



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

19th 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 19th Sunday Before Lent
8.00am Holy Communion CW (SJ) followed by
coffee & croissants

9.30am Café Church (SJCC)

9.30am Holy Communion (SMSJ)

11.00am Parish Communion (SJ)

11.00am Holy Communion (SE)

Please note - no Confirmation class this evening

Monday 20th

9.30am Fledgelings baby & toddler (SJCC)

Tuesday 21st

7.30pm A Life Worth Living (43 McCarthy Way)

Wednesday 22nd Ash Wednesday

9.15am Toddler Praise (SE)

7.30pm Ash Wednesday Service (SJ)

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)

Ash Wednesday service at SJ on Feb 22nd at 7.30pm

An important day in the Christian calendar, marking the start of our journey through Lent towards Easter. Please come & join this evening service (with optional ashing - a cross marked on the forehead in an ash/oil mix.) Note the time.

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. The final total for The Children's Society via our Christingle collections has increased to £807-40 after another donation was received. The final total to Christian Aid for its Christmas Appeal has increased to £407 following correction of a banking administrative error.

Tonia's Phased Return to Work is going well but these things can't be rushed. She will be 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

A Life Worth Living - Tuesdays 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 over light refreshments, as we explore St Paul's letter to the Philippians. Please email the office if you would like to attend.

Come and See - starting 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. 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 need a team to get the organisation off the ground. Like to be involved? Have ideas to share? Speak to Nicky (nicky@alder.ndo.co.uk) or Carolyn (carolynfox@aol.com) or contact the church office.

February Foodbank Current Requirements 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). The Foodbank would be grateful if we could stick to this list as they are fortunate to have plenty of everything else at the current time. The staff & clients send very grateful thanks for all our contributions. **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. For instance, according to WBC about 25% of the contents of blue bags is food waste which could go in the special food waste caddies. Why not try to segregate it better this week (and onwards).

Save the Date

4 Mar 9am - 10am Ladies Breakfast (SJCC)

5 Mar 3pm Family bingo with afternoon tea (SJCC)

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

And those who mourn the loss of loved ones: Alan Binns, Irene Dalzell

Readings and Prayers for 19 February 2023:

SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

Exodus 24:12-18

God gives Moses the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai.

¹² The LORD said to Moses, 'Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.' ¹³ So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. ¹⁴ To the elders he had said, 'Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.' ¹⁵ Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. ¹⁶ The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. ¹⁷ Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. ¹⁸ Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

Psalm 2

¹ Why do the nations conspire,
and the peoples plot in vain?
² The kings of the earth set themselves,
and the rulers take counsel together,
against the LORD and his anointed, saying,
³ 'Let us burst their bonds asunder,
and cast their cords from us.'
⁴ He who sits in the heavens laughs;
the LORD has them in derision.
⁵ Then he will speak to them in his wrath,
and terrify them in his fury, saying,
⁶ 'I have set my king on Zion, my holy hill.'
⁷ I will tell of the decree of the LORD:
He said to me, 'You are my son;
today I have begotten you.
⁸ Ask of me, and I will make the nations your
heritage,
and the ends of the earth your possession.
⁹ You shall break them with a rod of iron,
and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.'
¹⁰ Now therefore, O kings, be wise;
be warned, O rulers of the earth.
¹¹ Serve the LORD with fear,
with trembling ¹² kiss his feet,
or he will be angry, and you will perish in the
way; for his wrath is quickly kindled.
Happy are all who take refuge in him.

2 Peter 1:16-21

Peter stresses the value of the transfiguration.

¹⁶ We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷ For he received honour and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, 'This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.' ¹⁸ We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹ So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. ²⁰ First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, ²¹ because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Matthew 17:1-9

Matthew's account of the transfiguration shows how deeply it is rooted in the Old Testament.

¹ Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. ² And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³ Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴ Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' ⁵ While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!' ⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. ⁷ But Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Get up and do not be afraid.' ⁸ And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. ⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, 'Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.'

Collect

Holy God, you know the disorder of our sinful lives: set straight our crooked hearts, and bend our wills to love your goodness and your glory in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post Communion

Holy God, we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ: may we who are partakers at his table reflect his life in word and deed, that all the world may know his power to change and save. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.