

15th 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 15th	Epiphany 2
8.00am	Holy Communion CW (SJ) followed with coffee & croissants - see below
9.30am	Café Church (SJCC)
9.30am	Holy Communion (SMSJ)
11.00am	Parish Communion (SJ)
11.00am	Holy Communion (SE)
2.00pm	Deanery Green Team Gathering (SJCC)
5.00pm	Confirmation Preparation Class (SJCC)
Monday 16th	
9.30am	Fledgelings baby & toddler group (SJCC)
Wednesday 18th	
9.15am	Toddler Praise (SE)
Thursday 19th	
7.15pm	Emotionally Healthy Spirituality (SJCC)
Saturday 21st	
7.00pm	Quiz with Supper (SJCC)
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)

Coffee & Croissants after 8am Holy Communion - Sunday 15th January SJCC Coffee and croissants will be served after the 8am service at SJ on the 3rd Sunday of each month starting this week. Please do stay and join us!

Deanery Green Team Gathering - Sunday 15th January 2pm at SJCC Join us to discuss the 'green things' and eco initiatives going on in our parishes. For details, please contact Revd Hannah Higginson at hannah@allsaintswokingham.org.uk

Confirmation Service - Sunday 26th March at St Paul's Wokingham We have the opportunity to join with St Paul's Church & All Saints' Church Wokingham to present candidates for confirmation on 26th March. Preparation classes will begin at SJCC on Sunday 15th January 5-6pm. Please get in touch with the office if you are interested.

Emotionally Healthy Spirituality - Thursday 19th January 7:30pm SJCC This will be the second 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

Quiz with Supper: Saturday 21st January, 7pm at SJCC All welcome. Tickets are £15 each including 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 or call the Parish office on 0118 973 0133 to reserve your tickets.

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

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

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

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@bopenworld.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 @ the Coop or Tesco. You'll be amazed/shocked how much you can save from landfill and benefit God's creation.

Save the Date

4 Feb 10am Green Team Working Party (SJCC)

4 Mar 10am Green Team Working Party (SJCC)

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

11 Mar Churchyard Spring Tea (SJCC)

26 Mar Confirmation Service @ St Paul's, Wokingham

20 May Quiz Aid for Christian Aid (SJCC)

1 July Church Fete on Memorial Park

Readings and Prayers for 15 January 2023:

EPIPHANY 2

Isaiah 49:1-7

Once again Isaiah emphasises that God's chosen one will come to bring all people back to God, not just the Jews.

¹ Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away! The LORD called me before I was born, while I was in my mother's womb he named me.

² He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away. ³ And he said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified.'

⁴ But I said, 'I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the LORD, and my reward with my God.'

⁵ And now the LORD says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honoured in the sight of the LORD, and my God has become my strength— ⁶ he says, 'It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.'

⁷ Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, 'Kings shall see and stand up, princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the LORD, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.'

Psalm 40:1-12

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

In the first paragraph of his letter, Paul adapts the formal style of letter-writing to the special character of the Christians at Corinth.

¹ Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

² To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— ⁶ just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— ⁷ so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸ He will also

strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

John 1:29-42

In John's gospel Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist is implied but not explicitly stated. The gospel focuses instead on the identification of Jesus as the Lamb of God, and on his recognition by the first disciples as the Messiah.

²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, 'Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. ³⁰ This is he of whom I said, "After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me." ³¹ I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.' ³² And John testified, 'I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³ I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit." ³⁴ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.'

³⁵ The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶ and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, 'Look, here is the Lamb of God.' ³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸ When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, 'What are you looking for?' They said to him, 'Rabbi' (which translated means Teacher), 'where are you staying?' ³⁹ He said to them, 'Come and see.' They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. ⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹ He first found his brother Simon and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' (which is translated Anointed). ⁴² He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas' (which is translated Peter).

Collect

Eternal Lord, our beginning and our end: bring us with the whole creation to your glory, hidden through past ages and made known in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post Communion

God of glory, you nourish us with your Word who is the bread of life: fill us with your Holy Spirit that through us the light of your glory may shine in all the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.