parish of finchampstead & california

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Parish Office Email: office@pfc-church.uk
Parish Office, Baptism, Wedding, or Funerals, please call 0118 9730133
Parish Office opening hours: 10am-12noon Monday-Friday
Church Centre bookings for St James'; Sue Sampson 0118 9732069
Parish Centre bookings St Mary & St John's; Marjorie Stalker 07855 052045
Please note, the Rector's day off is a Friday

4 October | Notices – items in by 10am Wed

SJ-St James, **SJCC**-St James' Church Centre,
SE–St Eligius, **SMSJ**-St Mary & St John's,
SMSJPC-SMSJ Parish Centre, Vicarage Close, RG40 4JW

Sunday 4th	***Harvest Festival***
8.00am	Holy Communion CW (SJ)
9.30am	Family Communion (SJCC)
9.30am	SMSJ & SE Holy Communion *with children's group* (SE)
11.00am	Parish Communion (SJ)
4.00pm	Confirmation Preparation (SJCC)
6.00pm	Evensong (SJ)
Monday 5th	
9.30am	Fledgelings Baby & Toddler Group (SJ)
Tuesday 6th	
11.00am	Tuesday Men's Group (SJCC)
Wednesday 7th	
9.30am	Seedlings Baby & Toddlers (SMSJPC)
No Scripture & Stillness today or 14 October	
7.00pm	Arborfield Striders Couch to 5k (SE)
Thursday 8th	
9.30am	Little Stars Baby & Toddler Group (SE)
2.00pm	Mothers' Union meeting with speaker on Ocean Stars charity All Welcome (SJCC)
Sunday 11th	***Trinity 19***
8.00am	Holy Communion BCP (SJ)
9.30am	Café Church (SJCC)
9.30am	SMSJ & SE Holy Communion *with children's group* (SE)
11.00am	Parish Communion (SJ)

Baptism Congratulations! To Luca, who was baptised at St James on Sunday.

PARISH GIVING Please consider joining the 80% of regular givers donating via the PGS direct debit scheme today. Contact the office to speak to a member of the PGS scheme if you need any help or advice. With thanks, Revd Gemma.

Manor Farm fruit sales have resumed Orders for strawberries, raspberries, blackberries to me by Wed nights or take pot luck at SE on Sat 10am to noon or at SJ on Sun am after services. carolynfox@aol.com 07779724090

Baby & Toddler Groups – please encourage anyone you know with little ones to attend our welcoming groups:
Fledgelings - Mondays at SJCC 9:30am-11am.
Seedlings - Wednesdays at SMSJPC 9:30am-11am
Little Stars -Thursdays at St Eligius 9:30am-11am

Fundraising for Cancer Research Will Owen (a worshipper and volunteer at SJ) took on the challenge of 100 pushups every day in Sept. To support this fundraising, please email Will at: wwowen@hotmail.com (subject Pushups!).

Names for Prayer If you would like the Prayer Chain to hold you or someone you know in prayer for a few days, or you would like a name to be included in the list below for 6 weeks, please contact the office – 0118 9730133.

Creationtide – ***a period in the church calendar from 1 Sept to 4 Oct to thank God for his gift of creation and renew our commitment to care for it.*** Green Team encourages us all to take even a small step to be better stewards of God's world. **NOW** -Decide on an eco-action you will take and add it to the PROMISE TREE in SE Church or SJ Church Centre. **Watch the People's Emergency Briefing film** –18 Oct 11.15am @ All Saints' Church. (Planting daffs at SJ & SE will be later when ground is softer).

Confirmation Preparation For young adults and teens: in person, Sunday at 4pm beginning on 4th October in SJCC. For adults: online Wednesday evenings at 8pm.

Scripture & Stillness – taking a break on 7th & 14th October.

Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support at JB Hall Funeral Directors - Friday 9th October, 10am-1pm RSVP to info@JBHallFuneralDirectors.co.uk. Please come along for a cuppa and cake. Cash donations only please. Address: 142 Finchampstead Road, Wokingham.

Men's Group Curry Night - Tuesday 20th October, 7.30pm at Kabirs in Crowthorne. Please email Will Owen at wwowen@hotmail.com to let him know if you can attend.

All Souls Service – Sunday 1st November at 6pm at St James
We look forward to welcoming everyone to this very special annual service where we remember the loved ones we have lost. Please take this as your invitation to hear a loved one's name read out in the service. Please use the sign-up sheets in churches, email office@pfc-church.uk or call 0118 973 0133.

Quiz with 2 Course Supper - Saturday 7th November 7pm/ 7.30pm at SJCC Back by popular demand! Tickets £15 each will be on sale soon after most services, or call the office on 0118 973 0133 to reserve your ticket. Come as a team of 6 or join a table on the night. We look forward to seeing you.

