

1802 - 1817



ST JAMES THE GREAT
SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH



THE JOURNEY THROUGH YOUR LIFE

The Church has always celebrated (through sacrament and through its teachings) the key events in a person's life.

Baptism

The Baptism is held at the Font, and for this sacrament, St James' has two. One (located just in front of the glass doors into the Nave) was gifted to St James' when St John's church in Aberdeen moved to new premises, and dates back to the mid-1850s.

The second, larger, now situated in the Baptistry one was donated in memory of Very Revd William Leslie Christie in 1934.



Font

Communion

Until recently, a young person would be taught about his religion in a series of lessons leading up to Confirmation by the Bishop, which then allowed him/her to start taking communion (the celebration of the Last Supper). In more recent times, this requirement has been relaxed, and now any baptised person (from any Christian denomination) is welcome to join in the communion.

For this liturgy, sometimes called the Eucharist, a Paten (the small silver plate to hold the bread) and a Communion Cup (for the wine) are used. Older examples are in the silverware cabinet, but of course we have more modern ones in regular use.

Marriage

Long before Registrars of Birth Marriages and Deaths were appointed (and registration become a statutory requirement in Scotland in 1855), the church celebrated marriage with a special and well-known service. This is still available, and in 2017, the Scottish Episcopal Church removed the gender requirement, and now permits same-sex marriage ceremonies.

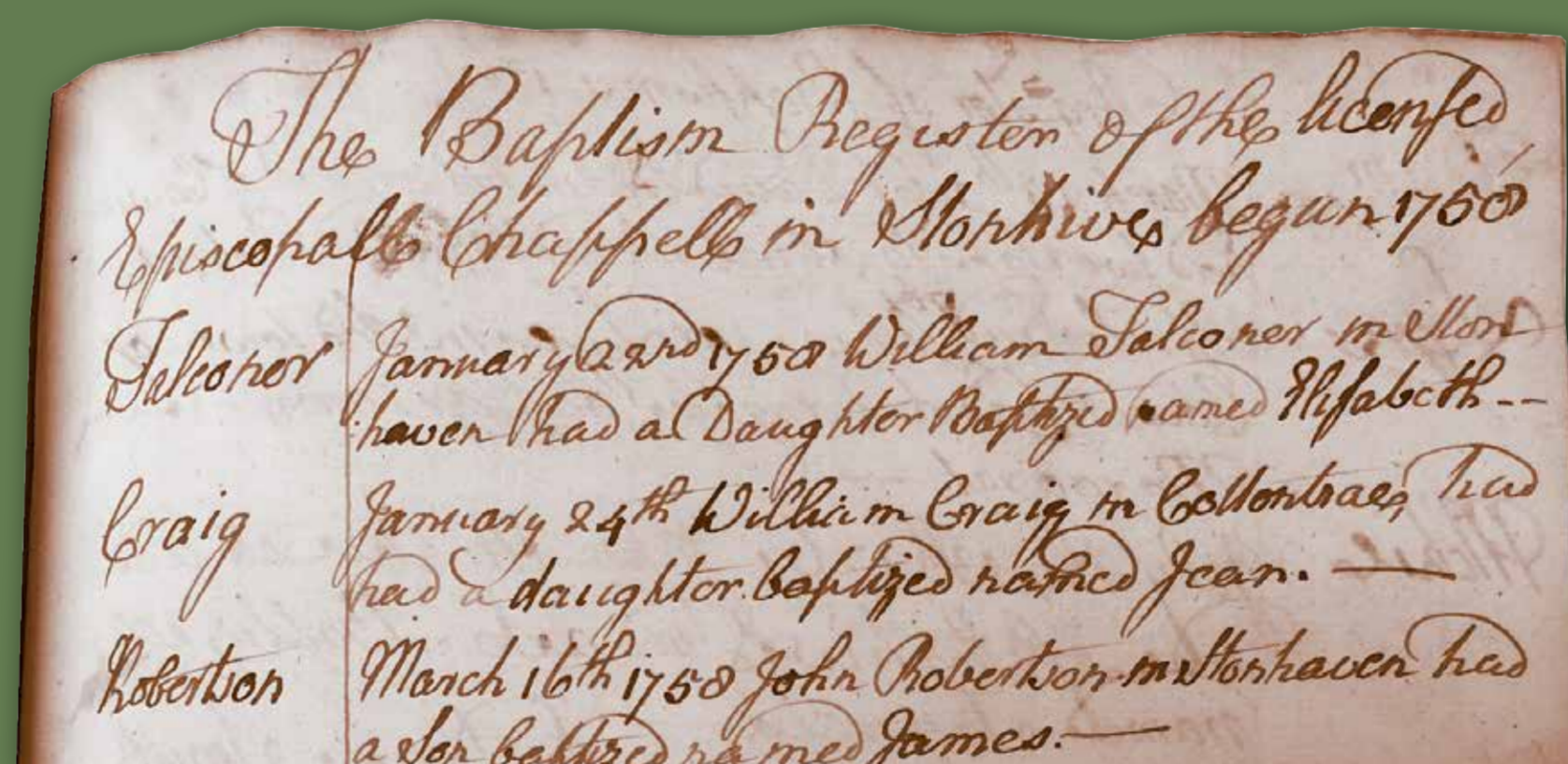
Death

Before cremation was introduced (starting in 1885, but not becoming common until the second half of the 20th century), churches provided a funeral and a space for burials. St James does not have a graveyard, but only has a Garden of Rest, where ashes may be interred.

