

Episcopal Churches of St. James' Stonehaven. St. Philip's Catterline. February 2019



Services at St. James' & St Philip's during February 2019

Sundays.

9.00 a.m. Said Eucharist

10.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist

Second Wednesday in the month.

10.30 a.m. Eucharist and Healing Service

First and Third Wednesday in the month.

9.30 a.m. Children's Service

No services at St Philip's, Catterline until further notice.

DIARY NOTES February 2019

Day/Date	Event
3rd February Candlemas	9.00 Reserved Sacrament. Arma Iles. 10.30 Holy Eucharist. Rev. Jane Nelson
7th February	9.30 Children's Service
10th February 5th Sunday in Epiphany	9.00 Reserved Sacrament. Arma Iles. 10.30 Holy Eucharist. Bishop Andrew
14th February	10.30 Eucharist and Healing Service. Arma Iles.
17th February 6th Sunday in Epiphany	9.00 Reserved Sacrament. Arma Iles. 10.30 Reserved Sacrament. Arma Iles
21st February	9.30 Children's Service
24th February 7th Sunday in Epiphany	9.00 Reserved Sacrament. Arma Iles. 10.30 Songs of Praise. Anne O'Gorman/David Fleming

Reflection from Peter Sharp

In the past the first item in our newsletter had been written by the rector or interim rector. While Bishop Andrew is acting as our interim rector he felt that it would be helpful if the writing of this article was shared among a number of people. So I have set up a rota involving David, Anne and Arma as well as Bishop Andrew and myself which means that you should, at least, get some variety.

I am not in a position to write what has, in the past, been a pastoral letter. So my contribution will be more of a reflection – which might be considered to be rather a wander around a number of issues, not all of which are theologically sound.

I have resolved the problem of answering the question as to what I would like for Christmas by setting up an Amazon wish-list. So people can choose from a number of possible gifts that might have crossed my mind during the year, although it is almost entirely books or DVDs. One book that I received as a gift this year was Stephen Hawking's "Brief Answers to the Big Questions". I am usually sceptical of scientists who have achieved a celebrity status, not because they often popularise science (there is certainly a need for that) but because fame suddenly makes them experts in a whole range of issues. This is, of course, a failing of popular figures in many areas, not just science but, as a scientist myself, I am particularly sensitive about this.

Hawking's "Big Questions" range from those on which he is an expert, such as "What is inside a black hole?" to those in which he seems to be straying outside his expertise such as "Is there a God?" Now, there is no reason why a scientist, or indeed any other person, should not look for answers to the question about the existence of God and so I was interested in his thoughts. Just

as a spoiler his answer is that there is no need to postulate the existence of a God to explain the creation of the universe. He uses concepts from quantum theory to postulate that the laws of science, as we understand them at present, are sufficient to explain how the universe might be created out of nothing, with time not existing before the Big Bang.

What he says is a theory and so may or may not be true. My personal view is that the case is not proven; Stephen Hawking has produced a theory of creation that is interesting and challenging and one which future experimental measurements will either support or disprove. Should it prove to be a valid explanation of the creation of the universe, would that mean belief in God is false? I think not but it does emphasise the fact that religious views must change and adapt as, indeed, they have done for centuries as scientific knowledge has pulled aside the cloak of superstition which governed they way that our ancestors thought of the world.

I have used the following quotation several times but I make no apology for using it again as I think it clearly sums up the relationship between science and religion.

Science can purify religion from error and superstition; religion can purify science from idolatry and false absolutes. Each can draw the other into a wider world, a world in which both can flourish. (Pope John Paul II in a publication entitled *Physics, Philosophy and Theology: A Common Quest for Understanding*).

The 'Reflection Area'

We have now had the Votive Candle Stand in the south east corner of the nave for some time, and it is believed that most people are content with that location. However, there is now a

proposal to make some improvements to this area, and to complete it as a 'Reflection Area'. Already the area is equipped with the Candle Stand, the triptych of pictures on the wall, a bookcase of contemplative reading material, a prayer desk and two chairs. A pew in front of the piano completes the area.

The improvements proposed are as follows. First, the prayer desk is fitted up against the pillar, with only stonework to guide one's thoughts. It is suggested that a modest crucifix is fixed to the flat surface of the stone. There is already a fixing in place, so there might have been something there previously.

