

Our Website

The church's website at

www.stjames-stonehaven.org.uk

contains all the things that you expect on a church website. In addition, it contains full details and graphics that are on display in the exhibition, and much extra background information suitable for research.

Group Visits

If you would like a special visit for a group, whether for educational purposes or any other interest, please contact us to make the arrangements.

Speakers

If your club or organisation would like to have a speaker talking about any part of these Exhibition Spaces and their subject matter, please get in touch.

Educational

The Exhibition Spaces are a resource for a number of curriculum ideas. As a Victorian building (opened in 1877) it contains many interesting items, which are explained. A library of lessons plans is being created.

As a musical resource, the Wardle organ is in regular use, and the Demonstrator organ shows how it all works. We also have a Bluthner grand piano and a harpsichord. All these instruments are available to be played.

The Demonstrator organ can be used as a practical example of many aspects of the Physics curriculum (mechanics, acoustics, hydraulics).



Thanks

These Exhibition Spaces have been generously funded by a number of funds including

- > Aberdeenshire Council
- > Diocese of Brechin
- > John S Cohen Trust
- > Alan Evans Memorial Trust
- > Fife Environmental Trust
- > Garfield Weston
- > Heritage Lottery Fund
- > Luscombe Trust
- > SUEZ Communities Trust

and many individual contributions, and with money raised by the St James' Book Browse.

St James' Vestry is very grateful to all for their support, and for the work of many volunteers who have contributed to the creation of the Exhibition.

How to find us

St James' church is at the end of Arbuthnott Street, Stonehaven AB39 2JB. The church is open during daylight hours every day. Parking is available in the street or the churchyard. The building is disabled-friendly, and has Wi-Fi available.

Find out more

Much of the detail of the exhibition is on the church web site at www.stjames-stonehaven.org.uk

or see us on Facebook or telephone 01569 764473.

Gift Aid

Please remember that, if you are UK taxpayer, you can gift aid any donations, so increasing the value by 25%. Please see the facilities in the church, or ask us for details.



PRIESTS & PIPES

A permanent Exhibition showing the history of St James over three centuries



A new and exciting visitor attraction in Stonehaven.

- > Explore the fascinating history of the Church in Stonehaven over 3 centuries
- > View books and church items that have withstood the ravages of time
- > Interact with and play a church organ and find out how it works
- > Trace the life and work of John Wardle, organ-builder, and his long association with St James.
- > and enjoy the coolest Augmented Reality App to explain the beautiful Grade A listed building.

What does the Exhibition contain?

Two exciting and beautiful Exhibition Spaces enhance the Grade A listed building that is regularly used for worship.

One Exhibition Space celebrates and explains the fascinating history of the Episcopal Church, particularly in Stonehaven since the 1688 Glorious Revolution until the present day. The display includes a number of historical books, pewterware and silverware dating from the 1700s.

The other Exhibition Space celebrates and explains the role of the church organ over the centuries, especially the work of John Wardle, the Aberdeen agent for the Wadsworth companies, and who was Choirmaster and Organist at St James for 58 years.

The Spaces also include an Augmented Reality App for your phone explaining some of the architectural details of the church, and a demonstrator organ.



St James stone built chapel

A brief History of St James

From 1737 until 1877, the Episcopalian congregation worshipped in a chapel in the High Street in Stonehaven's Old Town.

The foundation stone of the existing building was laid by Bishop Penrose in 1877 and dedicated in 1885. The Baptistry at the West End was added in 1906.

The Historical Books

On display are seven historical Bibles and Prayer Books, some of which have survived for over three centuries. The books show their use, both in terms of wear and tear and some of the scribbles and annotations. These are explained and, from them, further aspects of the convoluted history of the Episcopal church can be explored.

Because of their delicate state, they are kept under glass, but they can be made fully available by arrangement.



The Burns Bible

The Pewterware and Silverware

The church has always been the recipient of beautiful gifts for use in church services. The exhibition puts on public show for the first time flagons, plates and bowls some of which can be dated back to before 1700.

Also in the glass cabinet is some of the silverware and other pieces used occasionally in our services.

Most of these were funded by the congregation in thanks for long and faithful service by their Rector.



The mother of pearl Baptismal spoon



The Demonstrator Organ

This Edwardian organ was rescued from a church in Stirlingshire, and rebuilt to show the innards, and how the organ generates its characteristic sound. It is in full working order and can be played.

Further explanations are on the panels in the Exhibition and on our web site.

< The Positiv demonstrator organ

Our Augmented Reality App

Bring your smartphone and watch the interactive display explaining the key points in the church. You can download the App from Google Playstore or App Store. Search on 'St James Shell'.



The 1788 Bell

During recent renovation works, the bell originally installed in the Episcopal Chapel in Stonehaven's High Street was discovered. The bell itself was in good condition. The mechanism has been replaced (the old remnants are in the Exhibition Spaces), and bell is now again used regularly to call people to worship, as it has over the centuries.