

## 5<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

<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Before Lent</b>
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)
4.30pm	Confirmation Preparation Class (SJCC)
6.00pm	Evensong (SJ)
<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup></b>	
9.30am	Fledgelings baby & toddler group (SJCC)
<b>Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	
7.30pm	A Life Worth Living (43 McCarthy Way)
<b>Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	
9.15am	Toddler Praise (SE)
<b>Thursday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	
2.00pm	Mothers' Union AGM & Beetle Drive - visitors very welcome (SJCC)
7.30pm	Emotionally Healthy Spirituality (SJCC)
<b>Friday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	
6.30pm	Youth Group (SE)
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Before Lent</b>
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)

**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** Tonia's phased return to work is going well but these things obviously 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 @ 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)

**Youth Group - Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February 6:30-8pm at St Eligius Church, Arborfield** Come and enjoy the fun after a long week at school. This will be a Valentine themed celebration, with pizza, Valentine crafts, and games. For Years 7-11.

**The Fascinating History of Reading Abbey - Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm at Finchampstead Memorial Hall** The Finchampstead Society is pleased to welcome all to this interesting presentation by Graham Horn. Tea/coffee available. For more details, please contact 0118 9734123.

**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.

**Striders Running Group - Couch to 5k every Wednesday at 7pm** We meet at St Eligius Church, Tope Road, RG2 9NB. Everyone welcome, whether you are just starting out in running or looking to run with others. Free of charge!

**Green Team Info:** May we encourage you to make 2023 the year when you become a better steward of God's wonderful creation. Could you recycle more, car share, cut down on food waste (helps your pocket too) but make sure that what you do have goes in the special caddie. Check out the recycling boxes in the back room of SJCC or Gill's collecting box in the SJCC kitchen (more on that next week).

### **Save the Date**

**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

**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:** Michael Murray, Pamela Redford, Dr Ian Hossack, Alan Binns

# Readings and Prayers for 5 February 2023:

## 3 BEFORE LENT

### Isaiah 58:1-9a

*Isaiah reminds us that faithfulness to our calling is not a matter of outward compliance, but of our hearts causing us to act in love.*

<sup>1</sup> Shout out, do not hold back. Lift up your voice like a trumpet. Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. <sup>2</sup> Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practised righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgements, they delight to draw near to God.

<sup>3</sup> 'Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?' Look, you serve your own interest on your fast-day, and oppress all your workers. <sup>4</sup> Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. <sup>5</sup> Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?

<sup>6</sup> Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? <sup>7</sup> Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? <sup>8</sup> Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rearguard. <sup>9</sup> Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer.

### Psalm 112:1-9

### 1 Corinthians 2:1-12

*For Paul the key to knowing God lies in the cross of Jesus Christ.*

<sup>1</sup> When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. <sup>2</sup> For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

<sup>3</sup> And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. <sup>4</sup> My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup> so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

<sup>6</sup> Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. <sup>7</sup> But we

speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. <sup>8</sup> None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. <sup>9</sup> But, as it is written, 'What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him'— <sup>10</sup> these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. <sup>11</sup> For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup> Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

### Matthew 5:13-20

*In this extract from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus stresses the role of his followers in the context of the Jewish scriptures.*

<sup>13</sup> '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.

<sup>14</sup> 'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup> In 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.

<sup>17</sup> 'Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil. <sup>18</sup> For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. <sup>19</sup> Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>20</sup> For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

### Collect

Eternal God, whose Son went among the crowds and brought healing with his touch: help us to show his love, in your Church as we gather together, and by our lives as they are transformed into the image of Christ our Lord.

### Post Communion

Merciful Father, who gave Jesus Christ to be for us the bread of life, that those who come to him should never hunger: draw us to the Lord in faith and love, that we may eat and drink with him at his table in the kingdom, where he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.