parish of finchampstead & california

Website: pfc-church.uk click Subscribe to get the PFC email newsletters
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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

11 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 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)
Monday 12th	
9.30am	Fledgelings Baby & Toddler Group (SJ)
Tuesday 13th	
11.00am	Tuesday Men's coffee Group (SJCC)
2.00pm	Tea & Chat (SMSJPC)
Wednesday 14th	
9.30am	Seedlings Baby & Toddlers (SMSJPC) No Scripture & Stillness today
7.00pm	Arborfield Striders Couch to 5k (SE)
Thursday 15th	
9.30am	Little Stars Baby & Toddler Group (SE)
Sunday 18th	***Mission Sunday*** *with speakers from our charities at all services (see notice)*
8.00am	Holy Communion CW (SJ) *followed with Early Risers breakfast*
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 recently.

Revd. Gemma At the time of writing this, her planned surgery has been postponed to Friday. Please keep her in your prayers. She plans to make a gradual return to Church from 25th October. During her absence, please contact the church office with any questions.

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 potluck 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

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 – ***has now finished but care of God's creation needs to continue.*** Green Team hopes the 32 eco-actions on the Promise Trees will continue and more be started. T**he People's Emergency Briefing film** can be seen on 18 Oct 11.15am @ All Saints' Church. (Planting daffs at SJ will be later when ground is softer – look out for notice).

Confirmation Preparation For young adults and teens: in person, Sundays at 4pm in SJCC. For adults: online Wednesday evenings at 8pm.

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

On Mission Sunday – 18th October there will be speakers from some of the charities we support at all services: 8am @ SJ Bible Society; 9.30am @SE and 11am @SJ Mityana charity, 9.30am Café Church @SJ JAC (Just Around the Corner).

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

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 attend and 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 are on sale 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:
Little Stars Baby & Toddler Group @St Eligius on Thursdays from 9:30am-11am (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
31 Oct 10am Nurture Nature Working Party SJCC + 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
21 Nov 9am Ladies Breakfast SJCC
10am Nurture Nature Working Party SJCC

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, Joshua Pryce.
And all those who mourn the loss of loved ones: Sheila Lewis.

Readings and Prayers for 11 October 2026: Trinity 19

Isaiah 25:1-9

Isaiah contrasts present desolation with the delights that God has in store for all people.

1 O LORD, you are my God;
I will exalt you, I will praise your name;
for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.
2 For you have made the city a heap,
the fortified city a ruin;
the palace of aliens is a city no more,
it will never be rebuilt.
3 Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.
4 For you have been a refuge to the poor,
a refuge to the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.
When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,
5 the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place,
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;
the song of the ruthless was stilled.

6 On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear.
7 And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;
8 he will swallow up death for ever.
Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.
9 It will be said on that day,
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Psalm 23

Philippians 4:1-9

Towards the end of his letter to the church at Philippi, Paul writes about the way Christians should respond to God and those around them.

1 My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

2 I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. 3 Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.
5 Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. 6 Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. 9 Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Matthew 22:1-14

This parable of the wedding feast comes immediately after the parable of the ungrateful tenants. Their apparent harshness emphasises how serious it is to reject Jesus and his message.

1 Once more Jesus spoke to the people in parables, saying: 2 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. 3 He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. 4 Again he sent other slaves, saying, "Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet." 5 But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, 6 while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them. 7 The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. 8 Then he said to his slaves, "The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. 9 Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet." 10 Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

11 'But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, 12 and he said to him, "Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?" And he was speechless. 13 Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." 14 For many are called, but few are chosen.'

Collect

Faithful Lord, whose steadfast love never ceases and whose mercies never come to an end: grant us the grace to trust you and to receive the gifts of your love, new every morning, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post Communion

Holy and blessed God, you have fed us with the body and blood of your Son and filled us with your Holy Spirit: may we honour you, not only with our lips but in lives dedicated to the service of Jesus Christ our Lord.