



Knowing Jesus
Sharing God's Love
Caring for People

St Mary's Shaw cum Donnington

Rector: **Revd Raymond Obin** Curate: **Revd Ed Yates**

Church Wardens: **Ros Stuart & Lesley Almond**

Parish Administrator: **Vacancy**

t: 01635 40450

e: office@shawchurch.org

w: shawchurch.org

7th December 2025

10:00 am Holy Communion

Lead: Ed Speak: Raymond

A/V: Steve J and Mike S

Stewards: Ros

Welcome, Notices

RB25 The Advent of our King

Confession and Collect

Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11 *Paul S*

Anthem: People, look East

Reading Matt 3:1-12 *Lesley A*

RB27 On Jordan's Bank

Sermon

Creed (Nicene)

Intercessions

RB422 Tell out, My Soul

Holy Communion *Lesley A and Rachel*

RB177 Thy Kingdom come, O God

Blessing

Church Café: Libby and Julie

Collect

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us.

Are you ready?

Are you ready for Christmas? When I ask that, do you immediately think of presents (which you need to buy), cards (which you need to send), relatives (that you need to invite or plan to visit), decorations (which need to be put up to show you are no grinch), food (which needs to be bought and/or made ready – Cake, Pudding, Turkey, Gammon, Crackers) concerts you really must to attend (what would Christmas be without a Sing-a-long-Messiah?)

Or maybe you identify with the carol 'In the bleak mid-winter', and recognise that you are poor and can't afford a lamb, or something from Tiffany's.

Being ready for the Celebration of Christmas is one thing, being ready for the Coming of the Messiah is something else. Christmas is a celebration of something that happened over 2,000 years ago; but the coming of the Messiah happened then, and will happen again. The first coming gave us a chance to see what 'preparing' really means; but it's the second coming that really counts.

As Jesus said: When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?

Are you ready for Christmas?

Raymond

Our New Parish Administrator writes:

It is with joy that I introduce myself to you as the newly appointed Parish Administrator. My name is Christine Jago, I am truly grateful for the opportunity to serve God and this community. I live with my husband in Shaw, and we have worshipped at St Nicholas Church, since we moved here from Devon 4 years ago. We relocated to be near our daughter and her husband and since arriving here we have been blessed with 2 beautiful grandchildren.

Until recently, I have been the Surgery Manager for Kintbury and Woolton Hill Surgery, but I am now eager to support your church's mission and work alongside each of you. I hope as administrator that God will use me, and I can help with the smooth running of the daily operations, whilst providing support for the clergy and the volunteers.

I look forward to getting to know each of you in the coming weeks. Please do not hesitate to approach me with any questions, suggestions, or concerns.

Yours in Christ,
Christine

Advent Readers!

Advanced notice for all **"Hallelujah" readers**
the Messiah will be broadcast on Radio 3
on Monday 22 December at 7-30pm

Support your Village Hall

Congratulations to the Trustees of our Village Hall who have secured planning approval to build a small hall and a community room at the rear to accommodate a wider range of community activities. The current hall is over 100 years old, and the number of parishioners continues to increase over the years as we welcome new parishioners to our community in Shaw Valley and Donnington Heights.

Shaw-cum-Donnington artist, Ludmila Cummings has crafted and donated these Christmas Cards to support of the Trustees meeting the challenge of raising the substantial funds necessary.

Please take a few cards from the table at the south door entrance to give to family and friends and make a donation to the Trustees. It will help the fundraising if you are willing to indicate your support by adding your name as a donor. Major funders will take note of the level of support coming from within our community.

Thank you and thank you Ludmila
St Mary's Myrtle Community Café

We need your help!

If you shop online for yourself or for your business, or are thinking of buying **Christmas presents** on-line or booking a **holiday** for next year, please could you sign up to **easyfundraising** to support St Mary's Church, Shaw-cum-Donnington?

It's a really easy way to raise money for us – you just use the easyfundraising site to shop online with more than 3,600 well known online stores like Amazon, Argos, John Lewis, ASOS, Booking.com, eBay, Boden and M&S. When you make a purchase, the retailer sends us a free donation, **at no extra cost to you**.

When you have registered with easyfundraising, don't forget to activate the 'donation reminder.' This prompts you to confirm that you would like a retailer to make a donation to St Mary's on your behalf when you visit their site.

We have already raised **over £600** since we started using this fundraising tool. We hope we can raise lots more in the future to support our activities here at St Mary's. All our office and church supplies are already purchased this way.

Even a few pence raised with each transaction adds up if lots of people take part. Some companies make bigger donations on purchases, for example £30 on Direct Line Car Insurance, up to 2% from John Lewis and up to 4% on Booking.com



Please talk to Rachel Haslam if you need any more information.

Thank you for your support.

Support our Christmas Charities 2025: Action Through Enterprise (in Ghana), Jesus Disciples Centre (Riverside) youth and children's work, and West Berks Food Bank.

There will be a basket at the back of church for donations to ATE throughout December

The Christingle service collection will go to Jesus Disciples Centre youth and children's work.

The Carol Services collections will go to the Food Bank.

Christmas messages on the screen will be £5 (to be split between ATE and JDC youth work). Please email your message direct to Wendy or give a written message to World Partners team (Libby, Ros, Barbara, Gill, Julie). All money to World Partners team please.

Sarah Annable-Gardner will tell us the latest news from Action Through Enterprise at church cafe on 7 December (this Sunday!)

For Prayer

At Shaw Church, we keep a list of people who have asked for public prayer. If you would like to be included, please let the office know.



- **Brian Eaton, Ruth Fisher, Mark Hutson, Cynthia Lane, June Milsom, Maggie Wiseman**
- **Our nursing home fellowship members, including Joan Lamonby, Chris Fenwick, Pat Marshall, Pat Lee, Mansour Ashfari.**
- **For the Boys' Brigade and Girls Association**
- **Residents of Doveton Way & Leslie Southern Court**
- **Our ministers Raymond and Ed, and all those who support us in services**

Shaw Church Prayer Chain is available if you would like confidential prayer, please contact Libby on 01635 30719 or libby.goldsack@btinternet.com and she will circulate your request.

What's on in the coming week:

Monday	8 th	Myrtle Cafe	10:30 - 12:30	Church Centre	David
Tuesday	9 th	Meeting Point	09:45 - 11:15	Church Centre	Libby
Wednesday	10 th	Morning prayer	09:15 - 10:00	Church	Raymond
		Barnabas Group	10:00 - 12:00	Church Centre	Mary D
		Boys Brigade	18:15 - 19:45	Church Centre	Jane O

Next Sunday, 14th December

10:00 Morning Prayer

A/V Rachel/Wendy

Lead: Raymond Speak: Ed

Stewards: Janet S & Jane Y

Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10- Janet S

Gospel: Matt. 11:2-11 – Ed

Intercessions: David Willets

CA: N/A

Café: Lesley A and Diana

Green tip

Re-use wrapping paper, or use pretty material. Make gift tags from old cards. Check new paper and cards are made from recycled paper.