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

15 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 15th	***2 Before Advent & 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)
	Quench Bookstall at SJ after all services–cards, books, gifts, Advent calendars. Please support our local Christian bookshop.
Monday 16th	
9.30am	Fledgelings Baby & Toddler Group (SJCC)
Tuesday 17th	
11.00am	Tuesday Men's coffee Group (SJCC)
2.00pm	Hope Café (SJCC)
Wednesday 18th	
9.30am	Seedlings Baby & Toddler Grp (SMSJPC)
2.30pm	Scripture & Stillness (SMSJPC)
7.00pm	Arborfield Striders Couch to 5k (SE)
Thursday 19th	
9.30am	Little Stars Baby & Toddler Group (SE)
Saturday 21st	
9.00am	Ladies Breakfast (SJCC)
10.00am	Nurture Nature Working Party in grounds around the Manor House (SJCC)
Sunday 22nd	***Christ the King***
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)
	Quench bookstall after all services at SJ

Confirmation Congratulations! To our candidates Leo, Tadi, and Tiffany who will be confirmed by the Rt Revd Mary Gregory, Bishop of Reading this weekend.

Manor Farm fruit sales coming to an end – possibly raspberries and blackberries for a couple of weeks on Sundays at SJ. Thanks to everyone for buying. Carolyn

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. All abilities welcome. No charge.

Thank You To everyone who supported the Quiz & Supper on Saturday. Together we raised £1238.50 for parish funds! It was a great evening, with delicious food, so thank you for your support and to the Social Committee volunteers who cooked, baked, and organised the event. See you next time!

Christmas hamper tickets on sale from 15th November! Available before and after services at SJ. Draw to take place on 13th December after 11am at SJ. In aid of flower fund.

Also raffles in aid of Churchyard and Mothers' Union

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 – Sat 21st Nov, 7/7:30pm at Finchampstead Memorial Hall Tickets £10. No food provided. Please contact Felicity on 0118 973 3315.

Gift Sunday–29th Nov Supporting Berkshire Women's Aid (BWA), a leading charity providing specialist domestic abuse support, advice, and emergency accommodation across Berkshire. Please bring gifts (unwrapped) of nappies (of all sizes), non-biological washing powder, & full-sized toiletries to a church service on 29th Nov to help the women who use their services. Many thanks for your generosity. For more details, 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. https://www.tickettailor.com/events/tatianakochetova/2463776 and bring cash on the night.

Advent Carol Service – Sunday 29th Nov, 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 Dec, 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!

Messy Christingle at SE – Sat 19 Dec 3pm – All Welcome

Christingles at St James! PLEASE RESERVE YOUR SEATS! 24th Dec, 3pm and 4:30pm No printed tickets this year. Sign-up sheets are available at St James, and the Church Centre, or email office@pfc-church.uk. 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.

Save the Date

29 Nov 6pm Advent Carols at SJ
6 Dec 8:45am-12:30pm Churchyard Trust Cake Sale at SJ
13 Dec 9:30am Carols, Crib & Communion at SE
13 Dec 3-4:30pm 'Christmessy' Family Fun! At SJCC
19 Dec 3pm 'Messy Christingle' at SE
20 Dec 4pm Nine Lessons & Carols at Wellington College (no ticket required)
24 Dec 3pm & 4:30pm Christingle at SJ (contact office to reserve seats or sign-up at St James)

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 15 November 2026: 2 before Advent

Zephaniah 1:7,12-18

Zephaniah is one of the least well-known of the Old Testament prophets, though his warnings are similar to those of Isaiah and Amos. Here he gives a bleak picture of how the Day of the Lord will come upon the faithless people of Judah and Jerusalem.

7 Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD
is at hand; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, he has
consecrated his guests. 12 At that time I will search
Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who
rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their
hearts, 'The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm.'
13 Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid
waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit
them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink
wine from them.

14 The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening
fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter, the
warrior cries aloud there. 15 That day will be a day of
wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and
devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of
clouds and thick darkness, 16 a day of trumpet blast
and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the
lofty battlements. 17 I will bring such distress upon
people that they shall walk like the blind; because they
have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be
poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. 18 Neither
their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on
the day of the LORD's wrath; in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible
end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

Psalm 90:1-8,12

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Paul, writing early on to the Christians at Thessalonica, has a much more optimistic position on the Day of the Lord Jesus.

1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers
and sisters, you do not need to have anything written
to you. 2 For you yourselves know very well that the
day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.
3 When they say, 'There is peace and security', then
sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour
pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be
no escape! 4 But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for
that day to surprise you like a thief; 5 for you are all
children of light and children of the day; we are not of
the night or of darkness. 6 So then, let us not fall asleep
as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; 7 for
those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are
drunk get drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the
day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith
and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For
God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining
salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for
us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may
live with him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and
build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus tells the parable of the talents.

Jesus said, 14 'The kingdom of heaven is as if a man,
going on a journey, summoned his slaves and
entrusted his property to them; 15 to one he gave five
talents, to another two, to another one, to each
according to his ability. Then he went away. 16 The one
who had received the five talents went off at once and
traded with them, and made five more talents. 17 In the
same way, the one who had the two talents made two
more talents. 18 But the one who had received the one
talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his
master's money. 19 After a long time the master of
those slaves came and settled accounts with them.
20 Then the one who had received the five talents came
forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master,
you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made
five more talents." 21 His master said to him, "Well
done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been
trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of
many things; enter into the joy of your master." 22 And
the one with the two talents also came forward, saying,
"Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I
have made two more talents." 23 His master said to
him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have
been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in
charge of many things; enter into the joy of your
master." 24 Then the one who had received the one
talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that
you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow,
and gathering where you did not scatter seed; 25 so I
was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the
ground. Here you have what is yours." 26 But his master
replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you,
that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did
not scatter? 27 Then you ought to have invested my
money with the bankers, and on my return I would
have received what was my own with interest. 28 So
take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the
ten talents. 29 For to all those who have, more will be
given, and they will have an abundance; but from those
who have nothing, even what they have will be taken
away. 30 As for this worthless slave, throw him into the
outer darkness, where there will be weeping and
gnashing of teeth."

Collect

Heavenly Lord, you long for the world's salvation: stir us from apathy, restrain us from excess and revive in us new hope that all creation will one day be healed in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post Communion

Gracious Lord, in this holy sacrament you give substance to our hope: bring us at the last to that fullness of life for which we long; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.