

**Episcopal Churches of
St. James' Stonehaven.
St. Philip's Catterline.
March 2020**



**Services at St. James' & St Philip's during
March 2020**

Sundays.

9.00 a.m. Said Eucharist

10.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist

6.30 p.m. Compline (Starts on 5th April)

Second Wednesday in the month.

10.30 a.m. Eucharist and Healing Service

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



DIARY NOTES March 2020

Day/Date	Event
1st March 1st Sunday in Lent	9.00 Reserved Sacrament. Arma Iles. 10.30 Holy Eucharist. Rev. Jane Nelson
8th March 2nd Sunday in Lent	9.00 Reserved Sacrament. Arma Iles. 10.30 Songs of Praise. Edward Dickens/David Fleming
11th March	10.30 Eucharist and Healing Service. Arma Iles
15th March 3rd Sunday in Lent	9.00 Reserved Sacrament. Edward Dickens 10.30 Reserved Sacrament. Arma Iles.
18th March	9.30 Children's Service. Anne O'Gorman
22nd March 4th Sunday in Lent Mothers' Sunday	9.00 Holy Eucharist. Bishop Andrew. 10.30 Holy Eucharist. Bishop Andrew.
29th March 5th Sunday in Lent Passion Sunday	9.00 Reserved Sacrament. Anne O'Gorman. 10.30 Reserved Sacrament. Arma Iles.

From Peter

When I visited Ethiopia a few years ago, I was surprised to find on arriving at my hotel in Addis Ababa that the grounds of the hotel were the scene of several wedding celebrations. The hotel was surrounded by a very large garden full of greenery and, as in many other parts of the world, it was used for the wedding photographs. Now, being Ethiopia, we are not talking about (relatively) well behaved groups of relatives being marshalled into formal groups. These wedding parties arrive with their



own instrumentalists and choir, some playing traditional music and some jazz - Ethiopia is famed for its jazz music. They would process around the gardens dancing and singing to the music with the occasional pause for a photo or video. It was

a great introduction to Ethiopian culture.

I was still surprised at the number of wedding parties but my guide later explained that on the following day Ethiopians would start the Christmas fast, or Fast of the Prophets, which runs from the end of November until the 5th or 6th of January, which, in the Orthodox Church, is Christmas Day. During this period weddings are not permitted.

Fasting in Ethiopia means abstinence from meat, so given that meat is not that abundant anyway, it's not too onerous. Of course, if you are a Moslem then fasting during Ramadan is far

more serious with no food or drink allowed between sunrise and sunset. I remember being woken up very early one morning when in Istanbul, by people walking around the streets ringing bells. It turned out that this was to warn people that it would soon be sunrise and they had better eat. In the evening the streets were full of food stalls and some restaurants would offer people free food, charitable acts being one of the pillars of Islam.

When I have spoken with Moslems about the rigours of fasting, they have almost all said that they find it beneficial. It helps them to connect with their faith.

We are now into the period of Lent and this, of course, celebrates the time that Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness. While it is a time to reflect on the coming of Easter, very few people these days would consider fasting for this time. The best we can do is to give something up for Lent and even then, the temptation is to go without something that we really won't miss – I'm doing without broccoli this year! Are we perhaps missing out on an important aspect of our worship by not taking the idea of fasting as a worship tool seriously enough?

Proposed Improvements to the Churchyard

Background

For some time, we have been concerned about the state of the churchyard, and contemplating some improvements. The arrival of the Flooding Contractors offers the possibility of doing this work under the Community Scheme.

Rationale

The faults in the churchyard that we seek to address are:

The current gravel frequently fails to carry away the rainwater and so it settles in ponds, particularly in places that have been well used and the gravel has been compacted. We did put more gravel on some time ago, but this has now just be compacted into the surface and the ponding has re-appeared. The two gate piers (which are part of the Listed Building listing) have been damaged by collision with vehicles, and are now out of true, and their pointing needs repair.

The angle of the gate and the offset of the piers means that the actual opening is narrower that it could be if the whole unit was square. Moving one of the pillars would give another 400mm of driveway width (an increase of about 12%). Manoeuvring a wider vehicle (e.g. workmen's vans, hearses) into the current opening is difficult, made more difficult by the current building materials deposited on the north side of the street.

The use of gravel round the church, whilst aesthetic, makes movement by prams, buggies and wheelchairs more difficult, especially when trying to gain access to the hall (which is used by a wide variety of community organisations) The concrete at the approach to the hall is broken, and ought to be repaired at some stage.