The area is a bit of a dark corner, and so some extra lighting might be appropriate. It is recommended that we obtain two low-wattage LED spotlights, fix them to the top of the stone pillar and focus them on the crucifix and the triptych. These may be controlled by a PIR switch so that they only come on when people are around.

Some people are concerned about the nearness of the velvet curtain to the candles, so we could fit a 'preventer' to stop the curtain swinging too much to the left.

Lastly, partly for safety reasons, it is recommended that the flooring under the Candle Stand is enhanced with some large decorative tiles, perhaps 12 in all, laid, for the moment, on top of the existing carpet tiles. The standard size seems to be 22.5 cm square. So, three rows of four would look correct.

All these improvements would necessitate a Canon 35 application to the Diocesan Building Committee for approval. If you have any thoughts on these ideas, can you please let Peter Sharp or David Fleming know by 17th February so that your views can be included in the application.

Social Committee.

It is always very pleasant to start this report with a big thank you. Thank you for all the support we received at the Christmas Coffee morning in early December. We raised in total £707.49, this included a very generous donation from Trish Hunter on her craft stall and cakes sold on Sunday morning in church.

Thank you again for all your contributions, hard work before and on the day and for supporting the event.

The ladies will be meeting on the afternoon of Monday 18th February at Val's home at 2 pm. for a committee meeting to discuss this year's fund raisers. Everyone who would like to attend is very welcome, just speak to Val or Anne.

Val Cadd (Social Convenor)

Church Flowers

Thank you very much Anne and Pam for your super assistance the weekend before Christmas organising and decorating the church and thank you to Jean for donating the altar flowers. Thank you to Diana and Tony for the beautiful Christmas tree you bought for the church and to Arma, John and Edward for assisting in its placement and decoration - fabulous teamwork all round.

The church has flowers at the altar from Christmas until the Sunday before Lent - Sunday 3rd March and then from Easter Sunday - Sunday 21st April until the Sunday before Advent - Sunday 24th November.

If anyone would like to put flowers at the altar for a 'something

special to them' please let Val or Anne know (a few weeks before hand would help please) because it would be lovely to have them. I will put Easter arrangements in next month's magazine.

Val Cadd (Flower Convenor)

Vestry Minutes 28th November 2018

Bishop Andrew in attendance.

Matters Arising

Anne has still to contact George McGillvray about the Stonehaven Guide.

The census report has been completed prior to being sent to the diocese.

David has not heard back about the HLF grant, applied for on behalf of the diocese.

Correspondence

Thank you letters have been received from Pat Millar thanking us for our hospitality to Father Kevin, and from Aberdeen Cyrenians for the Harvest Festival donation.

A letter from the Primus asking all Scottish Episcopal Churches to support the Aberlour Childcare Trust. The vestry agreed that a cheque for £100 would be sent.

Treasurer's Report

Main Account	£44,389.19
Fabric Fund Account	£13,565.72
Buildings Account	£9,431.71
St Philip's	£272.00

David has received a cheque from the Heritage Society towards the Bell Fund.

Report on St James

Peter reminded all members of the vestry that as trustees they are legally responsible for activities carried out on behalf of the vestry.

David reported that 45 people had not replied to the forms he had sent out to update the congregational roll.

Report on St Philip's

Peter had visited St Philip's and all seemed fine. We have a new energy supplier and Peter is, at present, taking monthly readings.

Anne said that Pam Levack-Moir, David and Anne Geldart had visited on Remembrance Sunday, said a prayer and lit a candle. The notice board is down and it is hoped to put this back up shortly.

Worship

David said he would like to thank everyone who helped in any way for the Remembrance Service. There were a lot of positive comments and £1,290 was raised for the British Legion.

David would like to investigate the possibility of more Stonehaven Churches together events.

The January services have been covered.

David asked about our service sheets. It was agreed that we continue to use the blue ones. We will celebrate Candlemas on 3rd February and All Saints on 3rd November.

Discussion with Bishop Andrew

There was a discussion with Bishop Andrew about our views on ministry at this end of the diocese. The vestry expressed its view that while we are managing to carry out services there was a need for a spiritual leader. The vestry also commented that, given the age of the congregation, carrying out the work load can be a problem.

