

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



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

Sundays.

10.00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

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



DIARY NOTES July 2021

Day/Date	Event
4th July 5th Sunday in Trinity	10.00am Reserved Sacrament. Anne O’Gorman
11th July 6th Sunday in Trinity	10.00am Reserved Sacrament. Arma Iles
18th July 7th Sunday in Trinity	10.00am Reserved Sacrament. Anne O’Gorman
25th July 8th Sunday in Trinity Patronal Festival	10.00am Holy Communion. Bishop Andrew

From Peter

There are two items in this month's newsletter to which I would like to draw your attention. David has provided an extract from a recent Peter Toon Memorial Lecture in which the speaker proposes Christian guidance as to the way forward as we come out of lockdown. The other, also from David, is a plea for assistance with some of the many tasks that need to be carried out to ensure the smooth running of St James'.

Peter Toon was a proponent of conservative Anglicanism and uneasy with many of the reforms in the church in recent years. The eponymous lecture contains ideas which some of us may agree with and others disagree. But what is important is that, as members of the Scottish Episcopal Church, we belong to a community that traditionally embraces a wide variety of views. That is not to say that the church hasn't had its divisions but given the issues that it has faced in recent years, particularly over the role of women in the priesthood and same sex marriages, it has proved remarkably accommodating.

But there are issues over which we have to compromise and the Covid pandemic has thrown up a number of those. We are asked by governments to act in ways which can be seen to infringe our personal liberties and our rights to practice our religion in the manner to which we have become accustomed. The lecturer picks up two of these in particular; the requirement to wear protective masks and the limitations on singing.

In my talk a few weeks ago I discussed the Christian family. As in any family there are times when we must compromise on what we do for the greater good of the group, whatever our personal views might be. As a scientist, I am convinced by the evidence that the coronavirus virus is spread by aerosols and

therefore it makes sense for us to protect our neighbours by wearing masks, sitting apart and by avoiding situations where we generate large amounts of aerosol. It seems to me that this is a Christian response to the scientific evidence. As vaccinations reach a large proportion of the population, we will modify these restrictions but it will most likely being a question of learning to live with the disease rather than it disappearing.

As a family we need to do our share of the “washing up”! In the Scottish Episcopal Church, as in any organisation, a number of people are elected by the congregation to take responsibility on their behalf. This is the role of the vestry and we are very grateful to those who are willing to give up their time for this. But that does not mean that vestry members are responsible for doing the myriad of jobs that are necessary for the smooth running of the church. Nor should we assume that when we appoint a transitional minister, he or she will take on many of these responsibilities. So in his article David has set out a list of jobs for which he is asking people to step forward and provide help for him. It may not be obvious what these involve, but if you feel that you could spare a little time to help the church in any of these tasks then please speak with David or any vestry member and we will go into more detail.

If we all muck-in to do the washing up, then it is quickly and easily done (and, no, there is no equivalent to a dishwasher).

Thank You

We would both like to thank the Vestry and congregation of St James for all your congratulations and good wishes on the occasion of our Diamond Wedding Anniversary. The flowers were beautiful and thank you Arma for the poem, it was lovely. The medley of Scottish tunes played at the service was also very

enjoyable.

Can we also thank everyone for their prayers and good wishes for Bill since his operation. Progress is slow but we will persevere.

Thinking of you all even though we cannot get to church so often at the moment.

Best Wishes,
Stella & Bill Wilson

Call for Help

At the last Vestry meeting, we discussed the concerns being raised about how dependent we were on specific individuals, and should anything happen to one of them, we do not have much in the way of a back-up plan. David added his concern that he is spending a lot of time on church work, and would seek to find others to share the duties. These are itemised on the next page.

The vestry agreed to see what could be done, and it was stressed that it would take some months to improve this dependency, and we must ensure that anyone offering to help would be offered an induction period and/or training to ensure a smooth transition.

It was suggested that congregation members should be asked individually to consider how they might be able to help in distributing these duties more evenly. We have some offers of help so far, and we thank those people. We will be in touch! More offers would be most welcome.

If you feel you could offer help, of whatever nature, please talk to a Vestry member.