The edges of the existing concrete are sharp, and act as trip points and hinder vehicle manoeuvring. Some of the surface of the existing concrete is very polished (erroneously) and people have slipped on it, and incurred significant injury as a result.

The boundary between Abbeyfield and the church properties (now legally separate) is ill-defined. Abbeyfield have expressed the desire to put in a reasonable barrier in in order to

define the boundary, and to restrain any of their errant wandering residents.

The proposals are designed to address all these issues.

The Proposal

The existing concrete will be removed, the area prepared and covered in TarmacDry porous tarmac. The area will be extended to cover all the area regularly used by vehicles. The right level of SUDS drainage will be built into this work. The edges of the TarmacDry will be chamfered to reduce the trip hazard and improve vehicle passage.

The existing access to sewers and rainwater channels will be maintained.

Round the church walls, there will be a 150mm gravel filled gully, so that the Tarmacdry does not affect the church stonework.

The East pillar will be dismantled and relocated square in line with the West pillar. The gate gap will be determined so that the exiting gate fills the gap exactly. About 2 metres of the existing stone wall taken down and re-aligned (and reusing the existing materials) to meet the East pillar.

The pavement outside the church gate will be resurfaced with slabs to match the existing pavement, and the dropped kerb extended to assist all vehicle movement in the area, and to allow pedestrians to come up the south side of the street and easily cross to enter through the flood gates onto the path to Dunnottar Avenue.

It is envisaged that the Turning Area in the roadway will be re-instated.

A low fence will be installed along the boundary with

Abbeyfield, leaving a small border (say 300mm) for planting between it and the existing rounded kerbstones. There will be a gate opposite the church hall door. The fence will join up with the West pillar.

It is known that Abbeyfield are considering changes to their area and may be awaiting completion of the flood works before progressing these. They will be consulted on these proposals, and we expect to be consulted on their proposals.

The existing noticeboard will be properly reinstated to the east of the East pillar, hard against the re-built wall, thus facing the pedestrian traffic over the White Bridge, and installed at a height which will allow its maintenance from the street side of the wall. The existing flower bed (with the buddleias) will stop before the change in angle of the wall.

Next Steps

Once Vestry has approved the proposal, we will need to obtain Listed Building approval (from Aberdeenshire Council), consult the Diocese, Abbeyfield and the Flooding contractor (Mclaughlin and Harvey).

David

Social Committee.

There will be a Social Committee meeting at Val's home on Thursday 5th March at 2pm to discuss the Spring Coffee Morning which will be held on Saturday 25th April in the church hall. We will set the hall up on Friday 24th April afternoon from 2pm - 3pm. Further information in the April newsletter and the pew sheet.

Val

Lent Appeal

This year the Bishop's Lent Appeal will be in aid of the Diocese of Swaziland's Forestry Bee Project to raise start-up costs for bee-keeping in their sustainable wattle forest. Bee-keepers will protect the forest from fire and the honey will provide resources for the church as well as providing bees to the world.

Donations from St James' for the appeal will be collected on Palm Sunday. If you would like to gift aid your donation then please put it in one of our gift aid envelopes and mark it "Lent Appeal".

Peter

Vestry Minutes 13th January 2020

Matters Arising

Monies from the Mothers and Toddlers' bank account have yet to be transferred to the Church account.

Correspondence

Thank you card from the Kilwhang Ringers for the donation for playing at the Dedication Service.

Thank you letter from the Cyrenians for the donation of the cake from the Dedication Service.

A letter thanking St James for taking part in the Open Doors day.

Thank you letter from a parent who used the hall for a party. She said she would be recommending the hall to her friends.

Letter from Dorothy Plummer thanking us for allowing the Catterline Community Church to use St Philip's at Christmas. Peter reminded the Vestry that, for insurance purposes, any request to use St Philip's must first be considered by the Vestry.

Email from David Smail about the opening hours of the Church. This matter was discussed, but as volunteers open and shut the church there is no set time. During the winter months it tends to be shut early as it is dark in the church. While it is impractical to advertise opening times, a notice is placed on the church gate indicating that it is open.

Treasurer's Report

Main Account	£41,860.47
Fabric Fund Account	£442.06
Buildings Account	£2,065.92
St Philip's	£965.00

St James church accounts have been checked and amended. The accounts have been re-presented to Vestry and approved and the signed accounts will now go to OSCR.

