

St Mary's Shaw cum Donnington
Church Rd, Shaw Newbury RG14 2DR
Rector: ***Revd Raymond Obin*** *Curate:* ***Vacancy***

Church Wardens: ***Ros Stuart & Lesley Almond***
Parish Administrator: ***Christine Jago***
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1st November 2026 10am
Holy Communion
Lead/Sermon: Geoff Sowden

A/V Mike S & Steve J
LCA & CA Sally & Mary D
Stewards: Libby & Ros
Welcome, Notices
RB 508 Rejoice in God's Saints
Collect (Advent 4)
Gloria (Sung): St Thomas
Reading 1Jn4:7-21 (Steve)
Anthem In tera Pax
Reading Matt 18:15-19 (Judith)
Sermon
RB 182 Let saints on earth
Creed (Nicene)
Intercessions: (Libby)
RB 108 Ye Holy angels bright
Communion
RB 305 For all the saints
Blessing
Church Café: David & Lisa

Collect Almighty and eternal God, you have kindled the flame of love in the hearts of the saints:
grant to us the same faith and power of love, that, as we rejoice in their triumphs, we may be sustained by their example and fellowship; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever AMEN.

What does love mean?

In our culture, the word "love" is used in many ways, from the trivial I love sausages, to the romantic. Most often, love is reduced to emotion and feeling. Films reinforce this idea: a couple meet, fall in love, face a few obstacles and eventually reach their wedding day. The central questions are, *"Will he propose?"* and *"Will she accept?"* Once they are answered, the credits roll and we leave the cinema with a warm glow. Films about marriage are in my experience rare.

New Testament Greek has four words for the English one, which helps to understand some of our inadequacy in usage of the word love. The biblical understanding of God's love does not reduce the word to a matter of feeling, with all the romantic connotations, but of the will. God is love, his very nature is love supremely demonstrated in Jesus on the cross.

The Bible is concerned with what happens after the film ends: the covenant love revealed on the cross and expressed in marriage vows of sacrificial, everlasting and unconditional love. When our feelings lead us to doubt our faith, we are able to look to the cross for assurance of God's love.

Geoff



SAVE THE DATE

Advance notice of the TEAR Fund big quiz happening on

Saturday 21st November

in the afternoon (time to be confirmed).

The aim is to have fun and raise funds for TEAR Fund at the same time.
Please do come and support us and bring family and friends along.
Either come as a team or come on your own and join a team. (Teams of up to 6 people).
There will be tea/coffee and cake during the interval.
Further details from Ros.

COINS: Pause and Pray

Please come and join the COINS Team on

Thursday 5 November 2026 10:00-12:00.

St Mary's Church Shaw, Shaw, RG14 2DR

COINS (Christian Outreach in Newbury Schools) hosts termly Pause and Pray events for members of the Christian community in Newbury to get together and pray for our schools. It is also an opportunity to catch up on what COINS have been doing in the schools in Newbury and to learn about volunteering opportunities for our Year 6 Christmas Gift events.
Please join us for refreshments and prayer, we look forward to seeing you!



Prayer Breakfast Saturday 7th Nov 9am
A bacon roll Tea or Coffee and then Prayer time.
What a wonderful way to start your weekend.
Please consider joining us as we pray for the life of the church. You don't have to pray out loud if you would rather not, but we would love your company.
Followed by church cleaning for those who can stay.

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

1. Link to Hope Christmas Shoe Box Appeal; deadline dates approaching
Could you pack a box of essentials and cheering items for a deprived family or elderly person in Eastern Europe? Take a leaflet (includes form) from church. Please follow instructions carefully as they need specific items and packing and must have the official form attached with £3. Please only use modest size shoeboxes. Boxes need to be in church by Remembrance Sunday, 8 November.
Or you could contribute items, by 2 November if possible - box in church. Or pay for Link to Hope to pack one for you (follow link).
More information at https://linktohope.co.uk/shoebox-appeal-2026/

2. All Saints and All Souls days; you may wish to make a gift to Christian Aid in memory and let your loved one's light continue to shine. https://give.christianaid.org.uk/donate/CAM-004511

3. Sign a Greenpeace petition to save wildlife by banning glyphosate weed killer from local green spaces and private gardens
- a toxic pesticide that's devastating bees, butterflies, birds, and hedgehogs. With glyphosate's UK approval coming up for renewal in December, we need to put pressure on the government to ban it from public green spaces and private gardens like France and other EU countries.
https://act.gp/4zM7v1N

Libby Goldsack 01635 30719 or libby.goldsack@btinternet.com

Myrtle Community Café & Pop-up Library
Monday 2nd Nov 10.30am
We will also have a guest from Age Concern, who will be sharing about Dementia.
All Welcome.



Green tip
Now is the time to put up nest boxes or clean out existing ones with simple detergent or bleach. The birds start prospecting for their spring nesting home in autumn.

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, Cynthia Lane, June Milsom Maggie Wiseman.***
- ***Our nursing home fellowship members, including Joan Lamonby, Chris Fenwick, Pat Lee, Mansour Afshari, Arthur Marshall.***
- ***For the Boys' Brigade and Girls Association***

Residents of **Dorneywood Way & Leonardslee Crescent**

- ***Our minister Raymond 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.

Monday	2nd November	Myrtle Community Café & Pop-up Cafe	10.30 – 12.00	Church Centre	David
Tuesday	3rd	Meeting Point	9.45 – 11.15	Church Centre	Libby
		PCC Meeting	7.30pm	Church Centre	Raymond
Wednesday	4th	Morning Prayer	9:15-10:00	Church	Raymond
		Barnabas Group	10:00	Church Centre	Mary D
		Flower Club	13.30	Church Centre	Mary D
		Boys' Brigade & Girls' Association	6.15-7.45	Church/Centre	Jane O
Thursday	6th	Coins Pause & Pray	10.00	Church Centre	
Saturday	7th	Prayer Breakfast	9.00	Church Centre	Ros

Next Sunday, 10am Morning Prayer
Leader / Sermon Raymond
A/V: Jacob & Wendy Stewards: Lesley A & Mary D
Reading 1: Heb 9:24-28 (Karen)
Reading 2: Mark 1:14-20 (Lesley)
Intercessions: Mary D Café: Judith & Daphne

At St Mary's, we value the offerings people make to the work of the church: in their time, activity and money. We will not be passing an offering plate or basket round during the service today. If you would like to support the work of the church financially, please use offering plate or tap-and-go machine by the door, or visit shawchurch.org/giving or scan the QR code.
If you would like to give to the church regularly, please see parishgiving.org.uk

Scan to give to Shaw Church