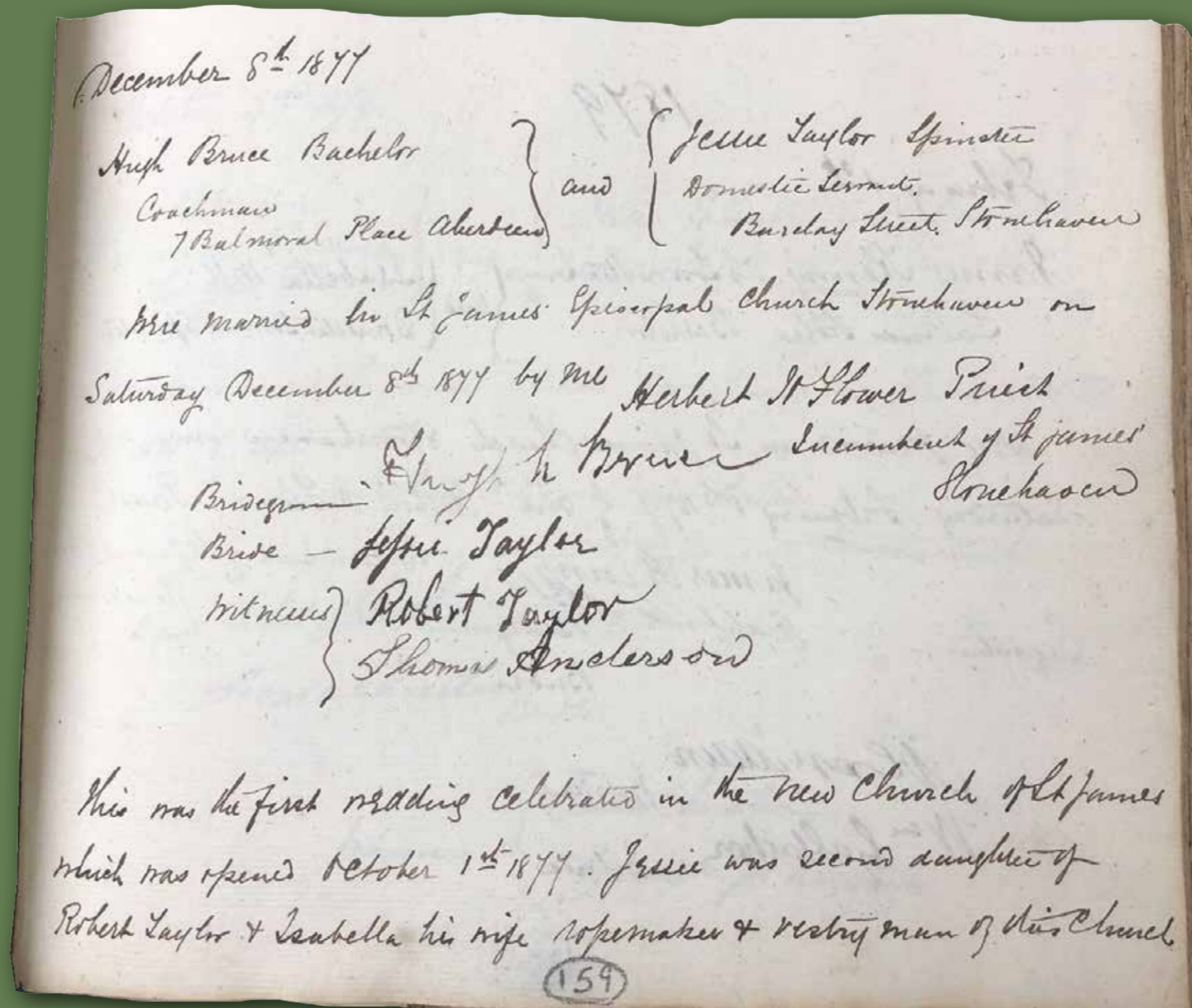
The Registers

All these life events are recorded formally in the church's Registers, and these are held securely in the archives (either here or in Dundee). Access can be granted by appointment.

St. James has copies going back to 1756. A copy of the first baptism record is displayed.



First Baptism (above) and First Wedding Recording (below) in the new church



More information can be found by visiting our website www.stjames-stonehaven.org.uk