parish of finchampstead & california

Website: pfc-church.uk click Subscribe to get the PFC email newsletters
Quick web links: What's On | Giving | Resources (ePewsheets)
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; Ashlyn Webster 07774 820891
Please note, the Rector's day off is a Friday

18 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 18th	***Mission Sunday*** *with speakers from our charities at all services*
8.00am	Holy Communion CW (SJ) *followed with Early Risers breakfast*
9.30am	Café Church (SJCC)
9.30am	SMSJ & SE Holy Communion *with Sunday Stars children's group* (SE)
11.00am	Parish Communion (SJ)
Monday 19th	
9.30am	Fledgelings Baby & Toddler Group (SJ)
Tuesday 20th	
11.00am	Tuesday Men's coffee Group (SJCC)
2.00pm	Hope Café (SJCC)
7.30pm	Men's Curry Night at Kabirs (see notice)
Wednesday 21st	
9.30am	Seedlings Baby & Toddlers (SMSJPC)
10.30am	Cleaning at St James – see notice (SJ)
2.30pm	Scripture & Stillness (SMSJPC)
7.00pm	Arborfield Striders Couch to 5k (SE)
Thursday 22nd	
9.30am	Little Stars Baby & Toddler Group (SE)
Sunday 25th	***Trinity 20***
8.00am	Holy Communion BCP (SJ)
9.30am	Café Church (SJCC)
9.30am	SMSJ & SE Holy Communion *with Sunday Stars children's group* (SE)
11.00am	Parish Communion (SJ)

Baptism Congratulations! To Luca who was baptised at St James recently.

Revd. Gemma is recovering well at home after surgery. 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.

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.

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

Hope Café – Tuesday 20th October, 2pm at SJCC A safe space for those living with loss.

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

St James' Church Cleaning – Wednesday 21st October from 10:30am We will be cleaning the Church and would love to see you if you are free to join us! Tea and cake on offer and we appreciate any time you can spare, however short it might be. With thanks. Joy

The Funeral for Sheila Lewis will take place at Easthampstead Park Crematorium on Thursday 29th October at 12:30pm.

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. Sign-up sheets are in churches, email office@pfc-church.uk or call 0118 9730133.

Sold Out! Quiz with 2 Course Supper - Saturday 7th November 7pm/ 7.30pm at SJCC Thanks to everyone who has reserved their tickets. We look forward to seeing you.

'Christmessy' – Sunday 13th December, 3pm-4.30pm, SJCC Family fun afternoon with crafts, scavenger hunt, Christmas story, carols, refreshments, and a special visitor! £3 per family and no need to book. Do come and join the fun if you can!

'Couch to 5k' with Arborfield Striders, meets every Wednesday evening, 7pm at St Eligius. This is a sociable and supportive group where all abilities are welcome. No charge.

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
13 Dec 3-4:30pm 'Christmessy' Family Fun! 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, Norman Pearce.
And all those who mourn the loss of loved ones: Sheila Lewis.

Readings and Prayers for 18 October 2026: Trinity 20

Isaiah 45:1-7

God appropriates the power of Cyrus the Great to the benefit of the Jewish nation.

1 Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped
to subdue nations before him
and strip kings of their robes,
to open doors before him—
and the gates shall not be closed:
2 I will go before you
and level the mountains,
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron,
3 I will give you the treasures of darkness
and riches hidden in secret places,
so that you may know that it is I, the LORD,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.
4 For the sake of my servant Jacob,
and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name,
I surname you, though you do not know me.
5 I am the LORD, and there is no other;
besides me there is no god.
I arm you, though you do not know me,
6 so that they may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is no one besides me;
I am the LORD, and there is no other.
7 I form light and create darkness,
I make weal and create woe;
I the LORD do all these things.

Psalm 96:1-9

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

1 Thessalonians is generally considered to be not only the earliest of Paul's surviving letters but also the earliest writing in the New Testament.

1 Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

2 We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers,
constantly 3 remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labour of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. 4 For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, 5 because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of people we proved to be among you for your sake. 6 And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, 7 so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. 8 For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place where your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. 9 For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, 10 and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

Matthew 22:15-22

Jesus' teaching at this point is uncomfortable for his opponents, but he will not let himself be manipulated into a false position.

15 Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap Jesus in what he said. 16 So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, 'Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. 17 Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?' 18 But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, 'Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? 19 Show me the coin used for the tax.' And they brought him a denarius. 20 Then he said to them, 'Whose head is this, and whose title?' 21 They answered, 'The emperor's.' Then he said to them, 'Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's.' 22 When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

Collect

God our light and our salvation: illuminate our lives, that we may see your goodness in the land of the living, and looking on your beauty may be changed into the likeness of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post Communion

God our Father, whose Son, the light unfailing, has come from heaven to deliver the world from the darkness of ignorance: let these holy mysteries open the eyes of our understanding that we may know the way of life, and walk in it without stumbling; though Jesus Christ our Lord.