**St Mary’s Church Shaw cum Donnington**

Registered Charity Number 1172611

Rector: **Revd Raymond Obin**

Churchwardens:

**Mark Hutson and Mary Dawkins**

Parish Administrator: **Sally Breach**

**The Church office**

Parish Administrator: Sally Breach

**Sally is available next week Tuesday to Thursday 9am-1pm**

Email: office@shawchurch.org Website: [www.shawchurch.org](http://www.shawchurch.org)

Telephones: 01635 40450 / 07747 575248

*Please call the mobile number to check Sally is at the church as she may be working at home.*

**Sunday 27th February 2022 Sunday before Lent**

**Welcome everyone. This morning Raymond leads our themed service of Fairtrade at 10am.**

**A word for the week: One**

We live in a world where there is a wonderful array of difference. Different flowers, different foods, different people, different nations, different cultures. And that difference highlights what a glorious world God has created.

Difference should be a matter of rejoicing and a celebration, but sometimes instead it becomes an excuse for mistrust, distrust and conflict. It happens in families as jealousy displaces joy, it happens between companies vying for market share, it happens when the desires of one country impinge on the rights of another, and it happens in the church too.

The Bible doesn’t try to hide conflict in the church – but does confront it. There can be no disunity in the church because there is One God and One Lord, Jesus Christ, we are all part of his (one) body, and we are all saved by his one perfect, sufficient, sacrifice on the cross.

As we look at the second half of Ephesians 2, we see Paul responding to what was one of the first serious issues of disunity in the church. Sadly it wouldn’t be the last, but perhaps it can give us some guidance in recognising and avoiding such divisions now and in the future.

“In Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit”.

*Eph 2:22*

**Readings and prayers today**

Reading: Luke 9:28-36 (Gill)

Reading: Ephesians 2:11-22 (Ros)

Prayers: Libby

Do please join us at the church café after the morning service! Just follow the signs around the one-way system in the church centre, to the room entry door by the kitchen. Coffee will be served from the hatch. Your servers today will be **Mike and Ros.**

**Away Day – Flourishing Together**

We are planning an Away Day on Saturday 2nd April, 10am – 3pm. (with optional breakfast from 9am).

The Ministry at Shaw Church is what we all do together – we are a Group because we have something in common (our Faith in Christ), and we are a Team when we work together.

This Away Day will give us a chance to focusing on ourselves and our ministry together – with the aim that we flourishing together though the various ministry teams we are a part of.

You don’t have to be in a team already to come on this away day, but if you are, or would like to be, please come along as we grow in our ministry together.

Where: All Saints Church in Upper Bucklebury

Facilitated by: Rhodri Bowen and Gill Lovell (Diocesan Parish Development Advisors)

Please let the Church Office (office@shawchurch.org) know if you are able to come.

**Fairtrade Fortnight** 21 February to 6 March

27 February -  Fairtrade theme in 10am service. Over coffee, Fairtrade basket, videos and information.

**Save the dates:**

**Ash Wednesday** – 2nd March. 10:30am Morning Holy Communion Service.

**World Day of Prayer** service in church with Revd Janice Macdonald on **Friday 4th March** at 10.30am

Dr. Paul Sievers is kindly putting on a slide show for us on **Saturday 5th March** at 2.30pm in the Church centre.  The slides will be of a trip to the Himalayas that Paul did as medical officer some years ago.  This will be followed by a short quiz he has arranged which will be slides of common household objects taken very close up or from unusual angles, for us to guess!  This will be followed by tea or coffee and cake. Tickets are £5.  There is a signup sheet at the back of Church both for attendance on the day and to ask for some homemade cakes to serve with tea.

We don't need to know exact numbers, so feel free to decide to come at the last minute. We just need a rough idea of numbers to know how many chairs to set out and for catering purposes.

**Shaw Church Lent Course: Come and See**

For Lent this year we will be looking using the Oxford Diocese’s programme called Come and See. This uses the Lord’s Prayer to guide our thoughts through Lent. There are 5 sessions, and we will be gathering on Zoom on Tuesday evenings from 8-9pm, beginning on 8th March and running each Tuesday until 5th April, with a bonus evening on the Tuesday before Easter, 12th April.

It would be helpful if you could let the Church Office (office@shawchurch.org) know if you would like to attend, and a zoom link will be sent round nearer the time.

**Springtime with Cantemus** *Including pieces by Chilcott, Debussy, Desprez, Faure, Hassler,* Stravinsky 19th March 2022 7:30pm St Mary’s Church, Shaw, Conductor Ian Westley Accompanist Mary Westley Soloist Molly Skeil (Trumpet /Recorder) £10 Tickets from Rachel Haslam 07919 555043 or on the door fb @cantemusnewbury [www.cantemus-newbury.org.uk](http://www.cantemus-newbury.org.uk)

**Mothering Sunday** – 27th March. Shaw Cum Donnington School Choir will sing.

**Church Away Day** in Upper Bucklebury – 2nd April

**Pat’s last Sunday Service & Church Lunch** – 3rd April.

A service of thanksgiving for the life and legacy of Phyllis Newson will take place on **Saturday 23rd April 3:30pm** @ St Mary's followed by afternoon tea in the church centre.

