



parish of finchampstead & california

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Email: office@stjames.finchampstead.co.uk

Parish Office, Baptism, Wedding, or Funerals, please ring 0118 9730133

Church Centre bookings for St James'; Sue Sampson 0118 9732069

Parish Centre bookings St Mary & St John's; Marjorie Stalker 01344 779636

Notices Contact: parishnotices@finchampstead.co.uk

Social Media: joannemyall@hotmail.co.uk

11th 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 11th	Advent 3
8.00am	Holy Communion BCP (SJ)
9.30am	Café Church (SJ)
9.30am	Holy Communion & kids' activities (SMSJ)
11.00am	Parish Communion (SJ)
11.00am	Service of the Word (SE)
Monday 12th	
9.30am	Fledgelings (SJCC) (last session for 2022)
Tuesday 13th	
2 00pm	Tea & Chat (SMSJPC)
Wednesday 14th	
9.15am	Toddler Praise (SE) (last session for 2022)
Saturday 17th	
9.00am	Ladies Breakfast (SJCC)
Sunday 18th	Advent 4
8.00am	Holy Communion CW (SJ)
9.30am	Family Carols (SJ)
9.30am	Carols, Crib & Communion (SMSJ)
11.00am	Parish Communion (SJ)
11.00am	Holy Communion (SE)
6.00pm	Nine Lessons & Carols (Wellington College Chapel)

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'**

Fledgelings Baby and Toddler Group and Toddler Praise
Join us for our Christmas parties! Fledgelings at SJCC on Monday 12th December at 9.30am and Toddler Praise at SE on Wednesday 14th at 9.15am. These will be our last sessions for this year. Toddler praise will be back on Wednesday 4th and Fledgelings on Monday 9th January 2023.

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

Christmas Hamper Raffle at St James'

Tickets will be available after most services, draw to take place on Sunday 18th December after the 11am Service.

Pre-Christmas Ladies Breakfast 9am - 10am Sat 17 Dec at SJCC. All ladies very welcome for a peaceful hour in the midst of all the busyness. Please let me know if you are coming so I can provide sufficient breakfast Carolyn 07779724090 or 01189732262 or email carolynfox@aol.com

(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

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

Save the Date

24 Dec 4pm Christingle (Wellington College Chapel)
11.30pm Midnight Mass (SJ)

25 Dec Christmas Day 8am Communion (SJ)
9.30am Family Communion (SJ)

10am Joint Communion for SE and SMSJ (SE)
11am Parish Communion (SJ)

21 Jan Quiz evening with supper (SJCC)

31 Jan 7.30pm Parish Prayer Meeting (SJCC)

11 Mar Churchyard Spring Tea (SJCC)

18 Mar Family bingo with afternoon tea (SJCC)

1 July Church Fete on Memorial Park

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

Readings and Prayers for

11 December 2022:

ADVENT 3

Isaiah 35:1-10

In this well-known passage, Isaiah talks in highly pictorial language about the dramatic impact of the Lord's coming to his people.

¹ The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

³ Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear. Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.'

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸ A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. ⁹ No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Psalm 146:5-10

⁵ Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD their God,
⁶ who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them;
who keeps faith for ever;
⁷ who executes justice for the oppressed;
who gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free;

⁸ the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous.

⁹ The LORD watches over the strangers;
he upholds the orphan and the widow,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

¹⁰ The LORD will reign for ever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.
Praise the LORD!

James 5:7-10

Towards the end of his letter, James looks forward to Christ's return and the implications for those who follow him.

⁷ Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹ Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors. ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Matthew 11:2-11

In affirming the significance of John the Baptist, Jesus indirectly lays claim to his own even greater importance.

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' ⁴ Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind?

⁸ What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you."

¹¹ Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Collect

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post Communion

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever.