

**Episcopal Churches of
St. James' Stonehaven.
St. Philip's Catterline.
December 2020 & January 2021**



**Services at St. James' & St Philip's during
December 2020 & January 2021**

Sundays.

10.00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

St James' is open for private prayer from 10.00am to 3.00 pm every day except Sunday and Monday.

There will be no services at St Philip's until further notice.



DIARY NOTES December 2020

Day/Date	Event
6th December Advent 2	10.00am Reserved Sacrament. Anne O’Gorman
13th December Advent 3	10.00am Holy Eucharist Rev. Canon Joe Morrow
20th December Advent 4	10.00am Reserved Sacrament. Anne O’Gorman
25th December Christmas Day	10.00am Holy Eucharist tba
27th December Nine Lessons & Carols	10.00am Arma Iles

DIARY NOTES January 2021

Day/Date	Event
3rd January Christmas 2	10.00am Reserved Sacrament. Anne O’Gorman
10th January Epiphany 1	10.00am Reserved Sacrament Arma Iles
17th January Epiphany 2	10.00am Reserved Sacrament. Anne O’Gorman
24th January Epiphany 3	10.00am Reserved Sacrament Arma Iles
31st January Candlemas	10.00am Reserved Sacrament Arma Iles

Bishop Andrew writes:

As we enter Advent and Christmas 2020 we find ourselves in seasons that are very, very different to any that we may have experienced before. The global pandemic has closed, then restricted our church life and ways of worshipping. These restrictions will be with us for the next few weeks and months. St James' Stonehaven was the first church in the diocese to re-open for private prayer, the first to re-open for public worship and the first church, probably in the whole Scottish Episcopal Church, to host a baptism. The hard work carried out by the vestry and volunteers in achieving this has been impressive and exemplary. There has been frustration at what we cannot do: sing, for example. And there has been pain in how limited funerals for friends and loved ones have been, as well as the dreadful shock of the recent death of Jon Leslie. This has been a hard season that has taken a great deal of strength and determination.

And we are now entering into the start of new church liturgical year, a time of waiting and preparation. In Advent and Christmas 2020, what are we waiting for?

All are waiting for vaccines or other treatments that will control the global virus and allow us to travel, mix with others and return to the social world that we all miss. The resumption of unconstrained worship with congregational singing and eucharist in both kinds will be greeted with great joy in all of our churches!

But as we wait for that time, we pray not so far away, Advent and Christmas encourage us to wait for exactly what we always wait for at this time of year. The coming of God into this world as a human child remains at the heart of the mystery and wonder of Christian discipleship. There is no limit to the joy

that humanity feels, no matter how dark the world may seem, when we are told how much God's love can transform each and every life!

My prayers remain with you as we enter Advent and Christmas in this pandemic. Have faith that these difficult and constrained times will pass and have faith in your preparations for the coming of wonder of the Christ child.

Peace and joy.

Tree of Life.

The Tree of Life can be found in the garden/church yard of St. James Episcopal Church, Arbuthnott Street, Stonehaven, AB39 2JB. It has been decorated at Christmas for many years with baubles in memory of loved ones no longer with us.

The tree is for anyone and everyone of Stonehaven, the surrounding community and visitors to the town who would like to place a bauble on the tree in memory of their loved one. The effect is very simple yet stunning and can be accessed from either inside the garden/church yard or from the street. The baubles are removed by 12th Night - 6th January.

We wish to see the tree decorated this year but where in previous years we have provided baubles and suitable marker pens we would ask everyone to bring their own signed bauble and place on the tree. This way we reduce the possibility of cross-contamination, sadly a consequence of the pandemic Covid-19. If you would like your bauble back please remove it from the tree before January 6th, we will place uncollected ones by the church door for a few days.

The Tree of Life is available from Tuesday 1st December.

Jon Leslie

Many of you will now doubtless be aware of the sad passing of my husband, Jon Leslie, a much loved member of this congregation, server, and vestryman.

