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

8 November | Notices – items in by 10am Wed

SJ-St James, **SJCC**-St James' Church Centre, RG40 4LU
SE–St Eligius, RG2 9NB. **SMSJ**-St Mary & St John's,
SMSJPC-SMSJ Parish Centre, Vicarage Close, RG40 4JW

Sunday 8th	***Remembrance Sunday***
8.00am	Holy Communion BCP (SJ)
9.30am	Café Church (SJCC)
10.50am	Whole Parish Remembrance Service at St Eligius Church (SE)
3.00pm	Remembrance Service & Parade at War Memorial, Finchampstead Memorial Park with refreshments afterwards in the Memorial Hall (refreshments provided by parish churches)
	Please note, there will be no 11am Parish Communion at St James, and no 9:30am Holy Communion at St Eligius on this day
Monday 9th	
9.30am	Fledgelings Baby & Toddler Group (SJCC)
Tuesday 10th	
11.00am	Tuesday Men's coffee Group (SJCC)
2.00pm	Tea & Chat (SMSJPC)
Wednesday 11th	
9.30am	Seedlings Baby & Toddler Grp (SMSJPC)
2.30pm	Scripture & Stillness *with Holy Communion* (SMSJPC)
7.00pm	Arborfield Striders Couch to 5k (SE)
Thursday 12th	
9.30am	Little Stars Baby & Toddler Group (SE)
Sunday 15th	***Safeguarding Sunday***
8.00am	Holy Communion CW *followed by Early Risers breakfast* (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 Eliana, Katrina, and Amy who were all baptised at St James last month.

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 parish intercessions list for 6 weeks, please contact the office – 0118 9730133.

'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.

Scripture & Stillness - Wednesday 11th November, 2:30pm at SMSJPC (Vicarage Close, RG40 4JW) will include Holy Communion. All are welcome.

Christmas hamper tickets on sale from 15th November! In aid of flower fund. Available before and after services at SJ.

Quench Bookstall at St James Sunday 15 Nov – opportunity to buy cards, books, gifts and order the wonderfully chocolate-filled Advent calendars. Do please come and buy to support our local Christian bookshop. Carolyn Fox

Ladies Breakfast - Sat 21st November, 9am, SJCC Please drop me a message to say you are coming so that I provide enough breakfast - carolynfox@aol.com /07779724090

Quiz Night in aid of Duchess of Kent Hospice – Saturday 21st November, 7/7:30pm at Finchampstead Memorial Hall Tickets £10. No food provided. Please contact Felicity on 0118 973 3315.

Gift Sunday–29th November Supporting Berkshire Women's Aid (BWA), a leading non-profit charity providing specialist domestic abuse support, advice, and emergency accommodation across Berkshire. BWA would be grateful to receive the following gifts to help the women who use their services: nappies (of all sizes), non-biological washing powder, & full-sized toiletries. Please consider bringing any of the above gifts (unwrapped) to a church service on 29th Nov. Many thanks for your generosity. For more details on BWA, please visit https://berkshirewomensaid.org.uk/

Christmas Concert – A Solo Vocal Recital – Sunday 29th November, 5-6pm at St Eligius Church Tatiana Kochetova, one of our regular pianists at St Eligius, will be performing pieces by Mozart, Schubert, Franck, & Borodin. Tickets - £16. See posters in church to scan QR code to book tickets.

Advent Carol Service – Sunday 29th November, 6pm, at St James A beautiful service of readings and Advent carols led by the choir to start the Advent season. All very welcome.

'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!

PLEASE RESERVE YOUR SEATS FOR Christingles at St James! 24th December, 3pm and 4:30pm Application forms & printed tickets will not be issued this year. Sign-up sheets are available at St James, and the Church Centre, or email office@pfc-church.uk. Please bring cash donations on the day for The Children's Society. A notice will be issued when all seats have been reserved. Please contact us if you no longer need seats.

Volunteering Opportunity Help is needed at Little Stars Baby & Toddler Group @St Eligius, Thursdays 9:30am-11am (term-time only). Any help is greatly appreciated – this could be weekly, or monthly. Please contact Revd Gemma.

Save the Date
17 Nov 2pm Hope Café SJCC
21 Nov 10am Nurture Nature Working Party SJCC
29 Nov 6pm Advent Carols SJ
13 Dec 3-4:30pm 'Christmessy' Family Fun! SJCC
24 Dec 3pm & 4:30pm Christingle SJ

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, Norman Pearce, Theresa, Charlotte, Belinda Norman, Linda Brooks.
And all those who mourn the loss of loved ones.

Readings and Prayers for 8 November 2026: Remembrance Sunday

Amos 5:18-24

Through Amos the prophet God warns the people that he is not impressed by ritual and ceremonies which are not accompanied by justice.

18 Alas for you who desire the day of the
LORD! Why do you want the day of the LORD? It is
darkness, not light; 19 as if someone fled from a
lion, and was met by a bear; or went into the
house and rested a hand against the wall, and
was bitten by a snake. 20 Is not the day of the
LORD darkness, not light, and gloom with no
brightness in it?

21 I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no
delight in your solemn assemblies. 22 Even though
you offer me your burnt-offerings and grain-
offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings
of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look
upon. 23 Take away from me the noise of your
songs; I will not listen to the melody of your
harps. 24 But let justice roll down like waters, and
righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Psalm 70

1 Be pleased, O God, to deliver me.
O LORD, make haste to help me!
2 Let those be put to shame and confusion
who seek my life.
Let those be turned back and brought to
dishonour
who desire to hurt me.
3 Let those who say, 'Aha, Aha!'
turn back because of their shame.

4 Let all who seek you
rejoice and be glad in you.
Let those who love your salvation
say evermore, 'God is great!'
5 But I am poor and needy;
hasten to me, O God!
You are my help and my deliverer;
O LORD, do not delay!

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

In the earliest days of the church, Christians expected Jesus to return very soon. Here Paul seems to be responding to a question about what will happen when Jesus comes to those who have already died.

13 We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers
and sisters, about those who have died, so that
you may not grieve as others do who have no
hope. 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and
rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring
with him those who have died. 15 For this we
declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we
who are alive, who are left until the coming of the
Lord, will by no means precede those who have
died. 16 For the Lord himself, with a cry of
command, with the archangel's call and with the
sound of God's trumpet, will descend from
heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first.
17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be
caught up in the clouds together with them to
meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with
the Lord for ever. 18 Therefore encourage one
another with these words.

Matthew 25:1-13

The parable of the ten bridesmaids.

Jesus said, 1 'The kingdom of heaven will be like
this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went
to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were
foolish, and five were wise. 3 When the foolish
took their lamps, they took no oil with them; 4 but
the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. 5 As
the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became
drowsy and slept. 6 But at midnight there was a
shout, "Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out
to meet him." 7 Then all those bridesmaids got up
and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish said to the
wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are
going out." 9 But the wise replied, "No! there will
not be enough for you and for us; you had better
go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves."
10 And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom
came, and those who were ready went with him
into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut.
11 Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying,
"Lord, lord, open to us." 12 But he replied, "Truly I
tell you, I do not know you." 13 Keep awake
therefore, for you know neither the day nor the
hour.

Collect

God, our refuge and strength, bring near the day when wars shall cease and poverty and pain shall end, that earth may know the peace of heaven through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post Communion

God of peace, whose Son Jesus Christ proclaimed the kingdom and restored the broken to wholeness of life: look with compassion on the anguish of the world, and by your healing power make whole both people and nations; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.