BUILDING CONVENORSHIP	Routine Maintenance
	Major Project work
	Church and Hall keys
BUILDING SYSTEMS	Web
	Wifi,
	Heating
	Alarms
	Audio
LITURGICAL	Setting calendar
	Worship Group
	Hymn List
	Special service sheets
PUBLICITY	Facebook
	Noticeboard
	Newsletter by post
FINANCE	Check Abe Books Account
MUSIC	Organ Maintenance
HALL	Booking
	Cleaning Supplies
	Chasing Payment
ADMINISTRATION	Congregational List
	Rota for Greeters/Readers etc
	Telephone answering
	Getting visiting priests
BOOK BROWSE	Managing event before, during & after
	Abe Books system

The Church and the Virus

The article below, taken, with acknowledgement, from the Church Times, is a précis of an excellent lecture given at The Prayer Book Society recently by The Venerable Dr Edward Dowler, Archdeacon of Hastings, as the Peter Toon Memorial Lecture. It offers sound Christian guidance as a way forward as we come out of lockdown.

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Is there any possibility of reaching our sanitised hands across the aisle in what we hope and pray will be the final throes of the Covid pandemic?

For some, the Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs) of the past year such as lockdowns, distancing, masks, etc., have been self-evidently necessary to prevent a disaster even greater than the one we have actually seen. Others – myself included – have questioned whether such measures were proportionate to the actual risk, effective in what they sought to achieve or, in some cases, whether they could ever be morally justified. Perhaps we will one day definitively know the truth of these things, and perhaps we won't.

Christ is our cornerstone, who holds together divergent parts of a living temple (Eph 2.20; Ps 118.22). Looking to him, Christians might eschew increasingly polarised debates in this and other areas, and look instead at what binds us together as we emerge from a pandemic that has in many ways eviscerated the life of the Church. Here are five things that I believe we might all agree that we love and value, and appreciate afresh.

The first is *the beauty and value of the human face* which we

are now so used to seeing covered up. The old pastor in Marilynne Robinson's *Gilead* says, 'Any human face is a claim on you, because you can't help but understand the singularity of it, the courage and the loneliness'. By contrast with the faceless and impersonal 'god of the philosophers', the God of the Bible has a face which we *can seek* (Ps 27.8), which we *have seen* in the face of Jesus Christ (2 Cor 4.6), and which we *will see* one day in face to face vision of the Lord (1 Cor 13.12). As a corollary to this, the God of the Bible sees the infinitely varied faces of each of his human children; knowing and valuing our uniqueness and individuality: 'behold our shield, O God: look on the face of your anointed' (Ps 84.9).

Secondly, as restrictions are further lifted we will gain a new delight in the *song of the Church*, sensing how integral it is to Christian worship – a perception shared, despite their very different musical styles, by Orthodox and many evangelical Christians. 'How intensely I was moved by the lovely harmonies of your singing Church!' wrote one famous convert. For Augustine of Hippo, singing is no optional extra, but central because it moves us to love, and love is the power that impels us wherever we go. His well-known teaching that 'if we receive the Eucharist worthily, we become what we receive' is matched by a perception that as we sing praise to God 'the singer himself is the praise contained in the song'.

Thirdly a *renewed Christian psychology* will move us away from our current mindset in which fear sits in the driving seat. In her recent book *A State of Fear*, the journalist and photographer Laura Dodsworth has charted the techniques that the UK and other governments have used – some will say justifiably – to deliberately heighten the public sense of fear in response to the pandemic. Christians know of something very different which moves us: a perfect love that casts out fear

(1 Jn 4.18). As St Thomas Aquinas teaches (following Paul in 1 Corinthians 13), it is not fear but the ‘theological virtues’ of faith, hope and love that are the proper, God-given drivers of Christian life.

The *physical proximity of Christians and the sacramental life of the Church* is a fourth gift to joyfully reclaim. The last year has seen important advances in online prayer, study and pastoral support but, as Dietrich Bonhoeffer reminds us in his classic work on the Christian community, *Life Together*, our physical closeness to one another is a wonderful and irreplaceable sign of God’s presence: ‘the believer... lauds the Creator, the Redeemer, God, Father, son and Holy Spirit for the bodily presence of a brother or sister. The prisoner, the sick person, the Christian in exile sees in the companionship of a fellow Christian a physical sign of the glorious presence of the triune God’.

A fifth and final theme is *the message of eternal life* that we bear as an Easter people. As those who officiate at funerals know only too well, it is not an easy one to get across, since many people in modern society are apparently uninterested. But perhaps there is now more of an open door: writers as diverse as the historian Tom Holland and the scientist Karol Sikora have pointed out that fear of death has been the great and largely unspoken reality in this crisis; and one that the Church is uniquely placed to address. If we can find renewed ways of talking about our hope for what lies beyond it – something about which we seem to have been strangely reticent over the past year – we may to our surprise find a new traction in a nervous and fearful post-pandemic world.

David Fleming

ST JAMES IN 1961

THE WORLD: **Jan:** US severed diplomatic and consular relations with Cuba; Former PM of Congo Lumumba murdered; John Kennedy became President of USA; **Feb:** W German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer visited London; **Mar:** President Kennedy set up Peace Corps; British PM Macmillan met Kennedy in Florida; **April:** Soviet Cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin first man in space; failed Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba; Right wing rebellion in Algeria threatened France; **May:** British spy George Blake sentenced to 42 years; Last journey of Paris-Bucharest Orient Express train; Kennedys welcomed in Paris; S Africa became Republic; **June:** Soviet ballet dancer Rudolf Nureyev defected to West; **July:** Author Ernest Hemingway committed suicide; **Aug:** Britain applied to join European Economic Community; E Germany closed frontier between E and W Berlin; E Germany erected Berlin Wall; **Sept:** Head of UN Dag Hammarskjold killed in air crash; **Oct:** Malta became independent from Britain; **Nov:** U Thant became interim Secretary-General of UN; UK Commonwealth Immigration Bill introduced.

Also: Benjamin Britten's opera '*A Midsummer Night's Dream*'; Lionel Bart's musical '*Oliver*'; Joseph Heller's novel '*Catch 22*'; Film of '*West Side Story*'; Truffaut's film '*Jules et Jim*'.

In April the trial of Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann began in Israel. In December he was sentenced to death.

The female oral contraceptive pill was launched after extensive clinical trials.

1961 was a year of Ban the Bomb demonstrations, Bertrand Russell arrested.

President Kennedy announced the beginning of the Apollo project to put a man on the moon.

ST JAMES, STONEHAVEN

Jan 29th 1961: The accounts for the year ending Nov 1960 were presented and approved. There was a credit balance of £50-11s-1d. It was agreed to appoint a new auditor – Mr Godsman of the Royal Bank in Union Street.

Jan 31st: 53 communicant members attended the AGM held in the Hall. The Rector spoke of the continued increase at services and improvements to the Church including the concrete path, granite chips, edgings and the carpet for the centre aisle. The carpeting at the

west end of the Church, paid for by the Ladies' Work Party, was also a great improvement. He also paid tribute to Mr Gavin Leiper for the manner in which the Church and Hall were kept, and to Mr R Christie for his work, the Ladies' Work Party for their never-failing help, Vestry and Wardens which all contributed to a happy and united congregation. Miss E Christie felt that the congregation of St James could contribute more to the Clergy Fund as well as to the Widows and Orphans. Mr Grant was appointed Lay Representative, Mr J Gammie as Rector's Warden, Mr J Dalgarno People's Warden, Mr Gavin Leiper was appointed to the Vestry.

Tea was served after which Mr Leiper showed a few coloured slides of the Church and district. An interesting talk, also illustrated by coloured slides, was given by Miss Christie on the Passion Play at Oberammegau.

Mar 22nd: The main question for this meeting was the re-investment of the endowment funds deposited with the Representative Church Council. The Rector and Treasurer had been advised to instruct Mr J Fentiman (RCC Treasurer) to uplift the present deposits and re-invest them in the Unit Trust Pool. By so doing there might be a slight loss of interest but future years would show a substantial increase. This was agreed, together with the two legacies: £100 from Wm Mains and £50 from Miss Paterson. The Executive Committee of the RCC hoped to raise the minimum stipend for 1961 by £50 and appealed to Vestries to try and meet this extra amount. This was agreed.

Sept 15th: This meeting was called to discuss the question of Christian Stewardship Campaign. After lengthy discussion, and as the campaign was still in the early stages throughout the Diocese, it was agreed to leave it to the Rector and Treasurer to go into the matter further and report back. Mr E Barclay drew attention to the state of the roof in the interior of the Church above the lectern- it was obvious there was a bad leak. It was agreed to have this attended to at an early date.

Minutes of Vestry Meeting (via Zoom) 24th May 2021

Matters Arising

The Altar Cloth in memory of Doreen Brankin is still to be purchased.

The jacket left in church is still unclaimed.

David updated Vestry on the list of tasks for which he is responsible and would like assistance. Peter is happy to continue looking after the website. David said he had approached some members of the congregation for help and was waiting to hear back. He will also put an article in the July Newsletter asking for volunteers.

Correspondence

Email received from Provincial Buildings Committee requesting information about heating systems fitted in the last 5 years. David has replied with details of the system at St James.

Val said that Stella and Bill Wilson will celebrate their Diamond Wedding on 27th May. Louise will bring Stella to church on Sunday and it was agreed that a card and flowers would be presented.

Treasurer's Report

Main Account:	£50,931.21
Fabric Fund Account:	£2,024.80
Buildings Account:	£276.14
St Philip's:	£1,111.72

Report on St Philip's

Peter has visited St Philip's to read the electricity meter and, apart from a few slipped roof tiles, the church fabric looked fine.

Worship

David had previously circulated a paper on the use of the Lectionary which Edward had prepared. This was discussed at the Worship Group and Vestry and it was decided to wait until we have a priest before making any changes. Edward was thanked for his hard work. There had been an enquiry for a baptism for 2 children for some time in June. Anne had contacted the Bishop and Fay Lamont was also involved. Details had been passed to Fay and we await details of a date.

Discussion with Bishop Andrew

The closing date for applications for a Transitional Minister is 28th May.

It was noted that the diocese had been successful in purchasing a property in Stonehaven for the Church House.

Fabric

Hall: David has applied for a grant for repairs to the roof and to upgrade the church grounds.

Abbeyfield had previously contacted the church about erecting a fence and gate between their property and the church. David wrote to Abbeyfield suggesting they pay part of this, if they are not prepared to pay towards this the gate and fence will not be erected.

Anne reported that a tap had been left running in the disabled toilet on Sunday.

The Brownies and Guides will be returning in September and will be paying £15/hour.

Fund Raising/Social

David reported that 23 books have been sold online for a total of £380. Most of these are old/antique books, one had been signed by the author.

Next Meeting: 29th June (via Zoom)

Transitional Minister

As I reported to the congregation in June, there were three applications for the post of transitional minister. Following a meeting between the bishop and the Joint Coordinating Group, one applicant was short-listed. Owing to the Covid restrictions, the interview, which was carried out by the two vestries with the bishop in the chair, was done by Zoom. They were in agreement that this person should be invited up to Stonehaven and Muchalls to take a service and preach before a congregation made up of the vestries. A date has yet to be agreed for this.

The purchase of the rectory at 3 Martin Place has now been completed. There are a few minor alterations that need to be done to it and these will be paid for by the diocese.

Peter

Readers, and Greeters,

Date	Readings
4th July 5th Sunday in Trinity	Ezek 2.1-5 Ps 123 2 C 12.2-10 Mk 6.1-13
11th July 6th Sunday in Trinity	Am 7.7-15 Ps 85.8-13 Eph 1.3-14 Mk 6.14-29
18th July 7th Sunday in Trinity	Jer 23.1-6 Ps 23 Eph 2.11-22 Mk 6.30-34,53-56
25th July 8th Sunday in Trinity	2 Kg 4.42-44 Ps 145.10-19 Eph 3.14-21 Jn 6.1-21
1st August 9th Sunday in Trinity	Ex 16.2-4,9-15 Ps 78.23-29 Eph 4.1-16 Jn 6.24-35

Year B – Readings are from the NRSV of the Bible

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

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 August Newsletter is Sunday 25th July 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