**Meeting Point programme**

**9.45am in the Church Centre**

 1 Mar Fairtrade Fortnight

 8 Mar Lent

15 Mar Spring Greening

22 Mar Mothering

29 Informal

Then no Meeting Point until 26 April

**Morning Prayer** Wednesdays in the Church or Church Centre from 9.15-10am.

**Foodbank at St Mary's**

Urgent items this week: **Shampoo, mugshots, tinned meat, tinned fish, tinned sponge puddings, pasta sauces.** (no change since 10.2)

**St Mary’s Shaw cum Donnington 200 Club**

New members of the 200 Club are always welcome. We are aiming to double our membership in 2022 so please contact the church office, Mary Dawkins, or Rachel Haslam if you would like to take part. The next draw will take place today.



A new **electric toothbrush** was donated to St Mary’s as a raffle prize by Tesco. Value is approximately £20 plus £20 for replacement brush heads.  We have not had an opportunity to use it so if anyone would like to take it in exchange for a donation to church funds please let Rachel know.

**Easyfundraising**

If you are doing on-line shopping, don’t forget that

St Mary’s can receive a donation from hundreds of retailers through the ‘Easyfundraising’ site.

See www.easyfundraising.org.uk for more information.

Thank you for your support. Rachel Haslam. Treasurer

**Pathways Magazine Online**

Please follow the link to download and read the Diocesan magazine.

<https://www.oxford.anglican.org/pathways-pdf-version/>

**Prayers for our families and friends ** *Those in our fellowship and hearts who are sick and in need of Christ’s presence and healing touch:*

* *Cynthia Lane, Mark Hutson, Ruth Fisher, Pat and Arthur Marshall, Carolyn Atkins, the Livesley family, the Fenwick family, Naomi Hunt, Lynne Ryan, and Marion Taylor.*
* *Our nursing home fellowship members, including our friends Mary Taylor and Mary Curtis.*
* *Our planet and environmental concerns.*
* *The residents of Northern Ave & Dene Way*

Would you like to send us a prayer request if you are worried about family or friends at this time? You can contact us by email, and we can include your prayers on our prayer chains or on this Home Sheet so that, as a church family, we can all pray together at home for your concerns.

**Remote Action (things to do from your home to make a difference)**

***1. What is fair trade? (contributed by Barbara Bradford):***Fair trade is an approach to business with developing countries based on dialogue, transparency and respect. This movement supports farmers and artisans who are socially and economically marginalized. Fair trade goods are just that. They’re fair. In a world where people are exploited for profit, everyone should understand why every purchase matters.

Here are four reasons why we as Christians should care about fair trade.
1. Unfair trade leads to hopelessness.
Poverty produces desperation. Desperation produces exploitation. Exploitation produces suffering. Suffering produces hopelessness.
The hopelessness of poverty is not God’s plan.
The Bible is clear that God’s people are to intervene to keep others from becoming desperate and exploited as slaves or prostitutes, or end up with diseases and addictions that have been forced on them. The Lord requires that we make an investment in the lives of the impoverished.
If any of your fellow Israelites become poor and are unable to support themselves among you, help them as you would a foreigner and stranger, so that they can continue to live among you. Leviticus 35
2. Fair trade insures fair wages, child rights and humane working conditions. Prompt and fair payment is critical for life, to those who may go without food, shelter, clothing or dignity, because of their poverty.
Deuteronomy 24:15 Pay them their wages each day before sunset, because they are poor and are counting on it. Otherwise they may cry to the Lord against you, and you will be guilty of sin.
3. Fair trade gives the workers a sense of being part of a community, working towards improving schools, healthcare and having control of their own lives.
Fair trade restores dignity as women are freed from prostitution, families remain together because selling a child is no longer necessary, teens receive an education so they can choose a different plan for their lives, and communities are transformed where people for the first time have an income they can depend on.
Fair trade gives hope for a better life and restores the dignity God intended for all people.
Psalm 113:7 He raises the poor from the dust/ and lifts the needy from the ash heap;
4. Restoring dignity to the poor honours God. Regard for the needs of the poor worker is required because of who God is. We need no other incentive.
Proverbs 14:31 Whoever oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honours God.
What can we do?
Learn more about Fairtrade principles.
Support fair trade with your own purchasing decisions.
Consider a new way of viewing the products we purchase, take advantage of the opportunities around us to positively impact the lives of others.

Seek out businesses that not only abide by fair trade principles, but are also making an eternaldifference for impoverished artisans around the world. We are lucky to be in the position to make choices and these choices change lives.

***2. This is a good week to try out Fairtrade products as many discounts are available***. 20% off in Oxfam who stock a good range of Fairtrade products and online at Ethical Superstore <https://www.ethicalsuperstore.com/fairtrade-fortnight/>  The Leprosy Mission does many Fairtrade items: catalogues in church or look on line and order through me. Supermarkets and M&S usually have Fairtrade promotions in this fortnight.

***3. Go greener for Lent with Eco Church:***<https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/go-green-er-for-lent/>

Keep safe. Let me know if you would like further information on any of the Remote Action or to order general and Easter, Green or Christian items from The Leprosy Mission. New catalogue out!

Libby (libby.goldsack@btinternet.com or 01635 30719)