



parish of finchampstead & california

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Email: office@stjames.finchampstead.co.uk

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

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

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

Social Media: bettinafaull@gmail.com

26th February | 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 26th	1st Sunday of Lent
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 Class (SJCC)
Monday 27th	
9.30am	Fledgelings baby & toddler (SJCC)
Tuesday 28th	
11.00am	Tuesday Men's Group (SJCC)
2.00pm	Tea & Chat (SMSJPC)
7.30pm	Come and See Introduction (SJCC)
Wednesday 1st March	
9.15am	Toddler Praise (SE)
Saturday 4th	
9.00am	Ladies' Breakfast (SJCC)
Sunday 5th	2nd Sunday of Lent
8.00am	Holy Communion CW (SJ)
9.30am	Family Communion (SJ)
9.30am	Holy Communion (SMSJ)
11.00am	Parish Communion (SJ)
11.00am	Holy Communion (SE)
3.00pm	Family Bingo & Afternoon Tea (SJCC)
4.30pm	Confirmation Class (SJCC)
6.00pm	Evensong (SJ)

NEW - Tuesday Men's Group at SJ Are you free on a Tuesday morning? Why not come along and have a coffee and a chat. We will meet every week at 11am in the Church Centre. Feel free to bring a friend.

Last Call for Confirmation (26th March) If you'd still like to be confirmed on Sunday 26th March but haven't been able to attend the preparation classes, St Paul's Wokingham are offering two further options - online and in person. Contact our Church Office [urgently](#) for more details.

News from CMG (Charities and Missions Group) The PCC has agreed that the new CMS Mission Partner for our parish will be Aaron Stanbury. He will be going to work in a slum settlement in Kenya later this year, helping children aged 7-10 continue into secondary education. More news about him will follow in due course.

Tonia's Phased Return to Work is going well but these things can't be rushed. She is steadily increasing her hours and starting to be more visible and active on a Sunday morning as well. Thank you for your support, prayers and understanding. It's important that we manage her workload during this process so do, of course, talk to her, encourage her, be nice to her, contact her - but anything big or long-term should continue to go to Julian or Leonard. Thanks.

Ladies' Breakfast - Saturday 4 March 9am - 10am (SJCC)

I'm looking forward to welcoming lots of ladies so please book your place now so I provide enough breakfast for all, Text or email me carolynfox@aol.com 07779724090 Thanks

Family Bingo & Afternoon Tea Sunday 5th March 3.00pm-5.00pm at SJCC

Come along for a fun afternoon and enjoy a yummy tea. Everyone welcome. Tickets available at services, from office or via website link. Adults £5, children £3.

Come and See - starts Tuesday 28th February, 7:30pm SJCC

Come and See is our diocese-wide big, warm open invitation to everyone, for everyone for an adventure in faith and trust. We will be exploring the Beatitudes, a core message from Jesus' 'sermon on the mount'. It's completely free and all are welcome. Light refreshments will be provided. This first session is Cheese and wine. Bring a friend. Please contact the church office to let us know you are coming -

office@stjames.finchampstead.co.uk or 0118 973 0133.

Bishop Steven's daily emails for *Come and See: The Beatitudes* are also available online, or in a booklet at a subsidised price of £2 incl P&P until the end of April.

Church Fete in Memorial Park 1st July

Our largest fundraising event and everyone can help in some way. Lots to do nearer the time but right now we are looking for sponsorship and significant donations suitable for the Grand Draw. If you have any contacts who could help, maybe through your work, then please speak to Nicky (nicky@alder.ndo.co.uk) or Carolyn (carolynfox@aol.com) or contact the church office.

February Foodbank Current Requirements

Current Requirements - just these items required at the moment = Custard, rice pudding, jam, carton juice, pulses (chickpeas & kidney beans) washing up liquid, fabric softener, toilet rolls, anti-bac spray, men's and women's deodorant, men's shower gel, adult toothbrushes (single packets). **Every** donation really does make a difference. Please pop your contributions in the box under the stairs in SJCC.

Green Team Info: We want to encourage you to be a better steward of God's wonderful creation. If we all take some small steps, the combined result will be huge. Why not resolve to do something better during Lent, like reducing the amount you are sending to landfill.

Save the Date

9 Mar 8pm Thursday Evening Prayer Meeting (SMSJPC)

10 Mar 6.30pm - 8pm Youth Group (SE)

11 Mar Churchyard Spring Tea (SJCC)

18 Mar 10am Green Team Working Party (SJ)

26 Mar Confirmation Service @ St Paul's, Wokingham

20 May Quiz Aid for Christian Aid (SJCC)

24 May 7:30pm Parish Lecture (SJCC)

1 July 1pm - 4pm 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, Caroline Anamoah, Nicola
And those who mourn the loss of loved ones: Alan Binns, Irene Dalzell, Ray Leftley

Readings and Prayers for 26 February 2023: LENT 1 COME AND SEE – THE BEATITUDES (1)

Isaiah 61:1-9

Isaiah speaks of the Messiah's first and second advent; his ministry of building and restoration, and the resulting exaltation and joy. Jesus' great sermon, the beatitudes in Matthew's Gospel, contains key allusions to Isaiah's prophetic message.

¹The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; ²to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³to provide for those who mourn in Zion— to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. ⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

⁵Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, foreigners shall till your land and dress your vines; ⁶but you shall be called priests of the Lord, you shall be named ministers of our God; you shall enjoy the wealth of the nations, and in their riches you shall glory. ⁷Because their shame was double, and dishonour was proclaimed as their lot, therefore they shall possess a double portion; everlasting joy shall be theirs.

⁸For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.

Hebrews 1:1-9

The author stresses the importance of Jesus as God speaking definitively to us.

¹Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

⁵For to which of the angels did God ever say,

'You are my Son; today I have begotten you'? Or again, 'I will be his Father, and he will be my Son'? ⁶And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, 'Let all God's angels worship him.' ⁷Of the angels he says, 'He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire.' ⁸But of the Son he says, 'Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever, and the righteous sceptre is the sceptre of your kingdom. ⁹You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.'

Matthew 5:1-10,13-16

Jesus introduces a new vision for humanity; the beatitudes begin his 'sermon on the mount'.

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. ⁸'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ⁹'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. ¹⁰'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹³'You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Collect

Heavenly Father, your Son battled with the powers of darkness, and grew closer to you in the desert: help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer that we may witness to your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post Communion

Lord God, you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven; by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love: teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread, and enable us to live by every word that proceeds from out of your mouth; through Jesus Christ our Lord.