The bishop spoke about plans in getting people to work together and the possibility of a part-time priest shared between charges.

Fabric

Church: David reported that we have a new contractor for the Exhibition and it is hoped to install this in February.

He is still looking for volunteers to open and shut the church. We still have the borrowed bell in situ.

Fund Raising/Social

Book Browse 1st December

Coffee Morning 8th December

PVG

Irene and Anne had attended a PVG training course at Invergowrie.

There was discussion on vulnerable people.

For safety reasons it was decided that two people will be responsible for ensuring the church is cleared at the end of the service and that they leave together.

AOCB

Doreen said that four members of the congregation had

mentioned that they had had difficulty in hearing the service on Sunday. David said our mixer unit is old and he is looking at replacing this which should improve the audio system.

Anne reported that the 25th anniversary for Far and Wide went well.

Following the AGM Anne said that she had looked again at costings for seat covers for the pews. Even the cheapest version came to over 4 figures and it was agreed not to proceed with this. There will be a discussion about communications at the next meeting.

Date of next meeting: 21st January 2019

St James in the 1930s

1936: **Jan:** Death of King George V; **Feb:** Hitler launches Volkswagen motor car; **Mar:** Nazis win 99% of vote in German elections; **Apr:** King Farouk ascends Egyptian throne; **May:** Italians win Ethiopian war by occupying Addis Ababa; German troops reoccupy Rhineland; **Jul:** German airship *Hindenburg* crosses Atlantic in 46 hours; Civil war begins in Spain; **Aug:** 11th Olympic Games opened by Hitler; **Oct:** UK Labour Party refuses affiliation to Communist Party; Mrs Wallis Simpson divorces her husband, Ernest; Jarrow Marches take place; **Nov:** Crystal Palace destroyed by fire; Mussolini announces Rome-Berlin axis; Roosevelt re-elected as US president; **Dec:** Edward VIII Abdicates; Chiang Kai-Shek declares war on Japan

Also: Charlie Chaplin's film *Modern Times* opened; Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf* and Margaret Mitchell's novel *Gone with the Wind* published; BBC began TV broadcasts from Alexandra Palace; Oswald Mosley founded the British Union of Fascists.

Stonehaven-St James' Vestry Minutes

Jan: There was a deficit of £3-15s-11d after absorbing the total sum available from the annual sale. There was a decrease of £23 on the Free Will Offering and £8 on the ordinary collections. It was agreed to undertake an inspection of the Parsonage. The Congregational Meeting would be held in the Shepherds Hall in February. Mrs Alexander was to be asked to do the catering.

Feb: Rev Symon referred to the past history of Stonehaven when there were many fishing vessels in the harbour, much industry in Stonehaven and a number of large industrial families belonging to St James. However we had much to be thankful for - a self-supporting church maintaining itself in times that were definitely hostile to church going. Permanent members attached to the church were 404, the number of communicants 303. This was a slight decrease owing to departures from the town. A deficit of £3-15s-11d was wiped out by the generosity of a lady of the congregation and a good jumble sale had further increased funds. After voting for new vestry members, tea was served and a collection taken. Then a programme of music was given.

Feb: A special meeting was called to consider the question of buying a house that was due to be sold by auction the next day. The house had a kitchen, dining room, and rooms suitable for study and drawing room but seemed deficient in bedroom accommodation. The vestry considered its suitability of situation and price and what would be required to put it in good order. The house was in Queens Road. It was agreed that the church should acquire it for a sum not more than £725. It was also pointed out that a similar sum could be spent on the present house. It was then agreed to consult the architects (Messrs Mells & Shepherd) about building a new house on a different site but adjacent to the present house.

The date of the collection of seat rents was fixed for 11th and 18th March after the Lent services.

Mar: A letter was read from Mr Shepherd of the architects. A partial reconstruction of the parsonage could be carried out for a sum not much more than £700 but he was not in favour of such a scheme. A new home would be better but would cost £1800 - £2000. The vestry then reviewed all possibilities:

Building a new house was impossible unless some generous individual felt moved to make up the amount required. It was resolved to insert a statement in the monthly magazine to call forth any possible response before finally discarding the idea of an entirely new house. Buying a house elsewhere was felt to be the easiest way but that depended on suitable houses turning up on the market. It was felt that the market should be tested by an advertisement and also to find out what the present house would fetch. It was felt that some advice might be taken on the partial reconstruction scheme and the complete reconstruction scheme.