Report on St James

Our architect is drawing up plans for a ramp to be included for the White Bridge. The bridge is to be reinstated in 2021. The Flood Relief Action Group supports the construction of a ramp. When the plans and proposal are presented to Aberdeenshire Council it is hoped that Sarah Dickinson will support the plan.

Report on St Philip's

Peter is to visit later this month. There was a problem with the incoming electrical supply which has now been repaired.

Worship

There were 37 church members at the Midnight Mass at Christmas and 30 on Christmas Day.

Pat Millar will attend the May Songs of Praise to give a presentation about our companion diocese, e-Swatini.

Bishop Andrew

There was a discussion about the Place for Hope Meeting held on 11th January.

- Money was a big issue. The annual cost of supporting a full-time transition minister could be about £20,000 for each church, the diocese contributing £10,000.
- The appointment would be for 3 years, with possible extension.
- There would need to be clarity on what was expected from such a ministry.

- The churches are in different geographical areas and have different issues.
- Type of ministry which might emerge after the transition period might be shared, part time and would certainly involve lay people.
- Consideration needed to be given to possible input from other charges in the Northern Cluster.
- Clear aims and objectives need to be developed.

Fabric

Church: The bell is still not working. Slaters have checked the church roof as there were 3 leaks. David is to contact the firm to check they have been repaired.

Hall: Due to new bookings David has updated the heating times. David is pricing new tables for the hall – there is the possibility of a grant from the Council where we would pay half and the Council would match this.

Garden: There is a community grant available. David has spoken to the project manager of the flood relief scheme. Plans are being drawn up to replace the concrete and gravel leading to the hall. One of the gate pillars would also be repositioned to give the church entrance wider access to cars. A fence would be put up between the church and Abbeyfield – David will contact them.

Fund Raising/Social

Book Browse on Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd February 2020.

AOCB

Arma enquired about the minister's fees for taking a funeral at the crematorium. Peter will let her know.

Next Meeting: 26th February

St James in 1948

The World: **Jan:** British railways nationalised; Mahatma Gandhi assassinated in India. **Feb:** Last British troops left India. **Mar:** Juan Peron won election in Argentina; Chiang Kai-shek elected President of China; US Congress passed Marshall Aid bill. **April:** Electricity

industry nationalised; Organisation for European Economic Co-operation set up. **May:** British left Palestine; Chaim Weizmann named first President of Israel. **June:** Russians stopped road and rail traffic to and from Berlin. Start of Berlin Airlift. **July:** Austerity Olympics held in London. **Sept:** Queen Wilhelmina abdicated in Holland. **Nov:** Harry S Truman won US Presidential election.

Also: Laurence Olivier's film '*Hamlet*'; Vaughan Williams' *Sixth Symphony*; Fred Astaire and Judy Garland starred in *Easter Parade*. Cole Porter wrote '*Kiss Me Kate*'.

The first transistor was made in Bell Laboratories, Alfred Kinsey published '*Sexual Behaviour in the Human Male*'. Astronomer George Gamow proposed 'Big Bang' theory of the universe.

St James, Stonehaven

8th Feb 1948: (written in green ink!!) Mr George, the Treasurer, read the accounts for the last year which showed a balance of £219-16-4. The Rector announced he had an estimate from Mr James Masson for painting the church doors and spoutings which amounted to £10. He also intimated that Mr Law had agreed with three of his workmen, members of the congregation, who would do this work in their spare time during the lighter nights as their contribution to the church. This was graciously accepted and the secretary was to write to Mr Masson with the reasons his offer was not accepted. Mr Christie proposed, seconded by Mr J Smart that all gas pipes, gas fires and gas radiators be removed from the church altogether. He suggested an electric fire be placed in each vestry and that small electric radiators be placed by the organ for the benefit of the organist and an electric light above the pedal board, and a light in the boiler house. These proposals were agreed and it was decided to ask Mr Davidson, electrician, to undertake this work.

10th Feb 1948: Annual Congregational Meeting held in the Carron Tea Rooms. The Rector said we could now think about a war memorial and suggested a small committee should be appointed to go into the matter. The heating of the church was discussed. The Rector pointed out the pipeless method of heating recommended by

the Bishop and that this might be cheaper than the hot water circulation method. The church at New Pitsligo had this type of heating. Mr W Christie, Mr Smart and Mr Reid were delegated to go to New Pitsligo and report back. The Rector said that the organ builders have now promised to have the organ repaired and in working order by June. An electric blower was dispatched from London by carrier on 27th January. It was hoped to have a combined service for the churches of Drumlithie, Muchalls and Stonehaven on 13th June on the anniversary of 200 years since the imprisonment of the three rectors of Drumlithie, Muchalls and Stonehaven under the Penal Laws and it was hoped the Dean of Brechin (a native of Drumlithie) would be present. It was decided to hold a garden fete at Cowie if Major and Mrs Innes will permit the use of Cowie House grounds.

