



Knowing Jesus  
Sharing God's Love  
Caring for People

St Mary's Shaw cum Donnington  
**Rector: *Revd Raymond Obin* Curate: *Revd Ed Yates***

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**14<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

**10:00 am Morning Prayer**

Lead: **Raymond** Speak: **Ed**

A/V: Rachel and Wendy

Stewards: Janet S Jane Y

Welcome, Notices

**RB 29 The Lord will come**

Confession

**RB 142 Hail to the Lord's anointed v1356**

Reading: Isaiah **11:1-10** *Janet S*

Reading Matt **11:2-11** *Ed*

Sermon

**RB 31 Come thou long expected**

Creed (Apostles)

Intercessions David Willetts

**RB 24 Hark a thrilling voice**

Blessing

Church Café: Lesley A & Diana

Collect

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

**Have you been mis-sold the Messiah?**

Have you ever been sold something which turned out to be not quite what you expected? It can be a disappointing and frustrating experience – all the more so if the thing you bought was meant to be really good.

In our Gospel reading this week, John the Baptist is worried that perhaps he has been mis-sold the Messiah. From early on in Matthew's Gospel, John has been preaching a message of repentance in view of the coming judgement that Christ will bring. Now he is in prison, the wicked seem to be flourishing as much as ever, and Jesus does not appear to be doing anything about it. Has he got this all wrong?

Sometimes it can seem the same for us. Following Jesus doesn't always turn out how we imagined at Sunday School, or when we first heard the Gospel being preached.

Jesus' answer shows that there is more to his Kingdom than John realised. And, just as it is when God challenges our own expectations, Jesus' Kingdom is both better and more demanding than we realise.

*Ed*

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.

## 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 Orchard Dene & Newport Close**
- **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](mailto:libby.goldsack@btinternet.com) and she will circulate your request.

## What's on in the coming week:

|           |                  |                       |               |               |         |
|-----------|------------------|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------|
| Monday    | 15 <sup>th</sup> | Myrtle Cafe           | 10:30 - 12:30 | Church Centre | David   |
| Tuesday   | 16 <sup>th</sup> | Meeting Point         | 9:45 - 11:15  | Church Centre | Libby   |
|           |                  | Lunch Club            | 12:30 - 14:30 | Church Centre | Ros     |
|           |                  | Daytime Carol Service | 14:30         | Church        | Ed      |
|           |                  | Home group            | 19:30         | Rectory       | Ed      |
| Wednesday | 17 <sup>th</sup> | Morning prayer        | 9:15 - 10:00  | Church        | Raymond |
|           |                  | Barnabas Group        | 10:00 - 12:00 | Church Centre | Mary D  |
|           |                  | Holy Communion        | 10:30         | Church        | Raymond |
|           |                  | Boys Brigade          | 18:15 - 19:45 | Church Centre | Jane O  |

## Next Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> December

### 10:00 Morning Prayer

A/V Mike S/Steve J

Lead: Ed Speak: Raymond

Stewards: Rachel & George

Reading: Isaiah 7:10-16 – Derek

Gospel: Matt. 1:18-25 – Mary D

Intercessions: Libby

CA: Mary D & Ros

Café: Heather & Mary R

### Green tip

Use eco-friendly candles made from beeswax, soy or other vegetable alternatives rather than paraffin-based candles. Use LED festive lights and tea-lights