A letter was read from a member of the congregation complaining of the inadequacy of the heating and the cleaning of the church. It was agreed to write to Mr Reid to say that the fire was to be put on Saturday at an earlier hour and the vestry would look at the terms of his engagement.

There was a letter from the Walker Trust wanting to know what amount was in the Parsonage Fund before they would be willing to consider a grant. It was agreed that the application was premature and should be delayed.

Oct: There had been no response from any individual in the congregation to financially assist with a new parsonage. In an interview with Mr George Douglas, Clerk of Works to Kincardineshire County Council, he approved of the reconstruction scheme of the parsonage.

Mr Reid, the Verger, had called at the parsonage and had verbally offered his resignation but was willing to carry out certain duties. After discussion it was decided that, in

accordance with para 18 of the Church Constitution, this matter should be left in Rev Symon's hands.

A few of the seat rents remained unpaid and it was agreed that members of the vestry should take this in hand and call and endeavour to collect these.

The Free Will Offering envelopes for 1937 would be left in the pews on the last Sunday of the year. Any uncollected would be delivered to the respective owners and vestry should endeavour to get more members of the congregation to become member of the Free Will scheme.

Dec: It was agreed to leave the Free Will envelopes in the pews for another Sunday before the vestry members deliver them.

The treasurer reported that, although there had been increases in the Clergy Fund, seat rents and donations, there had been a considerable decrease in collections and Free Will Offerings. A deficit of £20 was estimated. It was agreed to ask more of the congregation to become members of the FWO and a summer sale was suggested.

Diane Fleming

Future Events

- 6th April - Book Browse
- 13th April - Palm Sunday, Bishop Andrew celebrating
- 25th May - Book Browse
- 1st June - Feein' Market
- 27th July - Book Browse
- 25th August - Harbour Festival:
- 5th Oct - Book Browse
- 13th October - Harvest Festival
- 16th October - Seniors' Harvest service and tea.
- 7th Dec - Book Browse

Readers, Greeters, Vestry and Coffee Rota

Date	Readings
3rd February Candlemas	Jer 1.4-10 Ps 71.1-6 1 C 13.1-13 Lk 4.21-30
10th February Epiphany 5	Is 6.1-8(9-13) Ps 138 1 C 15.1-11 Lk 5.1-11
17th February Epiphany 6	Jer 17.5-10 Ps 1 1 C 15.12-20 Lk 6.17-26
24th February Epiphany 7	Gen 45.3-11,15 Ps 37.1-12,41-42 1 C 15.35-38,42-50 Lk 6.27-38
3rd March Sunday before Lent	Ex 34.29-35 Ps 99 2 C 3.12-4.2 Lk 9.28-36(37-43)

Year B – Readings are from the NRSV of the Bible

Greeter	10.30 am Lessons 1+2	10.30 am Gospel	Coffee Rota
Diane Fleming	Peter Sharp	Heather Grant	Peter Sharp
Jonathan Leslie	Diane Fleming	TBA	Diane Fleming
Diana Peters	Richard Clark	Val Cadd	Val Cadd
Edward Dickens	Diana Peters	David Fleming	Doreen Brankin
Ellie MacLeod	Edward Dickens	Irene Paterson	Irene Paterson

St James', Stonehaven and St Philip's, Catterline
Interim Rector. Bishop Andrew.
Vestry Secretary: Anne O'Gorman.
Church Phone No: 01569 764473

GROUP CONVENORS

Property	David Fleming
Communication	Peter Sharp
Music	David Fleming
Social	Val Cadd
Lay Reader emeritus	Arma Iles
Weekly Pew Sheet	Diana Peters
Hall Management	David Fleming
Protection of Vulnerable Groups Officer	Irene Paterson
Vestry	Peter Sharp

The copy deadline for the March Newsletter is Sunday 17th February.
Reminders will not be sent out.

St James Episcopal Church, Stonehaven .Scottish Registered Charity No. SC000301
St Philip's Episcopal Church, Catterline Scottish Registered Charity No. SC023282