Volunteering Opportunities – help is needed at the following: Seedlings Baby & Toddler Group @SMSJPC on Wednesdays from 9:30am-11am and Little Stars Baby & Toddler Group @St Eligius on Thursdays from 9:30am-11am (both term-time only). Any help is greatly appreciated – this could be weekly, or monthly. Please let Revd Gemma know if you can help.

Village Fete – Saturday 26th June 2027! If you would like to be part of the team to plan and organise this major fundraising event for the parish, please contact Elisabeth on 07952 862728 or Rowena on 07890 039802 Thank you.

Save the Date
18 Oct Mission Sunday with guest speakers at all services
31 Oct 10am Nurture Nature Working Party SJCC (and next date of 21 Nov) + bacon butties for lunch!
1 Nov 6pm Annual All Souls service SJ
7 Nov 7/7.30pm Quiz & Supper (SJCC)
15 Nov Confirmation Service at St John's Crowthorne

Parish Intercessions List – Please pray for: Sophie Hall, Stephanie Prosser, Alison Woodrow, Anne Wolton, Julia Arscott, Eric Neville, Janet Clements, the Pedersen family, Marc & Sam, Ethan, Patsy Theobold, Nicola, Paula Vicary, Christine Duncan, Maureen Brown, Anita, David Owen, Vanessa Curtis, Kay & Paul Hammond. **And all those who mourn the loss of loved ones.**

Readings and Prayers for 4 October 2026: Harvest Festival

Deuteronomy 8:7-18

Moses has just given the people the Ten Commandments and warned them of the dangers of disobedience; now he tells them the good things God has in store for them.

7 The LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a
land with flowing streams, with springs and
underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, 8 a
land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and
pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, 9 a land
where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you
will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from
whose hills you may mine copper. 10 You shall eat your
fill and bless the LORD your God for the good land that
he has given you.

11 Take care that you do not forget the LORD your God,
by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances,
and his statutes, which I am commanding you today.
12 When you have eaten your fill and have built fine
houses and live in them, 13 and when your herds and
flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is
multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, 14 then
do not exalt yourself, forgetting the LORD your God,
who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the
house of slavery, 15 who led you through the great and
terrible wilderness, an arid waste-land with poisonous
snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from
flint rock, 16 and fed you in the wilderness with manna
that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to
test you, and in the end to do you good. 17 Do not say
to yourself, 'My power and the might of my own hand
have gained me this wealth.' 18 But remember the LORD
your God, for it is he who gives you power to get
wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he
swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today.

Psalm 65

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Paul encourages the Christians at Corinth to give generously to the collection for the impoverished churches in Judea.

6 The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also
reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will
also reap bountifully. 7 Each of you must give as you
have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under
compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is
able to provide you with every blessing in abundance,
so that by always having enough of everything, you
may share abundantly in every good work. 9 As it is
written, 'He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his
righteousness endures for ever.'

10 He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food
will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and
increase the harvest of your righteousness. 11 You will
be enriched in every way for your great generosity,
which will produce thanksgiving to God through us;
12 for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies
the needs of the saints but also overflows with many
thanksgivings to God. 13 Through the testing of this
ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the
confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity
of your sharing with them and with all others, 14 while
they long for you and pray for you because of the
surpassing grace of God that he has given you.
15 Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Luke 12:16-30

Jesus challenges our attitudes to wealth and possessions

16 Jesus said to the crowd, 'The land of a rich man
produced abundantly. 17 And he thought to himself,
"What should I do, for I have no place to store my
crops?" 18 Then he said, "I will do this: I will pull down
my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store
all my grain and my goods. 19 And I will say to my soul,
Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years;
relax, eat, drink, be merry." 20 But God said to him,
"You fool! This very night your life is being demanded
of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will
they be?" 21 So it is with those who store up treasures
for themselves but are not rich towards God.'

22 He said to his disciples, 'Therefore I tell you, do not
worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your
body, what you will wear. 23 For life is more than food,
and the body more than clothing. 24 Consider the
ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither
storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how
much more value are you than the birds! 25 And can
any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span
of life? 26 If then you are not able to do so small a thing
as that, why do you worry about the rest? 27 Consider
the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet
I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed
like one of these. 28 But if God so clothes the grass of
the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown
into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you
of little faith! 29 And do not keep striving for what you
are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep
worrying. 30 For it is the nations of the world that strive
after all these things, and your Father knows that you
need them.

Collect

Creator God, you made the goodness of the land, the riches of the sea and the rhythm of the seasons; as we thank you for the harvest, may we cherish and respect this planet and its peoples, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post Communion

Lord of the harvest, with joy we have offered thanksgiving for your love in creation and have shared in the bread and the wine of the kingdom:
by your grace plant within us a reverence for all that you give us and make us generous and wise stewards of the good things we enjoy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.