

**1<sup>st</sup> January | Notices**

SJ-St James', SJCC-St James' Church Centre,  
SMSJ-St Mary & St John's at Gorse Ride Junior School,  
SMSJPC-SMSJ Parish Centre, SE-St Eligius Church  
AGCC - Arborfield Green Community Centre

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup>**      **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas**  
11.00am      Parish Communion (SJ)  
\*\*\* No services at SMSJ or SE\*\*\*

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>**  
9.15am      Toddler Praise (SE)

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>**      **Epiphany**  
8.00am      Holy Communion BCP (SJ)  
9.30am      Café Church (SJ)  
9.30am      Holy Communion (SMSJ)  
11.00am      Parish Communion (SJ)  
11.00am      Holy Communion (SE)  
6.00pm      Evensong (SJ)

**Parish Office**

The Parish office is closed and will reopen on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January. For urgent enquiries please contact Robert Alder on 07772 052065 [robert@alder.ndo.co.uk](mailto:robert@alder.ndo.co.uk) or Revd. Leonard on 07415042442 or [rector@finchampstead.co.uk](mailto:rector@finchampstead.co.uk)

**Christmas Hamper:** Many congratulations to Becky Head who won the hamper. Thank you to everyone who supported this Christmas raffle.

**Fledgelings Baby and Toddler Group and Toddler Praise**

Toddler Praise will be back on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> and Fledgelings on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

**Confirmation Service – Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March at St Paul's**

**Wokingham** We have been offered the opportunity to join with St Paul's Church and All Saints' Church Wokingham to present candidates for confirmation on 26<sup>th</sup> March. Preparation classes will begin at St James' Church Centre on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January 5-6pm. Please get in touch with the office if you are interested ([office@stjames.finchampstead.co.uk](mailto:office@stjames.finchampstead.co.uk)).

**Emotionally Healthy Spirituality – 7.30pm 12<sup>th</sup> January SJCC**

A group will be meeting on four Thursdays in the new year to explore the Emotionally Healthy Spirituality course at St James Church Centre. All are invited to join in the fun and conversation over some light refreshments. We meet from 7.15pm for tea, coffee, and cakes, for a 7.30pm start. Let us know you're coming [office@stjames.finchampstead.co.uk](mailto:office@stjames.finchampstead.co.uk)

**Youth Club – New Year, Fresh Start**

**Fri 13<sup>th</sup> Jan 6.30-8pm at St Eligius Church, Arborfield**

Join us for our first session for 2023! We will be planning the year ahead and would love **your** input! In this session you can help us create activities **you** want. This will be a creative session, so bring big and small ideas.

**One Joint Service on New Year's Day (1 Jan)**

What a glorious way to welcome the new year by joining together to worship as a parish at St James' at 11am.

**Quiz with Supper: Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January, 7pm** in St James Church Centre. Everyone welcome. Tickets are £15 each which includes a two-course supper. Come as a team of 6 or just come along and join others to make up a team. Tickets available after most Sunday Services, visit our website [pfc-church.uk](http://pfc-church.uk) or call the Parish office on 0118 973 0133 to reserve your tickets. We look forward to seeing you.

**Finchampstead and Barkham Relief in Sickness Fund**

If you are ill, convalescent, disabled or infirm, living in the Parishes of Finchampstead and Barkham, and need items or support which you cannot afford, the Finchampstead and Barkham Relief in Sickness Fund may be able to help. Please contact Cllr Steve Bromley (0118) 973 3553 [steve.bromley@btopenworld.com](mailto:steve.bromley@btopenworld.com) ; Cllr Roland Cundy (0118) 9731056 [roland@finchampstead.net](mailto:roland@finchampstead.net) or Revd. Leonard (0118) 9732102 [rector@finchampstead.co.uk](mailto:rector@finchampstead.co.uk)

**The Letter to the Philippians – Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January @ 43 McCarthy Way**

There is an opportunity to journey together with some parishioners on Tuesdays, over some light refreshments, as we explore St Paul's letter to the Philippians. The invitation is open to all who are interested. Let us know to expect you ([office@stjames.finchampstead.co.uk](mailto:office@stjames.finchampstead.co.uk)).

**Save the Date**

**12 Jan** 2pm Mothers' Union meeting (SJCC)

**21 Jan** Quiz evening with supper (SJCC)

**31 Jan** 7.30pm Parish Prayer Meeting (SJCC)

**4 Feb** 10am Green Team Working Party (SJCC)

**11 Mar** Churchyard Spring Tea (SJCC)

**18 Mar** Family bingo with afternoon tea (SJCC)

**1 July** Church Fete on Memorial Park



# Readings and Prayers for

## 1 January 2023:

### NAMING AND CIRCUMCISION OF JESUS

#### Numbers 6:22-27

*Throughout the Bible, naming and the making known of names is always significant. In this passage God's commitment to the Israelites is reflected in his blessing of them.*

<sup>22</sup> The LORD spoke to Moses, saying: <sup>23</sup> Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the Israelites: You shall say to them, <sup>24</sup> "The LORD bless you and keep you; <sup>25</sup> the LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; <sup>26</sup> the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace." <sup>27</sup> So they shall put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.

#### Psalm 8

<sup>1</sup> O LORD, our Sovereign,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory above the heavens.  
<sup>2</sup> Out of the mouths of babes and infants  
you have founded a bulwark because of your  
foes,  
to silence the enemy and the avenger.

<sup>3</sup> When I look at your heavens, the work of your  
fingers,  
the moon and the stars that you have  
established;  
<sup>4</sup> what are human beings that you are mindful  
of them,  
mortals that you care for them?

<sup>5</sup> Yet you have made them a little lower than  
God,  
and crowned them with glory and honour.

<sup>6</sup> You have given them dominion over the works  
of your hands;  
you have put all things under their feet,  
<sup>7</sup> all sheep and oxen,  
and also the beasts of the field,  
<sup>8</sup> the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,  
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

<sup>9</sup> O LORD, our Sovereign,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

#### Galatians 4:4-7

*Paul emphasises the significance for all God's people of Jesus being fully human.*

<sup>4</sup> When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. <sup>6</sup> And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' <sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

#### Luke 2:15-21

*In his earlier account of the birth of John the Baptist, Luke emphasised the importance of the names given to children; here God's whole plan for Jesus' life and death is summed up in his name, which means God saves.*

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' <sup>16</sup> So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

<sup>21</sup> After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

#### Collect

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was circumcised in obedience to the law for our sake and given the Name that is above every name: give us grace faithfully to bear his Name, to worship him in the freedom of the Spirit, and to proclaim him as the Saviour of the world.

#### Post Communion

Eternal God, whose incarnate Son was given the Name of Saviour: grant that we who have shared in this sacrament of our salvation may live out our years in the power of the Name above all other names, Jesus Christ our Lord.