



## **Finchampstead & California Parish News 29<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

Parish Office, Baptism, Wedding, or Funerals, please ring 0118 9730133  
Church Centre bookings for St James'; Sue Sampson 0118 9732069  
Parish Centre bookings St Mary & St John's; Marjorie Stalker 01344 779636  
Email: office@stjames.finchampstead.co.uk Website: parish.finchampstead.co.uk  
To receive notices by email, see 'Subscribe to Updates' on our website homepage  
Notices Contact: parishnotices@finchampstead.co.uk  
Social Media: joannemyall@hotmail.co.uk



**Facebook :** <https://www.facebook.com/StJamesFinchampstead/>

**You Tube :** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBROBFfWjqOwt9smqlzhv-w>

### **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November – Advent Sunday**

**9.30am Family Service** - (Facebook or You Tube). Join Revd. Tonia for this week's service - don't forget to download the Family Activities pack

**11.00am Parish Communion** – Join Canon John and Revd. Gemma on Facebook or You Tube - \*print off the Sermon and the Prayers from this mailing.

### **Week - days**

Use the **Thoughts for the Day** prepared by Canon John based on the readings for this week's Morning Prayer. To access Morning Prayer online go to <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>

**6pm** The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have issued a call to prayer as England enters its new lockdown. They have invited every Christian and person of good will to pray at **6pm every day**, for as long as the lockdown lasts. A prayer card is available at [https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-11/15348%20PftN%20Booklet\\_6th%20PROOF.pdf](https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-11/15348%20PftN%20Booklet_6th%20PROOF.pdf) and further resources at <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches/call-prayer-nation>.

**8.30 pm 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday - Quiet Space Service** - Facebook and You Tube *More info- Revd. Gemma- revgemmaw@outlook.com*

A 'come as you are' service to explore our fears, worries and laments in a safe space. Exploring different reflection and contemplative prayer practices, as well as spending some quiet time bringing ourselves before God

### **Prayer**

God our Father, you have blessed our parish so greatly over the years; we pray for all its people at this difficult time and for our Christian witness together. Send us the right person as Rector, to lead us on the path you have chosen for us. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Notices:**

#### **Reopening after lockdown**

We will start taking bookings again for services in church:

Sunday 6 December 11am at St James

Sunday 13 December 8am at St James

Sunday 13 December 11am St Eligius

**Please email or phone the office to register your desire to attend no later than the preceding Friday by 10am. St. James' remains open for private prayer on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 10am and 12pm**

### **St Eligius Church**

After many years of very difficult technical issues having to be resolved, the PCC agreed to go ahead with the purchase of St Eligius Church in Arborfield Green. Like any sale nothing is guaranteed until the final contract is signed but we feel we are very close now to owning a building which can be used for the current congregation and the mission into the community. Please do be praying for all the necessary pieces to come together smoothly and give thanks to God for the way he has been faithful in bringing the parish to this significant place in its history.

### **Angels**

As part of this years outreach into the Arborfield Community and possibly beyond we are asking people to knit angels that we can distribute into the community for them to hang in there windows. I have been reassured that the knitting pattern is very easy to follow and is even suitable for beginners. If you would like to get involved in bringing a smile to peoples faces, then please get in touch with me and I will give you further details. Thank you, Tonia.

### **A Call to Prayer**

At present there is nothing more important that we can do but to pray! On Wednesday 4 November, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York and Bishop of London called the Church of England to pray for the nation throughout the month of November. Maybe you could put a reminder on your phone to help you to do this?

As a parish we are going to join together to pray at 6pm on a Monday evening for 1/2 hour on zoom for the rest of November. If you would like to join us, please do follow this link.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72592868080?pwd=amlIMytsQmNNbUxLQkYNUZLRGRSQ09>

I look forward to seeing you there. Tonia

### **Giving to God and his church**

Thank you so much to everyone who gives regularly by direct bank transfer to support our parish. During the pandemic we are continuing to monitor our finances very closely and reduce spending.

But it is clear that we face a very significant shortfall in income this year. If you are able to help, perhaps by increasing your monthly gift to maintain its value, or by starting to give by monthly bank transfer, please update your instructions directly if you bank online, or contact me for assistance.

Bank instruction forms are available in our churches. For convenience, our bank details follow. Please do help if you can at this really difficult time for the parish. Every good wish. Robert. [robert@alder.ndo.co.uk](mailto:robert@alder.ndo.co.uk)

Parish of Finchampstead and California. CAF Bank. Sort Code 40-52-40, Account number 0002 2949

### **St James church heating update.**

A faculty (planning permission) to go ahead with the heating changes was signed off and we were notified last week. We are now planning the work to be undertaken early in the new year taking into account the current lockdown, availability of contractors and our wish to have use of SJ church during December services. We will continue to keep you informed about timing. Best wishes from your SJ churchwardens.

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**Parish Intercessions List – Please pray for:** Joyce Beckett, Bridget, Sophie Hall, Thea, Kate, Ann Pask, Colin Ramsay McClaren, Natalie, Louise, Reuben, Rosalind Drury, Simon, Bernadette, Andrew, Dennis Hall, Sarah, Daniel, Jack, Mary Whalley, June & Tom Warr, Hazel & Maurice Levy, Ann, Bob Brooks, Ann Symmonds, Doreen and family, Linda Whiteside, Claire, Steve Prosser, the Thomas family, Amber and Paige, James, David Powell, the McAllen family, Bob Helliwell, Pamela Redford, Meg Hostler