31st March 1948: A letter was read from Mr Albert Reid in which he stated he was unable to keep the grounds in order owing to ill health. It was agreed to have the grounds put into order, cleared of all weeds etc before a new groundsman was appointed. It was decided to pay Mr Reid the sum of £20 for acting as verger, leaving the balance of £10 for whoever was appointed to look after the grounds. The Rector announced that he had secured as a special preacher the Dean of the Diocese for the bi-centenary of the imprisonment of the three rectors. The Bishop would also be present at the service on 13th June. There was a letter from the Central Funds Committee asking what steps the Vestry had taken to raise contributions to the Clergy Sustentation Fund. Since the Rector had been here for 5 years there had been no increase in his stipend. It was agreed to send a letter to all communicants asking for subscriptions.

23rd April 1948: Mr Albert Reid had confirmed he would stay as verger at a sum not less than £25 per annum. The secretary was instructed to write to Mr Reid saying they would keep to the original fee of £20 per annum and could not see their way to increasing this sum. Mr Grant proposed he should ask a personal friend who is in the trade which deals with the heating of buildings to come and see the church and perhaps give some advice. Mr Dalgarno was instructed to contact Mr John Thomson, joiner, to have a Yale lock put on the vestry door and to have at least two keys made.

10th May 1948: The applications of Mr J Duncan and Mr G Fyfe for the post of verger/groundsman were discussed followed by a secret vote. Mr Duncan was duly appointed at a sum of £30 per annum. The Rector said Mr McLeod had visited the church in connection with the heating and he stated that with minor repairs to the fire box he saw no reason why the present apparatus should not give satisfaction. There was a discussion about the various kinds of coal and it was agreed to try anthracite to see if a better heat could be generated. Mr David Law had given an estimate for the distempering of the interior of the church. The Chancel would be £14-4-6, nave and transepts with ceilings £65-15-3, baptistery with vestibule with ceiling £3-6-8. This was accepted, the work to start after the organ builders had finished the organ cleaning. It was decided to have a proper dustbin provided so all rubbish could be disposed of.

15th Oct 1948: The Rector stated that he had been approached for the use of the organ by a pupil for practice. The vestry decided that no-one was to have the use of the organ except the organist of the church and for any teaching which she may have with organ pupils from time to time.

It was decided to ask Mr Turner, Bridge of Cowie, to look at the church bell and see if it could be repaired and to give an estimate. It was decided to advertise for sale in the Aberdeen local papers and the Scottish Guardian the four gas radiators and two gas fires. The painting of the interior of the church was postponed until Easter owing to lack of staff. The Rector had seen the next of kin about the tail piece which was attached to the present war memorial and he was able to say that no objection would be made if it were removed and incorporated on the plate along with the rest of the names.

The Rector pointed out that Christmas Day this year would fall on a Saturday, which was a working day. Therefore there would be a midnight celebration on Christmas Eve. The choir had already given their support.

Diane

Readers, Greeters, Vestry and Coffee Rota

Date	Readings
1st March 1st Sunday in Lent	Gen 2.15-17;3.1-7 Ps 32 Ro 5.12-19 Mt 4.1-11
8th March 2nd Sunday in Lent	Gen 12.1-4a Ps 121 Ro 4.1-5,13-17 Jn 3.1-17
15th March 3rd Sunday in Lent	Ex 17.1-7 Ps 95 Ro 5.1-11 Jn 4.5-42
22nd March 4th Sunday in Lent	1 Sa 16.1-13 Ps 23 Eph 5.8-14 Jn 9.1-41
29th March 5th Sunday in Lent Passion Sunday	Ezek 37.1-14 Ps 130 Ro 8.6-11 Jn 11.1-45
5th April 6th Sunday in Lent Palm Sunday	Mt 21. 1-11 Is 50. 4-9a Ps 31. 9-16 Phil 2. 5-11 Mt 26. 14-27. 66

Year B – Readings are from the NRSV of the Bible

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

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

GROUP CONVENORS

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 April Newsletter is Sunday 22nd March 2020

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