On the night of his passing, I asked the wife of one of his friends, who is an influential member of the traditionalist Roman Catholic community in Scotland, that if they knew any priests who were willing to say some Masses for Jon, it would be much appreciated. I also asked the same of some Episcopalians I know in places further afield. I expected that there would only be a few priests in Edinburgh, and possibly dotted throughout England. However, the reality is rather different, and so I feel that this congregation would like to see the touching laundry list of places of various denominations in which prayers or Masses were said in which he was mentioned by name -

The London (Brompton) Oratory

Westminster Cathedral

Downside Abbey

St. Patrick's Church, Soho

Bristol University Chapel

The Norbertine Canons, Chelmsford

St. Mary's Church, Cleland

Old St. Paul's, Edinburgh

St. Michael and All Saints', Edinburgh

St. Margaret's, Aberdeen

St. Mary's Pro-cathedral, Aberdeen

St. Andrew Major, Dinas Powys

Good Shepherd, Edinburgh

Washington D.C.

The Houses of Parliament

And obviously, we can add St. James, Stonehaven!

After receiving this list, I asked my Greek uncle if the priest in his village would also say a Liturgy. I had forgotten my uncle also has a childhood friend who became a monk on Mount Athos – spiritually, the Greek Orthodox equivalent of the Vatican. The news was passed onto this monk, and it is believed a Liturgy was also said there but the details are not known. So, we can tentatively add Mount Athos, and the parish church of Kato Achaia, in Achaea, Greece as well!

Jon was working on a piece for the newsletter about the history of one of our chalices. The last time I saw it, the piece was finished but due to his perfectionism, he believed it wasn't. It may be sometime before I can find it, but when I do I am sure that many of you would like to read it.

I would like to thank you all for your love and kind words once more.

Edward Dickens

VESTRY MINUTES 19TH OCTOBER 2020

Matters Arising

The alteration to the steps on the White Bridge will still allow adequate car access to the church and there should be no problem with the turning bay.

The bride who got married at St Philip's has apologised and will transfer the money owed.

The Ecclesiastical Insurance Company do not recommend the use of key safes.

Catterline Community Church asked if they could use St Philip's on a regular weekly basis. They have completed the necessary

forms which have been approved by the Vestry. The forms have been sent to Bishop Andrew for his approval.

Anne O’Gorman has spoken to Ros Marshall from Carronside inviting them to join us and take part in our Nine Lessons and Carols on 27th December.

A new chalice veil has been ordered.

David Fleming spoke about the Cluster Communications Group of which he is a member, together with Roxanne Campbell and Gary Clink. David expressed his concerns as at present there seems to be no remit for the way forward, and no guidance from the Bishop. Peter Sharp will take David’s issues to the next Diocesan Council.

Treasurer’s Report

Main Account	£49,409.84
Fabric Fund Account	£914.57
Buildings Account	£383.32
St Philip’s	£794.41

Peter presented the yearly accounts for the Vestry’s approval. After signature by Peter and Anne the accounts will go to the independent examiner. David thanked Peter for his hard work.

Report from St James

There are 2 options for the AGM this year:

- (a) Via Zoom or
- (b) To defer

Peter has checked the constitution and we can defer the AGM. We can co-opt members to replace those stepping down. The Bishop is happy for us to defer the AGM. He is not happy for it to be part of the Sunday service, or for it to follow the service.

Ellie McLeod and Edward Dickens are due to step down. Anne has spoken to Edward Harrison about joining the Vestry. Peter

will give him some more information.

Doreen Brankin wishes to step down as People's Warden and Anne has approached Val Cadd to fill this position.

Reports normally due at the AGM will be in the December Newsletter.

David and Edward presented a report on the opening of the church for private prayer. Due to the limited numbers using the church, winter months and limited numbers of volunteers able to man the church, they propose the church is unmanned. Peter will speak to the Bishop.

Worship

Anne has received the form for the Annual Return of congregation statistics. This requires that we report the number of communicants for the year from Advent Sunday until Christ the King, and the number of attendees and communicants (male and female) on Christ the King.

There are no official Remembrance services this year but St James will have an Armistice themed service on 8th November. There is a possibility that Joe Morrow will be available to take the Christmas Day service.

The Nine Lessons and Carols will be on 27th December, with Carronside Church invited.

David is looking for a volunteer to take over the responsibility for the Readers/Greeters Rota.

Discussion with Bishop Andrew

St Ternans have agreed to proceed with investigating the possibility of having a transitional minister covering both churches. They have agreed to pay 50% towards the costs.

Vestry raised concerns as previously St Ternans gave the impression that the maximum they could afford was £10,000. The questions asked were where was the additional money coming from and will it cover the 3 year time frame of a transitional minister. Where will the rectory be situated? Peter Sharp, Anne O’Gorman and Irene Paterson will represent St James at future transitional meetings.

Fabric

Church: David has received 3 quotes for the Quinquennial Inspection. The most expensive was £2,300, the cheapest £1,800 both plus VAT and registered for Quinquennial inspections. It was agreed to proceed with the cheapest quote.

Hall: David reported that the hall is being used by 2 dance groups, a martial arts group and a baby group.

Fund Raising/Social

David said that he and Diane have been sorting out the donated books and people have been buying them.

Anne said that there had been good sales of jam and marmalade.

Next Meeting: 16th November

Transition Minister

As I mentioned in the last Newsletter, a Joint Coordinating Group has been set up consisting of 3 representatives from each charge, the Dean and chaired by the Bishop. It has now met twice and we are making good progress.

Three fifths of the cost of the minister’s stipend will be paid by St James’ and two fifths by St Ternan’s, with all other costs being shared equally. Should the financial position of St Ternan’s

improve then they may be able to increase their stipend contribution. The minister's time will be shared equally between the two charges.

It is hoped to rent a property suitable for the rectory.

At the moment we are working on a Parish Profile which will be used in the advertising of the post. The plan is for the advert to be placed in late January.

The bishop is keen to host a meeting of the two congregations on 9th January at 10.00 am, to explain what is happening and address any remaining questions. Unless regulations change, this will need to be by Zoom. Further details will follow.

We appreciate that not everyone has access to Zoom and so if you won't be able to join the meeting then please leave any questions that you might have with any member of the vestry and we will make sure that they are raised at the meeting.

Peter

CHURCH AGM

Owing to the Covid restrictions we are advised by the bishop not to hold our usual AGM as a face-to-face meeting at this time. The vestry have, therefore, decided that it should be postponed by 6 months in the hope that the regulations will allow a normal meeting at that time. This is allowed by our constitution and Bishop Andrew has given us permission.

The vestry felt that it would be useful to publish the reports that are normally presented at the AGM in this issue of the Newsletter.

Peter

The year started well. The renovation work on the church fabric had been finished. In November we celebrated the completion of the Priests and Pipes exhibition with a dedication service. This included contributions from the Kilwhang Bell Ringers and the Granite City Brass Band and a specially commissioned piece of organ music "Wardle Calling" by Benjamin McMillan. Unfortunately the Primus was indisposed but Bishop Andrew, as always, rose to the occasion. Thanks must go to David Fleming for the energy and inspiration he put into the project.

We continued to work with St Ternan's towards exploring the appointment of what is known as a transitional minister for the two charges. As I mentioned last year, the two charges have been meeting with two consultants from a church organisation called Place for Hope. This group specialises in helping charges come to terms with compromises that may be necessary to accept changes, particularly when there has been a previous history of disagreement. There has now been agreement that we should proceed to appoint a transitional minister. A Joint Co-ordinating Group consisting of 3 vestry members from each charge and the bishop and dean have started to meet to work through the practicalities with the hope that the post might be advertised in January/February of 2021. In the meantime we continue our worship under the guidance of the Worship Group. Our thanks for the work that they put into organising the weekly Sunday service.

