

22nd 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 22nd	Epiphany 3
8.00am	Holy Communion BCP (SJ)
9.30am	Café Church (SJCC)
9.30am	Holy Communion (SMSJ)
11.00am	Parish Communion (SJ)
11.00am	Holy Communion (SE)
5.00pm	Confirmation Preparation Class (SJCC)
Monday 23rd	
9.30am	Fledgelings baby & toddler group (SJCC)
Tuesday 24th	
2.00pm	Tea & Chat (SMSJCC)
7.30pm	A Life Worth Living (43 McCarthy Way)
Wednesday 25th	
9.15am	Toddler Praise (SE)
Thursday 26th	
7.15pm	Emotionally Healthy Spirituality (SJCC)
Sunday 29th	The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)
8.00am	Holy Communion BCP (SJ)
9.30am	Café Church (SJCC)
9.30am	Holy Communion (SMSJ)
11.00am	Parish Communion (SJ)
11.00am	Holy Communion (SE)
5.00pm	Confirmation Preparation Class (SJCC)

Coffee & Croissants after 8am Holy Communion Coffee and croissants will be served after the 8am service at SJ on the 3rd Sunday of each month. Please do stay and join us!

A Life Worth Living – Tuesday 24th January 7:30pm @ 43 McCarthy Way 'In the future, scientists may be able to prolong life, but would it be a life worth living?' – Nigel Hawkes, Journalist, writing in *The Times*. This is an opportunity to journey together with some parishioners, over some light refreshments, as we explore St Paul's letter to the Philippians. Please let us know to expect you - office@stjames.finchampstead.co.uk

Emotionally Healthy Spirituality – Thursday 26th January 7:30pm SJCC This will be the third meeting to explore the Emotionally Healthy Spirituality course. Please join in the fun and conversation over light refreshments. We meet from 7.15pm for tea, coffee, & cakes, for a 7.30pm start. Let us know you're coming office@stjames.finchampstead.co.uk

CHURCH FETE IN MEMORIAL PARK 1ST JULY

This is our largest fundraising event and everyone can help in some way. There will be lots to do nearer the time but right now we need a team to get the organisation off the ground. If you would like to be involved and share your ideas please speak to Nicky (nicky@alder.ndo.co.uk) or Carolyn (carolynfox@aol.com) or contact the church office.

Parish Prayer Meeting - Tuesday 31st January 7.30 pm in SJCC Do you pray? Do you believe prayer works? Will you come and pray with us for our mission and ministry in this parish? We are holding 3 strategic prayer meetings a year to come together to listen and to discern God's heart for our parish. There's no need to pray out loud, just come and together we will "draw near to God and He will draw near to us." *James 4:8* We seek His guidance for 2023, for "unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain." *Psalm 127:1*

The Fascinating History of Reading Abbey - Friday 10th February at 7pm at Finchampstead Memorial Hall The Finchampstead Society is pleased to bring this presentation by Graham Horn on this interesting subject. All are welcome, and tea/coffee will be available. For more details, please contact 0118 9734123.

Thank you from CMG for your generous support for The Children's Society, Christian Aid and the Food-bank £707-40 was raised at the Christingle Service, £387 (of which £220 was gift-aided) was raised through Card on the Tree at SJ and SMSJ for CA's Christmas Appeal to help food-insecure families in Africa. Also, items were donated to Crowthorne food-bank.

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, help is available. Please contact Cllr Steve Bromley (0118) 973 3553 steve.bromley@btpopenworld.com ; Cllr Roland Cundy (0118) 9731056 roland@finchampstead.net or Revd. Leonard (0118) 9732102 rector@finchampstead.co.uk

Striders Running Group – Couch to 5k every Wednesday at 7pm Whether just starting out in running, wanting to get back into it, or just looking to run with others, please join us on a Wednesday evening. We are an encouraging group and will support you in your running journey, and it's free of charge. We meet at St Eligius Church, Tope Road, RG2 9NB

Green Team Tip: Recycle soft plastic (crisp packets, sweet wrappers, plastic film, plastic bags, food pouches) @ the Coop, Waitrose Wokingham or Tesco. Let's all do something positive to reduce the amount going to landfill and be better stewards of God's wonderful creation.

Save the Date

4 Feb 10am Green Team Working Party (SJCC)

10 Feb 6:30pm-8pm Youth Group (SE)

***NEW DATE* 5 Mar** Family bingo with afternoon tea (SJCC)

11 Mar Churchyard Spring Tea (SJCC)

***NEW DATE* 18 Mar** 10am Green Team Working Party (SJ)

26 Mar Confirmation Service @ St Paul's, Wokingham

20 May Quiz Aid for Christian Aid (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, Mo Nottage, Daniel, Helen & Chris Goble, John Coombs, Tina Worrell, Alison Woodrow, Ginger Timms, Regina and Bella, Hannah and Tom Edwards, Jamie-Marie Hemming, Ashley Bootham

And those who mourn the loss of loved ones: Rob, Jean Dunckley, Michael Murray, Pamela Redford, Dr Ian Hossack

Readings and Prayers for

22 January 2023:

EPIPHANY 3

Isaiah 9:1-4

Isaiah foretells Jesus coming as the light of the world.

¹ There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time the Lord brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined.

³ You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴ For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

Psalm 27:1-11

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Paul's displeasure about pointless divisions in the young church at Corinth leads to a climax of gospel proclamation.

¹⁰ I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you should be in agreement and that there should be no divisions among you, but that you should be united in the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹ For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. ¹² What I mean is that each of you says, 'I belong to Paul', or 'I belong to Apollos', or 'I belong to Cephas', or 'I belong to Christ.' ¹³ Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴ I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵ so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶ (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷ For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent

wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power. ¹⁸ For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Matthew 4:12-23

To start his public ministry, Jesus returns to his roots in Galilee, thereby fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah.

¹² When Jesus heard that John [the Baptist] had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³ He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the lake, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴ so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: ¹⁵ 'Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles - ¹⁶ the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.' ¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to proclaim, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.'

¹⁸ As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.' ²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹ As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. ²² Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

²³ Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

Collect

God of all mercy, your Son proclaimed good news to the poor, release to the captives, and freedom to the oppressed: anoint us with your Holy Spirit and set all your people free to praise you in Christ our Lord.

Post Communion

Almighty Father, whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world: may your people, illumined by your word and sacraments, shine with the radiance of his glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.