

## 12<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Before Lent**  
8.00am Holy Communion BCP (SJ)  
9.30am Café Church (SJCC)  
9.30am Holy Communion (SMSJ)  
11.00am Parish Communion (SJ)  
11.00am Service of the Word (SE)  
5.00pm Confirmation Preparation Class (SJCC)  
(no class on 19<sup>th</sup> due to half term)

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup>**  
No Fledgelings baby & toddler group due to half term

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup>**  
2.00pm Tea & Chat (SMSJPC)

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>**  
No Toddler Praise due to half term

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> 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)

### Ash Wednesday service at SJ on Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**Thank you** to everyone who supported the fundraising Quiz and Supper evening at St James' on 21st. We had a full hall with over 60 folks "pitting their wits" and we are delighted to say that £1,165.60 was raised during the evening.

**Tonia's Phased Return to Work** is going well but these things take time and can't be rushed. She is feeling much better than in the Autumn but it's still important that she watch her energy-levels carefully. 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.

**A Life Worth Living - Tuesdays 7:30pm (except for 14<sup>th</sup> February due to half term)@ 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 let us know to expect you - [office@stjames.finchampstead.co.uk](mailto:office@stjames.finchampstead.co.uk)

**Come and See - starting Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:office@stjames.finchampstead.co.uk) or 0118 973 0133. Bishop Steven's daily emails for *Come and See: The Beatitudes* are also available online, and in a booklet at a subsidised price of £2 incl P&P until the end of April.

**CHURCH FETE IN MEMORIAL PARK 1<sup>ST</sup> 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](mailto:nicky@alder.ndo.co.uk)) or Carolyn ([carolynfox@aol.com](mailto: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.

**Benefit Concert for Ukraine Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February 7:30pm** at Reading Town Hall, Blagrove Street, RG1 1QH. Please visit: <https://www.readingtownhall.co.uk/whats-on-reading-town-hall>

**Green Team Info:** Please make 2023 the year when you become a better steward of God's wonderful creation. Could you recycle more, car share, put your food waste in the special food waste caddies? OR - Check out the fair trade charity, [www.transform-trade.org](http://www.transform-trade.org) for **Valentine e-cards** that help poor workers in other countries - a double good thing!! Click through Get Involved, Giving Differently, E-cards.

### Save the Date

**22 Feb 7.30pm** Ash Wednesday service (SJ)

**4 Mar** 9am - 10am Ladies Breakfast

**5 Mar** 3pm 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)

**24 May** 7:30pm Parish Lecture (SJCC)

**1 July** Church Fete on Memorial Park

# Readings and Prayers for 12 February 2023:

## 2 BEFORE LENT

### Genesis 1:1 – 2:3

*The creation of the universe.*

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup>the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup>Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

<sup>6</sup>And God said, 'Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.' <sup>7</sup>So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. <sup>8</sup>God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

<sup>9</sup>And God said, 'Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.' And it was so. <sup>10</sup>God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. <sup>11</sup>Then God said, 'Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.' And it was so.

<sup>12</sup>The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. <sup>13</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

<sup>14</sup>And God said, 'Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, <sup>15</sup>and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.' And it was so. <sup>16</sup>God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars.

<sup>17</sup>God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, <sup>18</sup>to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. <sup>19</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

<sup>20</sup>And God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.' <sup>21</sup>So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup>God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.' <sup>23</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

<sup>24</sup>And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.' And it was so. <sup>25</sup>God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

<sup>26</sup>Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.'

<sup>27</sup>So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. <sup>28</sup>God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.' <sup>29</sup>God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. <sup>30</sup>And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the

earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. <sup>31</sup>God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

<sup>2.1</sup> Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. <sup>2</sup> And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. <sup>3</sup> So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

## Psalm 136

### Romans 8:18-25

*Paul is certain that God has a glorious future in store for all creation.*

<sup>18</sup> I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup> For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; <sup>20</sup> for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup> that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup> We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; <sup>23</sup> and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup> For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? <sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

## Matthew 6:25-34

*In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus encourages his followers to trust God's goodness.*

<sup>25</sup> Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? <sup>27</sup> And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? <sup>28</sup> And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, <sup>29</sup> yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. <sup>30</sup> But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? <sup>31</sup> Therefore do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink?" or "What will we wear?" <sup>32</sup> For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. <sup>33</sup> But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. <sup>34</sup> So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.

## Collect

Almighty God, give us reverence for all creation and respect for every person, that we may mirror your likeness in Jesus Christ our Lord.

## Post Communion

God our creator, by your gift the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise, and the bread of life at the heart of your Church: may we who have been nourished at your table on earth be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross and enjoy the delights of eternity; through Jesus Christ our Lord.