



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

4th 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 4th	Advent 2
Cake sale in aid of the churchyard after morning services @ SJ (SJCC)	
8.00am	Holy Communion CW (SJ)
9.30am	Family Communion (SJ)
9.30am	Holy Communion & kids' activities (SMSJ)
11.00am	Parish Communion (SJ)
11.00am	Patronal Festival (SE)
6.00pm	Evensong (SJ)
Monday 5th	
9.30am	Fledgelings (SJCC)
Wednesday 7th	
9.15am	Toddler Praise (SE)
Thursday 8th	
2.00pm	Mothers' Union Christmas service & Tea All welcome. Please just bring a small contribution to the shared tea (SJCC)
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)

(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

Cake Sale after 9.30am and 11am services at SJ on 4th December in aid of the Churchyard

An opportunity to buy delicious cakes and other treats and to take part in the raffle for a home-made Christmas cake. The winning number will be drawn after the 11am service.

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.

Items to donate to Crowthorne Foodbank now also include

New hot water bottles, new fingerless gloves, new blankets to help clients to keep warm **(collecting box is under the stairs in SJCC)**

Christmas specials share pack crisps, crackers for cheese, boxes/tins of chocolates, selection boxes/chocolate coins/Santa's for children, family pack biscuits and cakes.

Finchampstead and Barkham Relief in Sickness Fund

If you are ill, convalescent, disabled, handicapped, 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 ; Cllr Roland Cundy (0118) 9731056 roland@finchampstead.net or Revd. Leonard (0118) 9732102 rector@finchampstead.co.uk

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

Joint Christmas Day service 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 SMSJ on Christmas Day. Please pass the word around so that no-one is missed.

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 email carolynfox@aol.com

Save the Date

- 17 Dec 9am Ladies Breakfast (SJCC)
- 18 Dec 9.30am Carols, Crib & Communion (SMSJ)
- 9.30am Family Carols (SJ)
- 6pm Nine Lessons & Carols (Wellington College Chapel)
- 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)
- 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, Brenda Barker, Liz Cooper
And those who mourn the loss of loved ones: Robert Mackie Scollick, David Atkinson, Patricia Bunn

Readings and Prayers for 4 December 2022: ADVENT 2

Isaiah 11:1-10

This familiar passage about God's anointed one leads into a beautiful description of a redeemed and harmonious world.

¹ A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ² The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³ His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; ⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.

⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹ They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Psalm 72:1-7

Romans 15:4-13

Paul is called the Apostle to the Gentiles. In this passage he uses texts from the Old Testament to explain why the message about Jesus is for everyone, not just the Jewish people.

⁴ Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹ and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, 'Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name'; ¹⁰ and again he says, 'Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people'; ¹¹ and again, 'Praise the Lord, all you

Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him'; ¹² and again Isaiah says, 'The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.'

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 3:1-12

The gospel focus this Sunday is on John the Baptist, Jesus' cousin, who spoke and lived much like an Old Testament prophet.

¹ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ² 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."' "

⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷ But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹ Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ 'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

Collect

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God.

Post Communion

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord.