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

25 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 25th	***Bible Sunday***
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)
6.00pm	'Connect' Youth Group for Yrs 6, 7, & 8 (SJCC)
Monday 26th	
No Fledgelings Baby & Toddler Group due to half term	
Tuesday 27th	
11.00am	Tuesday Men's coffee Group (SJCC)
2.00pm	Tea & Chat (SMSJPC)
Wednesday 28th	
No Seedlings Baby & Toddlers due to half term	
2.30pm	Scripture & Stillness (SMSJPC)
7.00pm	Arborfield Striders Couch to 5k (SE)
Thursday 29th	
No Little Stars Baby & Toddler Group due to half term	
Saturday 31st	
10.00am	Nurture Nature Green Team Working Party *followed be bacon butties for lunch! Sign up or ring office to book* (SJCC)
Sunday 1st November All Saints & All Souls	
8.00am	Holy Communion CW (SJ)
9.30am	Family Communion (SJ)
9.30am	SMSJ & SE Holy Communion *with Sunday Stars children's group* (SE)
11.00am	Parish Communion (SJ)
6.00pm	All Souls Service *followed by refreshments in the Church Centre* (SJ)

Baptism Congratulations! To Eliana, Katrina, and Amy who were all baptised at St James last weekend.

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 Monday 26th October.

Manor Farm fruit sales continuing Orders for strawberries, raspberries, blackberries to me by Weds nights or take potluck at SE on Saturdays 10am-12noon, or at SJ on Sunday mornings after services. carolynfox@aol.com 07779724090

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 Young adults & teens: Sundays at 4pm in SJCC. Adults: Wednesday evenings online at 8pm.

Book Donations at St James Church Centre Thank you for all donations so far. The bookstore is now full. A future announcement will be made when more books are needed.

'Connect' Youth Group – Sunday 25th October, 6pm-7:30pm at SJCC Please encourage young people in Year 6, 7, & 8 to come along and bring a friend or make new friends! Pizzas, refreshments, crafts, games, and more. No booking required.

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!

Did You Know? Recycling options at St James Church Centre
Back meeting room - recycling boxes on the shelves for batteries and stamps. Also, Gill Coombs very kindly collects the following for recycling: Biscuit, cake, & chocolate wrappers (no cardboard), crisp, multipack, & nuts packets etc (please keep flat), sweet pouches, Pringles tubes (please squash), surface wipe packaging, face wipe packaging, floss containers, pouches from dishwasher & washing tablets, pump & spray part from spray bottles & soap dispensers, and used pens & felt tips (no pencils). Please put recycling for Gill in the box by the fridge in the kitchen.

'Couch to 5k' with Arborfield Striders, 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

8 Nov Remembrance Sunday – 10:50am service at SE (no 11am at SJ), and 3pm Parade & Service at Memorial Park
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 25 October 2026: Bible Sunday

Nehemiah 8:1-4a,8-12

When the Jewish people returned to Jerusalem after their exile in Persia, the reading of God's word was the key element of the celebrations.

1 All the people gathered together into the square
before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra
to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the
LORD had given to Israel. 2 Accordingly, the priest
Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both
men and women and all who could hear with
understanding. This was on the first day of the
seventh month. 3 He read from it facing the
square before the Water Gate from early morning
until midday, in the presence of the men and the
women and those who could understand; and the
ears of all the people were attentive to the book
of the law. 4 The scribe Ezra stood on a wooden
platform that had been made for the purpose. 8 So
they read from the book, from the law of God,
with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that
the people understood the reading.

9 And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra
the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught
the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy
to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.' For
all the people wept when they heard the words of
the law. 10 Then he said to them, 'Go your way,
eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send
portions of them to those for whom nothing is
prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do
not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your
strength.' 11 So the Levites stilled all the people,
saying, 'Be quiet, for this day is holy; do not be
grieved.' 12 And all the people went their way to
eat and drink and to send portions and to make
great rejoicing, because they had understood the
words that were declared to them.

Psalm 119:9-16

9 How can young people keep their way pure?
By guarding it according to your word.
10 With my whole heart I seek you;
do not let me stray from your commandments.
11 I treasure your word in my heart,
so that I may not sin against you.
12 Blessed are you, O LORD;
teach me your statutes.
13 With my lips I declare
all the ordinances of your mouth.
14 I delight in the way of your decrees
as much as in all riches.
15 I will meditate on your precepts,
and fix my eyes on your ways.
16 I will delight in your statutes;
I will not forget your word.

Colossians 3:12-17

Paul places the word of Christ at the centre of Christian life.

12 As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe
yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility,
meekness, and patience. 13 Bear with one another
and, if anyone has a complaint against another,
forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven
you, so you also must forgive. 14 Above all, clothe
yourselves with love, which binds everything
together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace
of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you
were called in the one body. And be thankful.
16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach
and admonish one another in all wisdom; and
with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns,
and spiritual songs to God. 17 And whatever you
do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of
the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father
through him.

Matthew 24:30-35

Jesus teaches that his word will last for ever.

Jesus said, 30 Then the sign of the Son of Man will
appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the
earth will mourn, and they will see "the Son of
Man coming on the clouds of heaven" with power
and great glory. 31 And he will send out his angels
with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his
elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven
to the other.32 'From the fig tree learn its lesson:
as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts
forth its leaves, you know that summer is near.
33 So also, when you see all these things, you
know that he is near, at the very gates. 34 Truly I
tell you, this generation will not pass away until
all these things have taken place. 35 Heaven and
earth will pass away, but my words will not pass
away.

Collect

Merciful God, teach us to be faithful in change and uncertainty, that trusting in your word and obeying your will we may enter the unfailing joy of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post Communion

God of all grace, your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry with the bread of his life and the word of his kingdom: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your true and living bread; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.