Of course in March things suddenly changed with the realisation that extreme measures were needed to control the spread of the coronavirus. No services were held in the church from the end of March. Opening for private worship was allowed from 22nd June and we finally opened again, in a Covid-secure manner, for services on 19th July. For the time being we are running just a single service on Sunday at 10.00 am. Thanks to all those who worked so hard to ensure that the church could reopen in compliance with all the regulations. We hope that churches escape the need to close again.

We have been unable to restart services at St Philip's. We were pleased

to offer the church for a wedding in August and this was held in accordance with the Covid regulations.

The Catterline Community Church have also approached us with a request to use St Philip's for a weekly prayer meeting. Under the regulations they are unable to meet in their usual house groups. The bishop and vestry were happy to agree to that and they start their meetings at lunchtimes on a Wednesday from 11th November.

As I have said on many occasions, we are fortunate in having a very active congregation. Many responsibilities fall on the vestry in times like this and I would like to thank all who have served on it for the past year. Particular thanks go to Anne who not only acts as a very efficient vestry secretary, but usually hosts vestry meetings in her home. With the advent of Covid vestry has had to fall back on virtual meetings via Zoom. Unfortunately that means we don't get the usual coffee and biscuits.

Our social activity plays an important part in our mission work and this has had to be put on hold since March. But we should acknowledge the tireless work that the social committee does to ensure that St James' contributes to the community activities as well as our own coffee mornings, harvest lunches, etc. It makes the job of the vestry that much easier knowing that this is in capable hands. So, thanks to Val and all her committee.

The Book Browse has also been a casualty of Covid. Customers have been invited to purchase books from a display in the Baptistry and it is hoped to resume the sales next year once regulations permit. Many thanks to all involved in it, particularly David and Diane.

There has been one positive outcome from the Covid crisis. While the Guides and Brownies have unfortunately been unable to use our hall, there has been a great demand from other organisations. Not only does this mean we are generating significant income, but it also raises the profile of St James' in the community. Once again, thank you David Fleming for managing the hall bookings.

We have been engaged in a long-running discussion with Aberdeenshire Council over the reinstatement of the White Bridge. As you know this bridge, which forms an important link between the town centre and the church, was removed to facilitate the flood works. When it is placed back it will be significantly higher than originally and our concern was that this may make it difficult to access for both older people and families with prams and pushchairs. The council were unwilling to install ramped access, although we commissioned an architect to demonstrate that this was possible. However, after having a site meeting with them they have agreed that the steps will be broken by a “landing area” about half-way up.

The church website (www.stjames-stonehaven.org.uk) has been developed over the year. It now contains a “Priests and Pipes” link which also has a video of the church produced in lieu of the cancelled Open Doors Day.

Finally, as you all know one of the younger members of our congregation, Jonathan Leslie, has recently passed away. Jonathan was an active member of the church and a vestry-member. He will be missed. Please hold Jonathan and his husband, Edward, in your prayers.

So once again, many thanks to you all for the support you have given in the past year. We are on a journey and, while we don't know where it will end, at least we are moving. I think that we can look to the future with a certain degree of optimism.

Report of Lay Representative

Peter Sharp

The main responsibility of the Lay Representative is to attend the Diocesan Synod. As you may know, the Diocesan Synod is the governing body of the diocese and meets annually. Each church is represented by its Lay Representative and clergy. This year the synod met at the Diocesan Centre, which is located in St John Baptist Church, Dundee, on 7th March.

The 9th March was the main synod and, the business was divided into

3 sessions: Mission and the Future, Governance and Diocesan Constitution, Elections and Finance.

Bishop Andrew spoke about work within the Diocese. Something had happened in each of the clusters – Northern, Coastal and Tay. But progress was slow. Communications were key. David Fleming (Northern) Gary Clink (Coastal) and Roxanne Campbell (Tay) would be responsible for communication within each cluster.

Partnership is vital in charges identified as in transition, with priests appointed for a fixed term to help make changes and identify ways ahead in the future.

