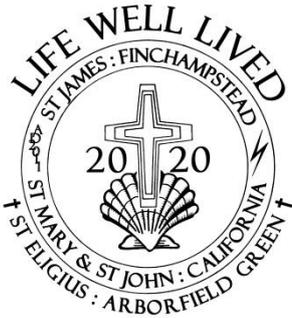


## **Parish of Finchampstead and California**



# **GROWING LIVING FAITH** **(GLF)2020**

**Our hope for 2020:**

***That every member of each of our churches will consider signing up to one or more of our GLF activities in order to deepen their faith and commitment to our Lord.***

This booklet sets out the plans made by the GLF and Ministry Teams in order to help our congregations develop a Growing Living Faith in 2020. Where details are not yet available, more information will be available later on. At the end of the booklet there is also a short list of other resources you might like to consider for personal use. Today you will also be offered a bookmark, designed by members of the GLF Team which include the words '***I commit to...***' for you to use for your own personal response to the opportunities on offer.

## **HEADLINES FOR 2020**

### **CELEBRATING PSALM 23**

We were delighted to be approached by the Bible Society early last year to see if we would be interested in contributing to their bid to enter a garden, based on Psalm 23, for Chelsea 2020. Last July a film crew spent a day with us focussing upon the way that we use our grounds in order to promote biodiversity and opportunities for mission and community involvement. Just before Christmas we heard the exciting news that the garden has been accepted for Chelsea (19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> May) and that our part in the story will 'go live' this month. For more details see <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/psalm-23/>. In order to further celebrate our part in this project we are offering a day of Prayer and Praise on



## **SATURDAY 6<sup>th</sup> JUNE**

Following a morning of quiet contemplation we will gather for an afternoon of praise and celebration – more details to follow.

## **PRAYER & WORSHIP DURING THE WEEK**

***A growing living faith will be fostered, nurtured and underpinned by prayer. We have a number of opportunities to offer:***

### **MORNING PRAYER at St JAMES**

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 9.30am in church

### **PRAYER MEETING at St ELIGIUS**

Tuesday at 9.30am in the Memorial Chapel

### **THE PRAYER CHAIN**

The Prayer Chain is a group of people, clergy and lay, who respond to an urgent request for prayer. Names and needs are passed round with the permission of the person concerned in a completely confidential manner. The substance of the request is kept concise and messages are never left on answer phones. To ask for a prayer to be passed round the Prayer Chain contact any of the clergy or Paula Vicary 0118 973 0587.



### **Other opportunities:**

### **QUIET MORNING/ MORNING OF CONTEMPLATION**

Join us at St James on **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June** from 9.30am onwards for a morning of peace and quiet – explore our grounds with our ‘Tree and Prayer Walk’, sit quietly in church, or participate in our labyrinth.

### **MID-WEEK COMMUNION**

***This is another opportunity to nourish your faith in a more informal (and usually warmer!) setting, including a short reflection and coffee to follow.***

1<sup>st</sup> Tues in month at 12.15 St Eligius with Tuesday Fellowship\*\*

1<sup>st</sup> Weds in month at 10.00am St Mary and St John Parish Centre

2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>\*, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> Weds in month at 10.00am St James’ Church Centre

\*\*See below for more details

\* Intercessions led by MU

## **DEVELOPING A GROWING LIVING FAITH**

### **On a personal level:**

#### **PERSONAL DISCIPLESHIP PLANS (PDPs)**

PDPs are a bit like a spiritual equivalent of a medical check-up. They provide an opportunity to anyone who would like to take advantage of them for a confidential discussion with one of the clergy about faith and where it is leading. A PDP is a conversation, not an assessment, and may or may not lead you to take a next or different step in faith. The clergy, who are subject to a similar but more rigorous ministry review each year, feel that the chance of such an open-ended discussion may be a real benefit to many in our congregations. Experience of PDPs from those who have already taken up this opportunity has been almost exclusively positive. If you might be interested, speak initially to Canon John.

***For information about Spiritual Direction speak to Janet Clements***

### **Collectively:**

#### **Courses**

##### **ALPHA**



The Alpha course seeks to introduce people to the basics of the Christian faith through teaching, discussion and fellowship around a shared meal. It is described by its organisers as "an opportunity to explore the meaning of life". For details of our next course, which will take place in Autumn 2020, speak to Revd Tonia, who will lead it with the support of other church members drawn from our three congregations.

## **PILGRIM**



Pilgrim is a suite of courses aimed at those who are already Christians and want to find out more about their faith. The courses normally run for six sessions and are devoted to one of four topics: belief, worship, behaviour, and vision. Each of these courses is available at two levels - a basic one (*Follow: Turning to Christ; The Lord's Prayer; The Commandments; The Beatitudes*) and a more advanced one (*Grow: The Creeds; The Eucharist; The Bible; Church and Kingdom*).

