

8th 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 8th	Epiphany
8.00am	Holy Communion BCP (SJ)
9.30am	Café Church (SJ)
9.30am	Holy Communion (SMSJ)
11.00am	Parish Communion (SJ)
11.00am	Holy Communion (SE)
6.00pm	Evensong (SJ)
Monday 9th	
9.30am	Fledgelings baby & toddler group (SJCC)
Tuesday 10th	
2.00pm	Tea & Chat (SMSJPC)
Wednesday 11th	
9.15am	Toddler Praise (SE)
Thursday 12th	
2.00pm	Mothers' Union meeting (SJCC)
7.15pm	Emotionally Healthy Spirituality (SJCC)
Sunday 15th	Epiphany 2
8.00am	Holy Communion CW (SJ)
9.30am	Café Church (SJCC)
9.30am	Holy Communion (SMSJ)
11.00am	Parish Communion (SJ)
11.00am	Holy Communion (SE)

Thank you from CMG for your support for The Children's Society, Christian Aid & the Foodbank

£707 was raised at the Christingle Service for The Children's Society. Thank you very much for your generosity. More details about Christian Aid and the Foodbank will be published in due course.

Confirmation Service – Sunday 26th March at St Paul's

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

Emotionally Healthy Spirituality – 7.30pm 12th January SJCC

A group will be meeting on four Thursdays in the new year to explore the Emotionally Healthy Spirituality course at St James' Church Centre. All are invited to join in the fun and conversation over some light refreshments. We meet from 7.15pm for tea, coffee, and cakes, for a 7.30pm start. Let us know you're coming office@stjames.finchampstead.co.uk

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.

Youth Club – New Year, Fresh Start

Fri 13th Jan 6.30-8pm at St Eligius Church, Arborfield

Join us for our first session for 2023! We will be planning the year ahead and would love **your** input! In this session you can help us create activities **you** want. This will be a creative session, so bring big and small ideas.

Quiz with Supper: Saturday 21st January, 7pm in St James'

Church Centre. Everyone welcome. Tickets are £15 each which includes 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. We look forward to seeing you.

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

A Life Worth Living – Tuesday 24th January @ 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*. There is an opportunity to journey together with some parishioners on Tuesdays, over some light refreshments, as we explore St Paul's letter to the Philippians. The invitation is open to all who are interested. Let us know to expect you office@stjames.finchampstead.co.uk

Striders Running Group – Couch to 5k every Wednesday at

7pm Whether you are just starting out in running, want to get back into it, or are 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 (starting Weds 11th January 2023).

Save the Date

21 Jan Quiz evening with supper (SJCC)

31 Jan 7.30pm Parish Prayer Meeting (SJCC)

4 Feb 10am Green Team Working Party (SJCC)

4 Mar 10am Green Team Working Party (SJCC)

11 Mar Churchyard Spring Tea (SJCC)

18 Mar Family bingo with afternoon 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

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: Brenda Barker, Liz Cooper, Rob, Jean Dunckley, Pamela Redford

Readings and Prayers for 8 January 2023: EPIPHANY

Isaiah 60:1-60

Isaiah prophesies about the coming of the Lord and how he will draw all people to him.

- ¹ Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
- ² For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
- ³ Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
- ⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their
nurses' arms.
- ⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be
brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
- ⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Psalms 72:10-15

Ephesians 3:1-12

Paul discusses the significance of his role as apostle to the Gentiles.

- ¹ This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— ² for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³ and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴ a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵ In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶ that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.
- ⁷ Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. ⁸ Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹ and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things;

- ¹⁰ so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹ This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Matthew 2:1-12

At the start of his Gospel Matthew gives prominence to the story of the wise men; they come to worship Jesus from an entirely different cultural and religious background.

- ¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶ "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."'

- ⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Collect

Creator of the heavens, who led the wise men by a star to worship the Christ-child: guide and sustain us, that we may find our journey's end in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post Communion

Lord God, the bright splendour whom the nations seek: may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light discern the glory of your presence in your Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.