Training and support is available from the Church of Scotland, from a network of transitional priests in the SEC and also support from the Bishop and the Dean.

Two motions on environmental issues had been received from the Diocese of Swaziland, one of our companion dioceses, for consideration by Synod. These motions were concerned with climate change, plastics and the season of creation. Bishop Andrew reported that the motions stemmed from the Synod held in Swaziland in 2019. Swaziland is vulnerable to climate change and the topic is a theme for General Synod and for the Lambeth Conference 2020. Bishop Ellinah continues to work tirelessly on these issues and has requested that companion dioceses look at the motions and thereafter more widely within our church.

After discussion in small groups Synod accepted the motions and agreed that after they had been worked on by Diocesan officials they would be circulated more widely for discussion.

In the session on Governance and Diocesan Constitution reports were received from the Diocesan Protection of Vulnerable Groups Officer, the Diocesan Buildings Committee and the Diocesan Communication's Officer.

Bishop Andrew discussed with Synod how the Diocesan website will

work in the future and who will be responsible for amendments/changes to the site.

Bishop Andrew discussed the proposed changes to the current constitution and that a review had been done. The main changes were:

1. Charity trustees – Bishop, Dean, Chancellor, Registrar remain property trustees and council become charity trustees.
2. Change to membership – Diocesan council – Bishop, Dean, 2 ex officio officers: Diocesan Secretary and Diocesan Treasurer, 4 lay representatives, 4 clergy representatives for a 3 year term.
3. Buildings Committee – Dean, Diocesan Secretary, Archivist (Ex officio) along with 6 elected for a 3 year term. The status of the Diocesan Archivist - a Bishop's appointment or election and support of the Diocesan Synod would be discussed at the next Synod.

These changes were accepted by Synod.

Last year a special synod had been called to look at the diocesan finances as the treasurer had proposed a deficit budget for the coming year. Various measures had been put into place to control expenditure and these had been successful. While last year the deficit was predicted to be £52,883 this year it is £14,463. It was proposed that quota, the amount each charge pays to the diocese to support the bishop and the provincial office, be increased by 5%. This was accepted.

Soon after Synod we were put in Covid-19 lockdown and so action on a number of matters discussed at Synod are still to be implemented.

Report of Buildings Convenor

David Fleming

It seems a very long time since we held the service to dedicate the 'Priests and Pipes' Exhibition, but it was just at the beginning of the reporting year in November 2019 that we welcomed Bishop Andrew to celebrate and perform the ceremony and cut the cake. This marked the completion of all the physical work in bringing St James' back to rights – the eradication of the dry rot, the modernised, smart electrics

and utilities and the construction of the Exhibition.

Since then, there have been two strands of change. First, there was the work required to fulfil the Government's regulations stemming from the coronavirus pandemic. We had to shut the church completely for a while, and then manage a re-opening with the precautionary measures in place, ensuring that everyone was safe and felt safe. I am very pleased to report that St James' was the first church in the whole of Scotland to open and hold a service when the restrictions were lifted, and that the following Sunday we were the first church to hold a Baptism after lockdown.

Secondly, the lockdown gave us the time to complete the work on the Exhibition web site (at <https://www.stjames-stonehaven.org.uk/exhibition/>). If you haven't already spent some time looking to see what is there, please do so. All comments will be gratefully received. The website holds the complete inventory of everything in the church that represents its history, its people, and its value. I am very grateful to a number of people for helping with this enormous task. I suspect that St James' is now the best documented church in the SEC. The routine maintenance of the buildings of church (and the hall, the Rectory and St Philip's) has continued throughout the year without any significant problems. I am glad that as a consequence the hall has now been in much demand (as other facilities in the town have not opened up again), St Philip's is in use by the Catterline Community church, and the Rectory continues to be occupied by the same tenant.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Vestry for their support throughout the year in all we do, and all who have contributed in their various ways to the upkeep of our wonderful buildings.

