jo Medhurst: joanne.medhurst@leeds.anglican.org