



Finchampstead & California Parish News 31st January 2021

Parish Office, Baptism, Wedding, or Funerals, please ring 0118 9730133

Church Centre bookings for St James'; Sue Sampson 0118 9732069

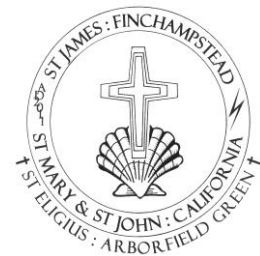
Parish Centre bookings St Mary & St John's; Marjorie Stalker 01344 779636

Email: office@stjames.finchampstead.co.uk Website: parish.finchampstead.co.uk

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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 31st January – The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

9.30am Family Service - (Facebook or You Tube). Join Revd. Tonia and Revd. Gemma for this week's service – You can download the Family Activities pack [here](#)

11.00am Parish Communion – Join Canon John on Facebook or You Tube – You can print off the Sermon and the Prayers [here](#)

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>

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:

An update about the work to select our new Rector

A selection panel including 3 representatives of the parish interviewed four candidates on 15th January. We are incredibly grateful for the support of all members of the PCC during the preparation for a very efficient and thorough interview process. After due and prayerful consideration, the Panel unanimously felt that the right person was not among the candidates who were interviewed, and as a result we did not offer an appointment. This is disappointing and it will extend the vacancy by a further period, but it is so important that the right person is appointed. We will readvertise the post very soon and keep you informed as plans come to fruition. Please do continue to pray for everyone involved in this process and for the person God is calling still to be our next Rector.

Best wishes to you all at this difficult time. Your churchwardens.

Monthly Evening Prayer Meeting at 8pm via Zoom

Come and join us on Zoom as we gather on for our monthly evening prayer meeting. Due to PCC Meetings falling on a Monday we have decided to move the monthly meeting to a Thursday evening. For more information contact Revd Julian at julian@finchampstead.co.uk or 0118 973 5876

St James' church heating changes

Modifications to the heating in St James' church started on Saturday 16th January. We currently expect the work to take 3-4 weeks. We are sorry that SJ church will not be available for any purpose during this period, including private prayer. If you would like prayers to be said by the ministry team don't hesitate to contact Rev Julian or the parish office.

Wanted: A volunteer to give IT Support

The PCC is seeking someone to give IT support from time to time, mainly to the Church Office, preferably someone with professional expertise. Could this be you? Contact me initially, please. Carolyn Fox PCC Secretary carolynfox@aol.com 07779724090

Giving to God and his church

Can you help please? Thank you so much to everyone who gives regularly to support our parish and its mission, and those who have made recent gifts. During the pandemic we are continuing to monitor our finances very closely and reduce spending as much as we can. But we face a large shortfall in income, currently estimated to result in a shortfall of at least £40,000 in the year just ended. If you can, there are at least 3 ways in which you might help. Perhaps you could make a gift to our parish in thanks that God is working through us all during 2021, praying for better times soon. Alternatively, please carefully consider whether you can increase your monthly gift to maintain its value, or if you have joined us, by starting to give by monthly bank transfer. Please give electronically if you can. Bank instruction forms are available on request. For convenience, our bank details follow. You are welcome to contact me if you have a question about this. Please do help if you can at this really difficult time for the whole parish. Every good wish. Robert.
robert@alder.ndo.co.uk Parish of Finchampstead and California No. 1 account. Sort Code 40-52-40, Account number 00013727

Quench Bookshop – The Real Easter Egg

Quench is now taking orders for the Real Easter Egg - Fairtrade chocolate, palm oil free, no plastic packaging and the added bonus of sharing the real message of Easter! The Original Milk Chocolate Eggs are £4.50, Dark are £5.50 and the Specials are £9.99. GOOD NEWS! This year sees the introduction of a white chocolate edition for £4.50! As usual, each one comes with an Easter story/activity booklet. The Special Edition comes with an orange milk chocolate bar and a limited edition A5 Easter Card.

Please email admin@quenchshops.com to place your order ASAP (ideally by 3rd Feb) Thank you!

A tribute to gardener Darren Wise following his sudden and tragic death

It was over three years ago when we first contracted ‘our Darren’ to look after both the churchyard at St James’ and the surrounding Manor House grounds.

He tucked into the job and worked his magic almost instantly as if he had been there for years. He built up a friendly rapport with everyone he bumped into and made the campus his own.

The churchyard and MH grounds were never an easy ‘garden’, quite extensive with all sorts of nooks and crannies with various ups and downs. Not to mention all the lawnmower hazards created by the large number of stone memorials to negotiate!!

Darren always had a friendly word and a chat with whosoever was passing through, either dog-walker or bereaving visitor. He was also always helpful when we had a burial or committal giving that grave area just a little bit of a tidy up to make it look quiet and peaceful for the occasion.

His passing is enormously sad and we will miss his calm and quiet Friday presence getting on with the cutting and strimming, and the multitude of other gardening jobs that he willingly undertook.

He was such a nice chap and always happy to help out on anything, even offering his assistance on the church fete. We shall miss him but remember him when we pass by ‘his’ triangle which was created so that he did not have to slow down on his lawnmower when passing the corner!!! (We intend to make more of that area of the churchyard in his memory and mark it with a plaque.)

Dear Darren, much remembered with love and thanks.

Helen Taylor Churchyard Trust. Jan’ 2021.

Names are listed for one calendar month. Please contact the Parish Office each month to confirm names as needed.

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, June 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, Bob Helliwell, Pamela Redford, Meg Hostler, Barbara Hill and family

And those who mourn the loss of their loved ones: Darren Wise