**Report of the Protection of Vulnerable Groups Officer
Irene Paterson**

The PVG Co-ordinator is appointed to take responsibility on behalf of the Vestry for ensuring that the work of the Church is carried out

in accordance with the Law and the Church's policies on the protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults. These policies focus on prevention and safeguarding by ensuring that anybody appointed or volunteering to do "regulated work" with children or vulnerable adults have their details submitted to Disclosure Scotland who check for any relevant criminal convictions. Vulnerable adults include those people who, because they are affected by disability, mental disorder, illness, infirmity or ageing, are unable to protect themselves from abuse, or are more vulnerable to being abused than persons who are not so affected. Regulated work could include teaching or supervising Sunday School or providing some kind of regular welfare service to people with particular needs.

At the beginning of each year I submit a Congregational Safeguarding Checklist to the Diocese confirming that amongst other things we have all the correct signs and posters in the Church and Hall and that Vestry members have seen the most up to date safeguarding advice.

The notice board in the church displays a poster with SEC Policies for Children and Vulnerable Adults along with Childline and The Silver Line posters, the name and contact details of the PVG Co-ordinator, the Diocesan Protection Officer and the Provincial Officer. PVG issues are discussed as a standing item at every 6-8 weekly vestry meeting

I also have to confirm that anybody involved in regulated work has the correct level of PVG clearance and has received relevant training. Although we very occasionally have children at our Sunday Services at present no specific person carries out "regulated work" which meets the above criteria. If this situation changes in future, it is the responsibility of Vestry to ensure the correct procedures are followed.

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the proposed PVG training day scheduled to take place in September had to be cancelled. Daphne Audsley of the Provincial Office will let Vestry know when the most current presentation is available to share across the SEC. It may be possible for the Provincial Office to arrange some training via an online Zoom platform.

However, in the meantime, the SEC website reminds us "it is important

to remember that it is **everyone's responsibility** to protect the vulnerable and everyone working in and attending services in the SEC has an important part to play in developing a safe and supportive culture within the Church that protects everyone, regardless of the nature of their vulnerability". If any member of the congregation has concerns about possible incidents involving children or vulnerable adults they need to notify the PVG Co-ordinator. If no-one is available and there is somebody at immediate risk, the police or local social work department should be contacted.

There have been no issues reported to me this year.

Report of the Social Committee

Val Cadd

The social committee held its last and only committee meeting in 2020 on Thursday 5th March where the first item on the agenda was a thank you to everyone for their hard work, effort and support at the Christmas Coffee morning and Annual Tree of Life Baubles on Saturday 14th December 2019. We made £627.65. We continued at that meeting to plan out other fund raisers until the autumn and it came to naught.

Please may I thank all the ladies and gentlemen who work tirelessly at our coffee mornings and other fund raisers through 'a normal year' for their kindness, generosity, enthusiasm and hard work. We wait and see what 2021 brings.

Flower Rota Report

Val Cadd

Since the church reopened in late June 2020 there have been artificial flowers at the altar – for the sake of ease.

Christmas 2019 was different, we received a beautiful Christmas tree from Diana and Tony Peters in time for the Christingle service. Anne, Heather and I decorated the church with flowers, baubles and lanterns in time for the Christmas Eve midnight service. Thank you Diana and Tony for your kindness and Anne and Heather for your help.

We kept fresh flowers the altar until Lent. There were no special flower decorations at Harvest but the congregation was very generous with their food donations for the Stonehaven Far and Wide Food Bank. A huge thank you to you all.

Report of the Worship Group

Edward Dickens

This year has not turned out as any of us expected – indeed, in March I could not even fathom the possibility that not only at Easter, but at Whitsun, Trinity, and Corpus Christi we would still be prohibited from gathering as a worshipping community. There has been extraordinary liturgical innovation and creativity from other charges, and the Province and wider church, and so it would be easy for an onlooker to assume that we at St. James' have done little this year, as we have not gone in for de-rigueur livestreamed or otherwise online services as other charges have.

This could not be further from the truth. The Worship Group has been hard at work this year to ensure as much as is practicable of our usual pattern of worship is preserved in the face of restrictions, and we have endeavoured not to lose our own particular sense of creativity which we employ at St. James'. For example, it was our turn to host the town's Remembrance Sunday service this year. Ordinarily, this would have been a civic service, specifically designed for that purpose. As it was, we devised an addition to our ordinary Reserved Sacrament Eucharist, in which the names of the men lost from this congregation were read out, and the bell was tolled. This was received well.

The decision was taken when we were preparing to re-open the church to temporarily suspend our other services in order to meet the requirements of present legislation. This also meant suspending the monthly "Songs of Praise" services in order to provide an opportunity for Communion every Sunday. However, it is planned that we will host our usual Nine Lessons and Carols Service (singing or no singing) at the end of December, and so the latter half of this year will not be totally without non-Eucharistic services.

Of course, the other usual tasks of liaising with other churches in the

area and compiling the rota have also continued, amongst other tasks, and sparing the blushes of the other members of the Worship Group, I believe that this has been done very well. Many ideas have been proposed and examined by the worship group. Some have been accepted, others have not. Some were feasible, others were not. But as with the church a whole, and in wider society, our plans and ideas have not been cancelled or rejected, but merely postponed or shelved for the time being.

As the year comes to a close, there is greater hope yet. Developments in our discussions with St. Ternan's and the Diocese mean that we hope to have a priest in this place in the first half of next year, and the sundry vaccines nearing completion mean that we may shortly leave this time of trial. As such, I hope that when I provide a slightly edited version of this report for the AGM in the Spring, I can add much more information about happenings and plans which we have in the pipeline.

I hope that our work is regarded by you all as being satisfactory and appreciated, and I would like to once more thank the other members of the Worship Group – Anne, David, and Arma, for all their hard work, as well as the whole congregation and vestry for their love and support in this difficult year. We do not know what 2021 will bring, but I believe that we are entering it with the faith, hope, and charity that Our Lord expects of us.

Report of the Finance and Administration Group Peter Sharp

The accounts will be presented in a separate report. As I say every year there was a need for increased regular income and I would ask you all to consider each year whether you could increase your giving.

Our accounts show a small surplus this year of £6744, which is an improvement on last year's deficit.

While not yet worrying, our financial position is not robust. As mentioned in the report from St James, we are in negotiation with St

Ternan's and the diocese to fund a transitional minister. This will cost us around £20,000 per annum for the 3 years that it is envisaged the ministry will run. Obviously, we can only do this by spending from our reserves. This is probably a wise use of funds in the short term, but at present we do not have the regular income to pay for the stipend of a minister.

We continue to generate income from the letting of the rectory and renting the hall and other fund-raising activities. Our thanks go to all of you who put in such an effort to make them successful. Of course, we gain not only financially from such activity but also by mission work, making people aware of St James church.

The big uncertainty for the coming year is the effect of Covid-19. We are seeing a drop in the value of some of our investments but there is a greater demand for the letting of our hall. So, from a financial viewpoint, the coming year will be interesting and, I suspect, challenging.

I would like to record my thanks to Gill Walker for ensuring that the church collections are recorded and paid into the bank each week.

Report by the Treasurer and on the Accounts Peter Sharp

St. Philips. The income for the year was £2,284.66 and expenditure £3,079.04. Cash in the bank at the end of the financial year was £1,082.15

There is no regular income for the church and the only people to have used the church in the past year are the Catterline Community Church, who have made a donation of £100. Fortunately, we are able to call on monies from the Catterline Fund which is administered by the Diocese and contains the proceeds of the sale of church buildings at Catterline many years ago. We received £2,000 from it in the past year. We also have a small investment income from the SEC Unit Trust Pool.

Our two main regular expenses are for the electricity bill and the buildings insurance. This past year we also had to meet the costs of

repairing the graveyard wall as well as the emptying of the septic tank.

St. James. The Receipts and Payments Accounts shows that our income for the year was £64,376.81 and our expenditure £57,902.79 so giving us a surplus for the year of £6,474.02. The amount of money that we had in the bank at the end of the year was £69,758.69.

Congregational income, excluding tax recovered on Gift Aid, is about the same as last year. As I mentioned last year our reclaim of VAT spent on the renovation project in 2019 was been challenged. We won the appeal and the sum of £9,458.17 appears in the miscellaneous income. We also received a generous legacy of £5,000 from the estate of Miss Margaret MacFarlane.

Fortunately, we had no need to sell any of our shares again this year. The value of them has decreased by £18,758.93 but this figure varies significantly from month to month. The £25,000 legacy invested in the SEC Unit Trust Pool has increased by £5,216.50 over the year.

Our expenditure has decreased significantly but this is almost entirely explained by the renovation work. Our quota has increased by about 10%, in part this is due to the support given from the Province decreasing again this year.

Gift Aid is important, and I would ask that if you are a tax paying and putting cash into the collection plate then please put it in a gift aid envelope. They are available at the back of the church or I can provide you with them already completed with your details. It costs you nothing, but we can reclaim tax.

Finally, some humour!

- The concert held in Fellowship Hall was a great success. Special thanks are due to the minister's daughter, who laboured the whole evening at the piano, which as usual fell upon her.
- Wednesday, the Ladies Liturgy Society will meet. Mrs. Jones will sing "Put Me In My Little Bed" accompanied by the rector.

Readers, and Greeters,

Date	Readings
6th December Advent 2	Is 40.1-11 Ps 85.1-2,8-13 2 P 3.8-15a Mk 1.1-8
13th December Advent 3	Is 61.1-4, 8-11 Ps 126 1 Th 5.16-24 Jn 1.6-8,19-28
20th December Advent 4	2 Sa 7.1-11,16 or Ps 89.1-4,19-26 Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38
25th December Christmas Day	Is 62.6-12 Ps 97 Tit 3.4-7 Lk 2.(1-7) 8-20
27th December Nine lessons and Carols	N/A

Year B – Readings are from the NRSV of the Bible

Greeter	Lessons 1+2	Gospel
Val Cadd	David Fleming	Crucifer or Celebrant
Pamela Huthwaite	Heather Grant	Crucifer or Celebrant
Paula Fogiel	Jeremy Huthwaite	Crucifer or Celebrant
TBA	TBA	Crucifer or Celebrant
TBA	N/A	N/A

Readers, and Greeters,

Date	Readings
3rd January 2nd Sunday after Christmas	Jer 31.7-14 or Sir 24.1-12 Ps 147.13-21 or Wis 10.15-21 Eph 1.3-14 Jn 1 (1-9) 10-18
10th January 1st Sunday in Epiphany	Gen 1.1-5 Ps 29 Acts 19.1-7 Mk 1.4-11
17th January 2nd Sunday in Epiphany	1 Sa 3.1-10(11-20) Ps 139.1-5,12-17 1 C 6.12-20 Jn 1.43-51
24th January 3rd Sunday in Epiphany	Jon 3.1-5,10 Ps 62.6-14 1 C 7.29-31 Mk 1.14-20
31st January Candlemas	Dt 18.15-20 Ps 111 1 C 8.1-13 Mk 1.21-28
7th February 5th Sunday in Epiphany	Is 40.21-31 Ps 147.1-12 1 C 9.16-23 Mk 1.29-39

Year B – Readings are from the NRSV of the Bible

Greeter	Lessons 1+2	Gospel
Val Cadd	Val Cadd	Crucifer or Celebrant
David Fleming	Heather Grant	Crucifer or Celebrant
Peter Sharp	Diana Peters	Crucifer or Celebrant
Paula Fogiel	David Fleming	Crucifer or Celebrant
Heather Grant	Peter Fogiel	Crucifer or Celebrant
Diane Fleming	Irene Paterson	Crucifer or Celebrant

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 December Newsletter is Sunday 24th January 2021
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