

18th December | 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 18th	Advent 4
8.00am	Holy Communion CW (SJ)
9.30am	Family Carols (SJCC)
9.30am	Carols, Crib & Communion (SMSJ)
11.00am	Parish Communion (SJ)
11.00am	Holy Communion (SE)
6.00pm	Nine Lessons & Carols (Wellington College Chapel)
Friday 23rd	
11.30am	Christingle making (SJCC)
Saturday 24th	
4.00pm	Christingle at Wellington College Chapel (free) tickets required – see notice below
11.30pm	Midnight Mass (SJ)
Sunday 25th	Christmas Day
8.00am	Holy Communion BCP (SJ)
9.30am	Family Communion (SJ)
10.00am	Joint service for SMSJ and SE (SE) **No service at SMSJ**
11.00am	Parish Communion (SJ)

Christmas Day service for St Mary and St John at St Eligius'
SMSJ and SE will have a joint service on Christmas Day at SE at 10.00am to help minimise the clergy workload on that day. There will be no service at Gorse Ride School on Christmas Day. Please pass the word around so that no-one is missed.
8am, 9.30am and 11am will go ahead as usual at St James'

Card on the Tree in SJCC & at SMSJ in aid of Christian Aid's Christmas Appeal

Why not put a Christmas card on the tree at SJ or SMSJ with your Christmas greetings to all your church friends and donate the money equivalent of the cards saved to help those facing hunger in East Africa, Malawi and elsewhere due to failed harvests, water shortages & livestock deaths? Projects such as SOSURE (Social Support for Resilience) help vulnerable, food-insecure families to grow food in ways that are more resilient to climate shocks. CA envelopes will be available in all of our churches, and you can also donate by phone on 020 7523 2269 or online by visiting www.caid.org.uk/eastafricaappeal

(Free) Tickets required for 4pm Christingle Service at Wellington College Chapel on Christmas Eve

Tickets are ready to be collected at SJCC. There are still tickets available. Please contact Pamela in the office for an application form to be emailed to you
office@stjames.finchampstead.co.uk

Fledgelings Baby and Toddler Group and Toddler Praise

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

Parish Intercessions List – Please pray for: Joyce Beckett, Sophie Hall, Ann Pask, Colin Ramsay McClaren, Linda Whiteside, Gerry and Steve Prosser, David Powell, Bob Helliwell, Pamela Redford, Mo Nottage, Daniel, Helen & Chris Goble, John Coombs, Tina Worrell, Alison Woodrow, Ginger Timms, Regina and Bella, Hannah and Tom Edwards, Jamie-Marie Hemming, Rob, Liz Cooper

And those who mourn the loss of loved ones: Patricia Bunn, Malcolm Heppollette, Brenda Barker

Help with Christingle making

This year we will be making Christingles for the service on Christmas Eve up at St James' Church Centre on **Friday 23rd December from 11.30am**. It's a fun activity for all ages. Drinks and a pizza lunch will be provided. Please contact Sarah Booth asap if you are available to help - sjbooth@hotmail.co.uk

Christmas donations to Crowthorne Food Bank

We would welcome the following donations to the food bank - new hot water bottles, new fingerless gloves, new blankets, share pack crisps, crackers for cheese, tins of sweets, cakes/biscuits/chocolates, selection boxes/chocolate coins/Santa's for children. **Collecting box is under stairs in SJCC - Deadline for Christmas donations: Mon 19th December**

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@bopenworld.com ; Cllr Roland Cundy (0118) 9731056 roland@finchampstead.net or Revd. Leonard (0118) 9732102 rector@finchampstead.co.uk

Parish Office

The Parish office will be closed from Friday 23rd December and will reopen on Thursday 5th January. For urgent enquiries please contact Robert Alder on 07772 052065
robert@alder.ndo.co.uk or Revd. Leonard on 07415042442 or rector@finchampstead.co.uk

Save the Date

- 25 Dec Christmas Day** 8am Communion (SJ)
9.30am Family Communion (SJ)
10am Joint Communion for SE and SMSJ (SE)
11am Parish Communion (SJ)
- 12 Jan** 2pm Mothers' Union meeting (SJCC)
7.15pm Housegroup@SJCC resumes (SJCC)
- 21 Jan** Quiz evening with supper (SJCC)
- 31 Jan** 7.30pm Parish Prayer Meeting (SJCC)
- 4 Feb** 10am Green Team Working Party (Lost Liddell Gardens around SJCC)
- 4 March** 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 18 December 2022: ADVENT 4

Isaiah 7:10-16

This passage contains one of the proof texts which convinced early Christians that Jesus was indeed God's son, Immanuel, God with us.

¹⁰ Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹² But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. ¹³ Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

Psalms 80:1-7

¹ Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock!
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim,
shine forth
² before Ephraim and Benjamin and
Manasseh.
Stir up your might,
and come to save us!
³ Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.
⁴ O LORD God of hosts,
how long will you be angry with your
people's prayers?
⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears,
and given them tears to drink in full
measure.
⁶ You make us the scorn of our neighbours;
our enemies laugh among themselves.
⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Romans 1:1-7

At the beginning of his letter to the church in Rome, Paul derives his own authority from that of Jesus.

¹ Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which he promised beforehand through his prophets

in the holy scriptures, ³ the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴ and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶ including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷ To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 1:18-25

Matthew's account of the conception and birth of Jesus focuses on the role of Joseph, a righteous and obedient man.

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' ²² All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³ 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.' ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Collect

Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post Communion

Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.