

**Episcopal Churches of
St. James' Stonehaven.
St. Philip's Catterline.
March 2021**



**Services at St. James' & St Philip's during
March 2021**

St James' is closed until further notice.

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



DIARY NOTES March 2021

Owing to the Covid restrictions the church is closed until further notice and these services will only take place if the restrictions permit. The exception is the service on 14th March which will be by Zoom

Day/Date	Event
7th March 3rd Sunday in Lent	10.00am Reserved Sacrament. Anne O’Gorman
14th March 4th Sunday in Lent Mothering Sunday	10.00am Zoom Service with Bishop Andrew. Click on https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88683617645?pwd=cTJSTk1DZEEdVRW5DR1B1cjBpRFZlQT09 .
21st March 5th Sunday in Lent	10.00am Reserved Sacrament. Anne O’Gorman
28th March 6th Sunday in Lent Palm Sunday	10.00am Reserved Sacrament. Arma Iles

David writes:

I have a confession to make. I cannot remember anytime in my life when I took any serious notice of the exhortation to 'give something up for Lent'. But then, neither did I ever make any New Year resolutions, let alone keep any! So at least I am consistent.

And, of course, in the midst of the current lockdown, the thought of 'giving up' anything might just be one request too many. I suspect I am not alone in missing meeting members of my family and other friends, being in church, chatting afterwards over coffee, partaking of bread and wine, let alone – would you believe – singing! I suspect that for most people, giving up a 'luxury' now would not generate much greater spirituality. It might even be quite counterproductive.

The most meaningful Lent for me was in the 1980s, when in our parish of All Saint's, Hockerill, Bishop's Stortford, the Vicar decided that we should put on a play, and he chose "The Man Born to be King" by Dorothy L. Sayers. If you haven't heard it, or read the book, it started off as a radio drama based on the life of Jesus, produced and broadcast by the BBC during the Second World War. It is a play cycle consisting of twelve plays depicting specific periods in Jesus' life, from the events surrounding his birth to his death and resurrection. It was first broadcast by the BBC Home Service on Sunday evenings, beginning on 21 December 1941, (i.e. just after Pearl Harbour) with new episodes broadcast at 4-week intervals, ending on 18 October 1942 (i.e. just before El Alamein). So it covered the lowest period for the nation in WW2.

We didn't do all twelve plays - not even All Saint's devout congregation would have stood for that. We did an edited version concentrating on the very dramatic events of Holy Week.

Like all good amateur performances, the dress rehearsal was a complete shambles, at one point having to stop while we all sat in the pews convulsed with laughter at yet another mishap and its consequent repartee. But the final performance went remarkably well, and many people remarked on how they looked on the Holy Week

story with fresh eyes.

Just to avoid your embarrassment in asking me, I will tell you that I played the part of the second robber, named Dysmas, who was crucified with Jesus. (“How appropriate” did I hear some mumble in the background!!) My only line was one which I still have a great fondness for:

“Sir, remember me, won’t you, when you come into your kingdom.”

To which Jesus replied:

“Indeed and indeed I tell you, today you shall be with me in Paradise”.

Despite it being only one line, I can well remember that I found it very difficult and very moving. In fact, the whole play was very moving, and brought alive the horrendous events of that week two millennia ago. And when I have doubts, I often remember being told by a Canon during the rehearsals that Holy Week is perhaps a misleading name. It recounts, after all, a horrific persecution, trial and an extremely painful death. A better description of those world-changing events might be the Agony of Jesus.

So perhaps, rather than ‘giving up something for Lent’, one could suggest ‘doing something different for Lent’. I for one have decided to read, slowly, those full twelve radio plays by Dorothy Sayers. All of you that know me will realise just how that is a very different activity for me.

The other lesson which the Vicar aimed for by putting on the play was a much greater sense of cohesion in the congregation, and much more productive outreach. This was certainly achieved. Almost everyone who could took a part in the play. We specifically went out and asked non-congregation members to come and help us. As we come out of this current period of having to be alone, perhaps we can think of ways, different ways, of becoming more cohesive as a congregation and also having a greater outreach into the community that is Stonehaven.

What are you going to do differently in Lent in this most

extraordinary of years?

What are you going to do differently after Easter when life will be returning to normal?

Whatever you decide to do, please bear in mind that the conclusion of Lent and Holy Week was not death, but the glorious Resurrection of Our Lord. In that we can have the faith and so can have hope and charity. Whatever you decide to do, I look forward to greeting you all in seven weeks' time with the words, 'Happy Easter'.

Vestry Minutes 12th January 2021 (By Zoom)

Opening prayers were said by Arma, remembering especially Val Cadd and her family, and Edna who is in hospital, and Heather who attended the meeting, although ill.

Matters Arising

A donation of £100 has been sent to the Aberlour Children's Charity. The Quinquennial Inspection is on hold because of covid restrictions.

Treasurer's Report

Main Account:	£51,890.80
Fabric Fund Account:	£1,946.65
Buildings Account:	£383.32
St Philip's:	£1,718.67

The accounts for 2019/2020 for St James and St Philip's have been accepted by OSCR.

The Community Church has put £250 into the St Philip's account as a donation for the use of the church.

Report on St James

St James is now closed due to Covid restrictions. Thanks were expressed to David, Diane and Arma for taking down the Christmas tree and putting away the nativity crib. There were some difficulties in putting the nativity figures away correctly, Edward said he has a photo showing how it should be done and he will send this to David

for future use.

The water in both the church and hall will need to be run before re-opening (to avoid Legionella build-up in the pipes).

Worship

The Redemptorist sheets for January to March have arrived. Peter said that if the Worship Group needed a meeting before the church re-opened then he could organise a Zoom meeting for them.

Discussion with Bishop Andrew

Vestry members agreed that the Joint Congregation meeting was good and informative. Peter will report on this in the Newsletter.

Anne said that new ideas had been put forward for 'life after covid'. These included exhibitions and running a children's activity group on a Saturday morning.

The Vestry had the opportunity to look at the CV of a possible candidate for the post of Transitional Minister. The Joint Co-ordinating Group will have the opportunity to meet him via Zoom. Peter emphasized this was not a formal interview and a decision would be taken later whether he is to be interviewed as a single candidate, or to advertise the post.

It is hoped that both congregations will have an opportunity to meet short-listed candidates, covid regulations permitting.

Peter still has concerns about accommodation.

Fabric

Church: The organ has a problem and needs to be looked at.

Rectory: The boiler needed to be repaired. This was carried out by British Gas, with whom we have a contract. A gas safety certificate has been issued.

Fund Raising/Social

David reported that he and Diane have arranged to sell books online. Anne said that jams, marmalade and knitwear are still selling.

PVG

Irene has received a Safeguarding Audit summary for the Brechin Diocese.

Next Meeting: 22nd February (via Zoom)

St James in 1957

The World: **Jan:** Anthony Eden resigned, Harold Macmillan now PM; **Mar:** France, Italy, Germany and Benelux signed Treaty of Rome, Britain freed Archbishop Makarios; **May:** Joseph McCarthy died, Billy Graham began crusade in New York, Britain exploded her first H-bomb; **Jun:** first Premium Bond prize drawn; **Jul:** Parking meters introduced in London, Althea Gibson won Wimbledon final, Eire - state of emergency declared and interment without trial; **Sept:** Wolfenden report on homosexuality, Adenauer's Christian Democrats won German election, King Olaf V crowned King of Norway on death of Haakon VII, Dag Hammarskjold re-appointed U Secretary General; **Oct:** USSR launched first space satellite, Queen Elizabeth visited Canada; **Nov:** Soviets sent dog into orbit; **Dec:** all Dutch nationals expelled from Indonesia, regular London-Moscow air service introduced, Queen made her first Christmas television broadcast. **Also:** Boris Pasternak's novel '*Dr Zhivago*', Leonard Bernstein's musical '*West Side Story*', David Lean's film '*Bridge on the River Kwai*'. Jack Kerouac's '*On the Road*'.

Death of Jean Sibelius, Benjamin Gigli, Arturo Toscanini, Humphrey Bogart.

September: civil rights confrontation in Little Rock Arkansas

October: Jodrell Telescope unveiled. Fire at atomic plant at Windscale resulted in radioactive iodine escaping over surrounding countryside.

St James, Stonehaven

Jan 1957: The statement of accounts was presented for the year ending November 1956 which showed a credit balance of £220-19-10.

29 Jan 1957: The Annual General Meeting was held in the Church Hall. There were approximately 70 communicant members present. The Rector thanked the ladies of the Work Party for their efforts in raising over £200 at the annual Sale of Work. Their previous sale was also a success and raised £50. The Hall Committee was accorded a 'thank you' by clearing off the loan granted to them by the RCC in 5 years instead of the agreed term of 10 years. Mr James Lees who had resigned from the Hall Committee was thanked and two new members

welcomed: Mrs Christie and Mrs Jamieson. The Rector thanked the ladies who cleaned the church. Two ladies had resigned but another two ladies had volunteered. The total amount of communions had increased considerably for the year – 2,208 – an increase of 200 on the previous year, which was most encouraging. Mr M Main's work on repairs to the church roof was greatly appreciated.

Mr James Gammie was appointed as Rector's Warden, Mr John Dalgarno as People's Warden, Mr C Grant as Lay Representative. Mr M Main, Mr R Taylor and Mr J Emslie were all re-elected to the Vestry.

The annual Sale of Work would be held in the Town Hall on Wednesday, 17th July.

The Rector had been asked to organise a rally on behalf of the Universities' Mission to Central Africa. This would be held on Wednesday, 26th June in the Town Hall. The Rector said that, although it meant catering for such a large party, he had no doubt that the ladies would rise to the occasion.

The new church notice board which was erected in the grounds was presented by Mr John Law, painter.

After tea discussion arose on the condition of the clerestory windows. The Rector had sought expert advice on this matter, the outcome being that if the windows were repaired and double glazed, it would do much to eliminate the cold draughts that worry us throughout the winter. This was agreed.

There was also discussion about the unsatisfactory condition of the electric cooker in the Rectory. It was agreed a new one be installed and paid for out of the Rectory Fund. This would be installed by Mr J Emslie who offered to supply one at cost price.

Diane

Services in March

The recent pronouncements from the First Minister indicate that churches will not be allowed to reopen until 5th March and then they be restricted to congregations of 20 or fewer. Unrestricted opening will not be allowed until at least 3 weeks after that, 5th April. Of course, these dates may change depending on the development of the

disease.

Bishop Andrew had planned to be with us in Stonehaven on 14th March, Mothering Sunday. Instead he will hold a Zoom service for St James' on that day at 10.00 am. If you have a computer, smart phone or tablet then to join the service simply click on the link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88683617645?pwd=cTJSTk1DZEdVRW5DR1B1cjBpRFZlQT09>.

If you don't have a computer, smart phone or tablet then you can still use your landline phone to join the service, although obviously you will only hear what is going on. If you contact the bishop's personal assistant, Elliott Scarfe, at 07444161300 (his office hours are Monday to Friday 9.00am to 1pm) then he will explain how to do it.

Peter

Transition Minister

The Joint Coordinating Group met on 11th February. At the suggestion of the Bishop it had an on-line meeting with a prospective candidate on 5th February. This was not a formal interview, just the opportunity to get an impression of whether he might be suitable for the post.

The group agreed that this person was appointable but wished to first advertise the post before committing to interviews. The advert will be placed in the 16th April issue of the Church Times.

The diocese has agreed, in principle, to purchase a suitable property for the minister. We would be responsible for the maintenance of the house. As we would no longer be paying rent, this will reduce our contribution to the cost of employing the minister by about £10,000 per annum.

The Joint Coordinating Group will meet again on 4th March.

Peter

Readers, and Greeters,

Date	Readings
7th March 3rd Sunday in Lent	Ex 20.1-17 Ps 19 1 C 1.18-25 Jn 2.13-22
14th March 4th Sunday in Lent Mothering Sunday	Nu 21.4-9 Ps 107.1-3,17-22 Eph 2.1-10 Jn 3.14-21
21st March 5th Sunday in Lent Passion Sunday	Jer 31.31-34 Ps 51.1-13 or 119.9-16 Heb 5.5-10 Jn 12.20-33
28th March 6th Sunday in Lent Palm Sunday	Mk 11.1-11 or Jn 12.12-16 Ps 118.1-2,19-29 ***** Is 50.4-9a Ps 31.9-16 Phil 2.5-11 Mk 14.1-15.47 or Mk 15.1-39(40-47)
4th April Easter Sunday	Acts 10.34-43 or Is 25.6-9 Ps 118.1-2,14-24 1 C 15.1-11 or Acts 10.34-43 Jn 20.1-18 or Mk 16.1-8

Year B – Readings are from the NRSV of the Bible

Greeter	Lessons 1+2	Gospel
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
Diana Peters	Peter Sharp	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 April Newsletter is Sunday 21st March 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