



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 March | 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	Mothering Sunday & 4th Sunday of Lent
8.00am	Holy Communion CW (SJ) followed by coffee & croissants
9.15am	Café Church (SJCC) with special Mother's Day breakfast from 9.15am
9.30am	Holy Communion (SMSJ) with activities for children during the service and refreshments for everyone afterwards
10.15am	Mother's Day Breakfast followed by Family Communion Service at 11am (SE)
11.00am	Parish Communion (SJ)
Monday 20th	
9.30am	Fledgelings baby & toddler (SJCC)
Tuesday 21st	
11.00am	Tuesday Men's Group (SJCC)
7.30pm	Come and See (SJCC)
Wednesday 22nd	
9.15am	Toddler Praise (SE)
Thursday 23rd March	
7.30pm	Confirmation Rehearsal at St Paul's Church, Wokingham
Saturday 25th	
10.00am	PCC Away Day (AGCC) non-PCC members of our PCC committees also invited. RSVP to Carolyn Fox
Sunday 26th	5th Sunday of Lent
8.00am	Holy Communion BCP (SJ)
9.30am	Café Church (SJCC) with Quench Bookstall
9.30am	Holy Communion (SMSJ)
11.00am	Parish Communion (SJ) with Quench Bookstall afterwards
11.00am	Holy Communion (SE)
6.15pm	Confirmation Service at St Paul's Church, Wokingham (early arrival and car sharing encouraged)

Special Easter Services and Events 6th-9th April
Maundy Thursday Bring & Share Supper 6th April 7:15pm/7:30pm SJCC Sign-up sheets available at all worship centres, leading to 9pm Communion & Vigil (SJ)

Good Friday, 7th April
10am at SJCC Family Event & hot cross buns
11am at SMSJPC Easter story, craft, egg hunt, refreshments
2pm - 3pm at SJ Last hour at the cross. Choir singing Mozart's Requiem

Easter Sunday services at SJ at 6am, 8am, 9.30am and 11am
Easter service @ SMSJ 9.30am including children's activities
Easter Family Service Sunday 9th April at 11am at SE Join us for the service, refreshments, crafts, and Easter egg hunt

The funeral for the late Mary Dewhurst - Monday 27th March at 1pm at Easthampstead Park Crematorium.

Tuesday Men's Group 11am at SJCC Why not come along and have a coffee and a chat if you're free? We meet at 11am in the church centre. Feel free to bring a friend.

The King's Coronation Events

Big Picnic Lunch Sunday 7th May 12:30pm at SJCC

Celebrate the coronation and listen to the band in our beautiful church gardens. This event is open to all so please spread the word that all are welcome!!!

Community Fun Day Monday 8th May 11am-1pm at SE

Bouncy castle, games, biscuit decorating, crafts, and refreshments. Bring a picnic and catch up with family and friends!

A big thank you to everyone who supported the Churchyard Trust Afternoon Tea event last Saturday in SJ Church Centre. The delicious tea, wonderful raffle and extensive sales table together **raised £483.14** which goes towards the care and maintenance of the churchyard. Thank you.

Come and See - every Tuesday at 7:30pm SJCC Come and See is our diocese-wide big, warm open invitation to everyone for an adventure in faith and trust. We are exploring the Beatitudes, a core message from Jesus' 'sermon on the mount'. It's completely free and all are welcome. Light refreshments 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 short daily emails for *Come and See: The Beatitudes and a weekly family email* are also available online via oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see. Not too late to sign up to either or to attend on Tuesdays. Highly recommended!

Church Fete in Memorial Park 1st July 1pm - 4pm 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, please speak to Nicky (nicky@alder.ndo.co.uk), Carolyn (carolynfox@aol.com), or church office.

Save the Date

26 Mar Quench Bookstall after services @ SJ
6 - 9 April Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunday
7 May Coronation Picnic Lunch and band (SJ)
8 May King's Coronation Community Fun Day (SE)
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, Angela Mills, Hugh Dempster, Simon Lynch

And those who mourn the loss of loved ones: Irene Dalzell (Revd Tonia's Mother), Ray Leftley, Catherine Livanos, Mary Dewhurst

Readings and Prayers for 19 March 2023: LENT 4 COME AND SEE – THE BEATITUDES (4)

Ezekiel 36.16, 24-36

God assures Israel of restoration; The promise of a new heart of flesh and not of stone is only fulfilled through faith in Jesus.

¹⁶ The word of the Lord came to me: ‘

²⁴ I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the countries, and bring you into your own land. ²⁵ I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. ²⁶ A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. ²⁸ Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God. ²⁹ I will save you from all your uncleannesses, and I will summon the grain and make it abundant and lay no famine upon you. ³⁰ I will make the fruit of the tree and the produce of the field abundant, so that you may never again suffer the disgrace of famine among the nations. ³¹ Then you shall remember your evil ways, and your dealings that were not good; and you shall loathe yourselves for your iniquities and your abominable deeds. ³² It is not for your sake that I will act, says the Lord God; let that be known to you. Be ashamed and dismayed for your ways, O house of Israel. ³³ Thus says the Lord God: On the day that I cleanse you from all your iniquities, I will cause the towns to be inhabited, and the waste places shall be rebuilt. ³⁴ The land that was desolate shall be tilled, instead of being the desolation that it was in the sight of all who passed by. ³⁵ And they will say, ‘This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden; and the waste and desolate and ruined towns are now inhabited and fortified.’ ³⁶ Then the nations that are left all around you shall know that I, the Lord, have rebuilt the ruined places, and replanted that which was desolate; I, the Lord, have spoken, and I will do it.

Galatians 6.9-18

St Paul says that it is not circumcision but the new creation through the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ that brings salvation.

⁹ So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. ¹⁰ So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith. ¹¹ See what large letters I make when I am writing in my own hand! ¹² It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that try to compel you to be circumcised—only that

they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. ¹³ Even the circumcised do not themselves obey the law, but they want you to be circumcised so that they may boast about your flesh. ¹⁴ May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. ¹⁵ For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! ¹⁶ As for those who will follow this rule—peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God. ¹⁷ From now on, let no one make trouble for me; for I carry the marks of Jesus branded on my body. ¹⁸ May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.

Matthew 9:2-13

Jesus ministry and saving work of Jesus is revealed in his healing of a paralytic and his offer of a new beginning.

² And just then some people were carrying a paralysed man lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, ‘Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven.’ ³ Then some of the scribes said to themselves, ‘This man is blaspheming.’ ⁴ But Jesus, perceiving their thoughts, said, ‘Why do you think evil in your hearts? ⁵ For which is easier, to say, “Your sins are forgiven”, or to say, “Stand up and walk”? ⁶ But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins’—he then said to the paralytic—‘Stand up, take your bed and go to your home.’ ⁷ And he stood up and went to his home. ⁸ When the crowds saw it, they were filled with awe, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to human beings.

⁹ As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, ‘Follow me.’ And he got up and followed him.

¹⁰ And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax-collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. ¹¹ When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, ‘Why does your teacher eat with tax-collectors and sinners?’ ¹² But when he heard this, he said, ‘Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³ Go and learn what this means, “I desire mercy, not sacrifice.” For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.’

Collect

God of love, passionate and strong, tender and careful: watch over us and hold us all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post Communion

Loving God, as a mother feeds her children at the breast you feed us in this sacrament with the food and drink of eternal life: help us who have tasted your goodness to grow in grace within the household of faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord.