parish of finchampstead & california

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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; Ashlyn Webster 07774 820891
Please note, the Rector's day off is a Friday

22 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 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
Monday 23rd	
9.30am	Fledgelings Baby & Toddler Group (SJCC)
Tuesday 24th	
11.00am	Tuesday Men's coffee Group (SJCC)
2.00pm	Tea & Chat (SMSJPC)
Wednesday 25th	
9.30am	Seedlings Baby & Toddler Grp (SMSJPC)
2.30pm	Scripture & Stillness (SMSJPC)
7.00pm	Arborfield Striders Couch to 5k (SE)
Thursday 26th	
9.30am	Little Stars Baby & Toddler Group (SE)
Saturday 28th	
3pm – 5.30pm	Finchampstead CE School Christmas Fair
Sunday 29th	***Advent Sunday & Gift 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	Advent Carol Service – see notice (SJ)

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

Manor Farm fruit sales coming to an end – Possibly the last week of raspberries and blackberries at SJ. Thanks to all.

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.

Remembrance Sunday Collection of £60 at St Eligius for British Legion Poppy Appeal Thank you for the donations.

Thank You To everyone who supported the Quiz & Supper which raised £1238.50 for parish funds! A great evening, with delicious food, so thank you to the Social Committee volunteers who cooked, baked, and organised the event.

Tickets on sale now! For raffles in aid of the Churchyard and Mothers' Union. Also, the Christmas Hamper in aid of flower fund. Available before and after services at SJ. Draws to take place respectively on 6th, 10th and 13th December.

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.

Christmas Church Cleaning – Wednesday 9th December, from 10:30am at St James For a couple of hours fun with dusters & polish! Many thanks, Joy.

Community Christmas Event for the Residents of Gorse Ride – Saturday 12th December, 12pm-4pm, at SMSJPC Offers of help gratefully appreciated, as well as donations of chocolate for a sweet hamper, raffle prize, or small treats for the children's lucky dip such as packets of sweets, pens, stickers etc. Please see Revd Cathryn for more details.

'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 St Eligius – Saturday 19th December, 3pm Make your own Christingle, hear the Christmas story, sing carols, and enjoy a hot drink and snack. 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, the Church Centre, or email office@pfc-church.uk. Cash donations on the day for 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

6 Dec 8:45am-12:30pm Churchyard Trust Cake Sale at SJ
12 Dec 10am Wild Church SE
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 Christingles 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: Jean Heath.

Readings and Prayers for 22 November 2026: CHRIST THE KING

Ezekiel 34:11-16,20-24

Last week we heard Zephaniah's stern prophecy about the Day of the Lord. Ezekiel offers a different picture of God, desperate to care for his people, and pointing forward to Christ the Good Shepherd.

11 Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my
sheep, and will seek them out. 12 As shepherds seek
out their flocks when they are among their scattered
sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them
from all the places to which they have been scattered
on a day of clouds and thick dark-ness. 13 I will bring
them out from the peoples and gather them from the
countries, and will bring them into their own land;
and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by
the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the
land. 14 I will feed them with good pasture, and the
mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture;
there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and
they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of
Israel. 15 I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep,
and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. 16 I
will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed,
and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen
the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I
will feed them with justice.

20 Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I
myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean
sheep. 21 Because you pushed with flank and
shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with
your horns until you scattered them far and wide,
22 I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be
ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.
23 I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant
David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them
and be their shepherd. 24 And I, the LORD, will be
their God, and my servant David shall be prince
among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

Psalm 95:1-7

Ephesians 1:15-23

Christ is indeed the king.

15 I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and
your love towards all the saints, and for this reason
16 I do not cease to give thanks for you as I
remember you in my prayers. 17 I pray that the God
of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may
give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you
come to know him, 18 so that, with the eyes of your
heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope
to which he has called you, what are the riches of
his glorious inheritance among the saints, 19 and
what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for
us who believe, according to the working of his great
power. 20 God put this power to work in Christ when
he raised him from the dead and seated him at his
right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all
rule and authority and power and dominion, and
above every name that is named, not only in this
age but also in the age to come. 22 And he has put all
things under his feet and has made him the head
over all things for the church, 23 which is his body,
the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Matthew 25:31-46

Immediately before the events that lead to his arrest, Jesus summarises what is expected of his followers in this word-picture of the Last Judgement.

31 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all
the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of
his glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before
him, and he will separate people one from another
as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats,
33 and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the
goats at the left. 34 Then the king will say to those at
his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my
Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from
the foundation of the world; 35 for I was hungry and
you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me
something to drink, I was a stranger and you
welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you gave me
clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was
in prison and you visited me." 37 Then the righteous
will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you
hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you
something to drink? 38 And when was it that we saw
you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and
gave you clothing? 39 And when was it that we saw
you sick or in prison and visited you?" 40 And the
king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you
did it to one of the least of these who are members
of my family, you did it to me." 41 Then he will say to
those at his left hand, "You that are accursed, depart
from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil
and his angels; 42 for I was hungry and you gave me
no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to
drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not welcome
me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick
and in prison and you did not visit me." 44 Then they
also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you
hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in
prison, and did not take care of you?" 45 Then he will
answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do
it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to
me." 46 And these will go away into eternal
punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

Collect

God the Father, help us to hear the call of Christ the King and to follow in his service, whose kingdom has no end; for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, one glory.

Post Communion

Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by you be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord.