



Knowing Jesus

Sharing God's Love

Caring for People

St Mary's Shaw cum Donnington

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

Church Warden: **Ros Stuart**

Parish Administrator: **Maggie Wiseman**

T: 01635 40450

E: office@shawchurch.org w: shawchurch.org

22nd December – Advent 4

10:00 Morning Worship

Lead: Ed; A/V: Heather & Rachel

Stewards: Mary D & Janet S

Welcome & Notices

RB 4 Christ whose glory fills the skies

Confession

MP752 When he comes

1 John 2:28-3:3 (Barbara)

Psalm 89 (excerpt)

Luke 2:41-52 (Rachel)

Sermon

RB250 Thou didst leave thy throne

Creed (Apostles)

Intercessions (David Willetts)

RB31 Come thou long expected Jesus

Church Café

Heather & Mary R

17:00 Carol Service

Lead: Raymond; A: Steve J

Stewards: Jane Y & Lesley A

Collect

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Advent means hopeful repentance

Today's reading from 1 John includes my favourite verse for thinking about Advent.

“All who have this hope in him purify themselves as he is pure” (1 John 3:3).

It's a favourite of mine because it reminds us that Jesus' return, when we will see him as he is and finally be like him, is our great hope for the future (3:2). All too often, Jesus' return has been a cause for fear as Christians worry if they will be ready for him when he comes. But if we continue as his disciples to the end, that day can be one of joy and not of fear (2:28).

It's also a favourite of mine because it shows what an active thing hope is. Jesus' return isn't just a (possibly) distant reality, something that we look forward to, but that doesn't really affect our lives. Nor is it just something we can use to comfort ourselves in the hard moments, secure in the knowledge that it will all be alright in the end. This hope changes us now. If we hope to be like Jesus in the future, we should be pushing to be as much like him as possible now. And that means repentance. But not a gloomy repentance filled with regret – a joyful repentance filled with hope and the assurance that every time we repent of our sins, we are a little closer to the joy of being like Jesus forever.

Ed

Christmas Collection: Throughout December, there will be a basket at the back of church for donations to Action Through Enterprise in Ghana and Jesus Disciples Centre youth work at Riverside.

Volunteers and Costumes wanted!

If you are available and happy to volunteer for a role in the Nativity Service on Christmas Eve (we need both men and women!) or if you have any adult sized costumes that might suit a nativity service, please get in touch with Ed in person or by emailing ed@shawchurch.org.

Christmas Greetings – on-screen

If you would like to send a Christmas Greeting to the Church and give the money saved on Cards to one of our charities, please pass you message to Wendy (who will put it on the screen before our Sunday worship) and your gift to Libby or Ros.



Food Bank:

Urgently needed items

- Sugar (500g)
- Tin of Biscuits
- Stuffing/Gravy/Cranberry Sauce
- Toilet Paper
- Tin of Sweets/chocolates
- Cooking Oil

Low on Stock

- Milk Powder
- Savoury Biscuits
- UHT Milk
- Pringles or sharing crisps
- Non Biological Washing Powder
- Cooked Meat with ring pulls
- Custard/Rice Pudding Pots
- Christmas Cake (long dates)

Newbury Cancer Care Calendars 2025 are now available: £10

Please see Maggie in the church office (Tue/Wed/Fri, 9am-2pm).

All proceeds to Newbury Cancer Care.

Green Tip

Make the most of your leftovers, then spare a bit for the birds (no salt or grease, but crumbs, pastry, cheese, potato and fresh or dried fruit).

Read Luke 1:57-66 (NIV)

⁵⁷ When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son.

⁵⁸ Her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy.

⁵⁹ On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, ⁶⁰ but his mother spoke up and said, "No! He is to be called John."

⁶¹ They said to her, "There is no one among your relatives who has that name."

⁶² Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child. ⁶³ He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone's astonishment he wrote, "His name is John." ⁶⁴ Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue set free, and he began to speak, praising God. ⁶⁵ All the neighbours were filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things. ⁶⁶ Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, "What then is this child going to be?" For the Lord's hand was with him.

Christmas

As we near Christmas, our prayer is that you will encounter Jesus. We see him born and lying in a manger; we hear him walking among us and talking about God; we know he died on a cross – for us. And he rose from the dead and is now alive, and here, with us. Emmanuel.

Sunday	5:00 pm	Carol Service
Christmas Eve	4:00 pm	Nativity Service (<i>dressing up encouraged</i>)
Christmas Eve	11:15 pm	First Communion of Christmas
Christmas Day	10:00 am	Christmas Family Worship

You are very welcome to come to any or all of these services.

Church Office

will be closed until 7th January 2025.
Urgent matters left as phone messages or emails will be received and attended to.

Meeting Point

Is taking a break until 7th January

The next pewsheet

Will be on 12th January 2025.

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.



- **Cynthia Lane, Mark Hutson, Ruth Fisher, June Milsom, Geoffrey Keegan, Brian Eaton.**
- **Our nursing home fellowship members, including Joan Lamonby, Chris Fenwick, Pat Marshall, Mary Curtis**
- **For the Boys' Brigade**
- **This week, the 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 and she will circulate your request.

What's on in the coming weeks:

Monday	23 rd	No Myrtle Café			David Willets
Tuesday		Nativity Service	16:00	Church	Ed
		Midnight Service	23:15	Church	Raymond
Wednesday		No Morning Prayer			Raymond
		Christmas Day Service	10:00	Church	Ed
Sunday	29th	Morning Prayer	10:00	Church	Raymond
Wednesday	1 st	No Morning Prayer			Raymond
Saturday	4 th	Prayer Breakfast	9:00 – 10:00	Church Centre	Ros
Sunday	5th	Holy Communion	10:00	Church	Ed
Tuesday	7 th	Meeting Point	9:45-11:15	Church Centre	Libby
Wednesday	8 th	Morning Prayer	10:00		Ed
		Barnabas	10:00–12noon	Church Centre	Mary D
		Holy Communion	10:30	Church	Ed

Next Sunday

29th December 2024 – Christmas 1

10:00 Morning Worship

Leader: Raymond

Stewards Mark H Mary H

Sound Mike Visuals Mike

Reading Gal 4:1-7 Derek

Matt 1:18-21 George

Intercessions: tba

Café: Wendy & Karen