Dates for 2020:

### ***Follow***

Speak to Revd Tonia for more details of courses being offered at this level

### ***Grow***

The two topics we will be offering this year will be

**The Eucharist** - during the Summer term

**The Creeds** - during the Autumn term

Watch out for more details or speak to Canon John/ Revd Gemma.



## **LENT LECTURES 2020**



Our theme for this year is:

### ***INSPIRED BY...***

*This year's lectures are looking at Lent, Holy Week & Easter from the different perspectives provided by the topics which **INSPIRE** our speakers.*

#### **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March**

Canon Mark Oakley, Dean of St John's College, Cambridge  
Inspired by Poetry

#### **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March**

Mrs Beverley Stevens, Head Teacher of Ranelagh School  
Inspired by Literature

#### **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March**

The Rt Revd Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Chelmsford, Archbishop Ebor elect  
Inspired by Art

#### **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March**

Revd John Castle, Rector of Sandhurst  
Inspired by Scripture

#### **Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March**

Canon Julie Ramsbottom, Rector of Finchampstead and California  
Inspired by Music

#### **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April**

Canon John Edwards, Associate Minister of Finchampstead and California  
Inspired by Stained Glass

**At St James Church Centre – coffee at 7.45pm for 8.00pm 5.**

## **SERMON SERIES**

As ever we will be offering a number of sermon series through the year, which seek to connect with the courses and events being highlighted in 2020. These will include:



**The Eucharist** Jan/Feb (in preparation for our Pilgrim Course)

**Celebrating the Psalms** August (linked to Psalm 23)

**What We Believe** Autumn (linked to the Pilgrim course on the Creeds)

### **Groups:**

#### **MONDAY AFTERNOON DISCUSSION GROUP**

This informal group meets on a Monday afternoon beginning this term on January 13<sup>th</sup> from 2 to 3pm (to allow for school pickup) at St James Church Centre.

The topics for discussion vary: sometimes they pick up on the Sunday readings, at other times they reflect the current Pilgrim course . All materials will be supplied.

Everyone is very welcome to come along and give it a try. Any queries to Canon John.

## **TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP**

This ecumenical house group meets at St Eligius on Tuesdays at 12.15pm for study, worship and fellowship, ending with a light lunch. Prayer and pastoral care are key to this group. The first Tuesday in the month is a service of Holy Communion. For more details speak to Larry le Var 01252 372320 or Revd Tonia

## **LADIES' BREAKFASTS**

This group, led by Carolyn Fox, meets on a number of Saturdays during the year at St James Parish Centre from 9.00am – 10.00am (setting up at 8.45am and clearing away after 10.00 am for those able to help). Lots of friendly chat over dishes of delicious fruit salad, yoghurt, continental breakfast, followed by a short 'thought for the day/week' and a prayer.

Dates for 2020 are : 25 January , 7 March , 16 May ,

11 July , 12 Sept, 14 Nov

For more details contact Carolyn Fox. 01189732262/07779724090

## **MOTHERS' UNION**



This group, now led by a small committee, is putting together the programme for 2020. Meetings take place on the second Thursday in the month at St James Church Centre at 2.00pm. All welcome – men and women.

Jan 9<sup>th</sup> Speaker from Sebastian's Action Trust

### **MU Prayer**

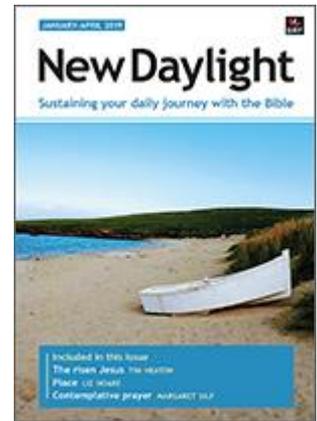
*Thank you for your love so freely given to us all.  
We pray for families around the world. Bless the work of the Mothers' Union as we seek to share your love through the encouragement, strengthening and support of marriage and family life. Empowered by your Spirit, may we be united in prayer and worship, and in love and service reach out as your hands across the world. In Jesus' name. Amen*

## **RESOURCES**

***BRF New Daylight notes – available via the Parish Office***

***0118 973 0133 Mon – Fri 10.00am – 12 noon***

*'Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.'* (Psalm 119: 105; NIV)



***A daily email prompt, a 50-day series from LICC:***

**[www.licc.org.uk/ourresources/whole-life-whole-bible](http://www.licc.org.uk/ourresources/whole-life-whole-bible)**



*Walk through the story of the whole Bible, and how it can shape your whole life, in 50 readings with teaching, in a book, email series, or YouVersion reading plan.*

### **Members of the GLF Team:**

Janet Clements (Chair)

Canon Julie (until June 2020) then Revd Gemma

Revd Tonia

Helen Anderson

Chris Ilsley

Sally Marsden

Bev Mitchell

Karen Remmington

Joy Scovell

*To join this team please contact Janet Clements via the Parish Office*