

**Episcopal Churches of
St. James' Stonehaven.
St. Philip's Catterline.
December 2021 & January 2022**



**Services at St. James' & St Philip's during
December 2021 & January 2022**

Sundays.

10.00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

There will be no service on Christmas Eve.

25th December 10.00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

**26th December 10.30 a.m. Joint service with
Carronside Church in St Bridget's Hall**

**22nd January 11.00 a.m. Licensing of Rev. Mary Jepp.
(She will also be licensed to St Ternan's at 3.00 pm at
Muchalls)**



DIARY NOTES December 2021

Day/Date	Event
5th December 2nd Sunday in Advent	10.00am Reserved Sacrament. Anne O’Gorman
12th December 3rd Sunday in Advent	10.00am Holy Eucharist Very Rev Canon Fay Lamont
19th December 4th Sunday in Advent	10.00am Reserved Sacrament. Anne O’Gorman
25th December Christmas Day	10.00am tba
26th December 1st Sunday after Christmas	<u>10.30 am</u> Joint service with Carronside Church in St Bridget’s Hall

DIARY NOTES January 2022

Day/Date	Event
2nd January 2nd Sunday after Christmas	10.00am Holy Eucharist Bishop Andrew Swift
9th January 1st Sunday in Epiphany	10.00am Reserved Sacrament. Anne O’Gorman
16th January 2nd Sunday in Epiphany	10.00am Reserved Sacrament. Arma Iles
22nd January Saturday	11.00 am Licensing and Holy Eucharist Bishop Andrew Swift and Rev Mary Jepp
23rd January 3rd Sunday in Epiphany	10.00am Holy Eucharist Rev. Mary Jepp
30th January 4th Sunday in Epiphany	10.00am Reserved Sacrament. tba

Bishop Andrew writes:

It is December 2021 and we are entering another Advent season with restrictions and limitations on our lives as individuals and as church communities. As I write, we are wondering what the 'omicron' variant of the Covid-19 virus might mean for us. As we gather to worship and enjoy each other's company, please do follow the ongoing guidance, keep safe and protect each other. The freedom to be able to worship remains a welcome part of our church life—let us pray that we can navigate the rest of this pandemic safely.

Advent is a season about WAITING. The four weeks, with the various themes one can explore, help us wait for the arrival of the feast-day of Christmas. Waiting for that celebration, with images of angels, shepherds and the child born in the manger, takes us back 2,000 years. And looking ahead, Advent encourages us to wait for when God's kingdom will come—from early concepts of Jesus' returning in person to rule the world with justice and peace all the way to highly developed ideas about personal salvation and letting God into our lives in this day and age. All of this Advent-time is about ways that we wait...

And you are waiting, along with the good people of St Ternan's Muchalls, for the arrival of your new priest in the New Year, the Rev Mary Jepp. Slightly delayed following husband Mike's health scare, she is excited and eager to be among you in January. As she gets to know you as your priest and works with you to discern the future as your transitional minister, you can trust that you will have an engaging journey ahead of you as church communities. I am convinced that Mary will bring great experience and enthusiasm to the diocesan clergy team.

So, as ever, my prayers are with you as Advent starts and this time of waiting continues. I look forward to spending some time with you at some services in the next few weeks, and especially for gathering with you for Mary's licensing services on the 22nd of January. And in all of this waiting, keeping safe as you go, hold on to the joy and wonder of following the Christ child...

Peace and joy to all.

Christmas message from Mary

At this time of year I, like many others, become somewhat nostalgic thinking of past Christmases in many different places. My family probably blame my age and I am sure that it has some bearing but a good bit of it is a yearning for a certain frozen north. There have been many a time that I have tried to convince my family that skating on frozen lakes is not just a feature of Hollywood blockbusters.

Part of my nostalgia rests with a carol I learnt when I was a little girl; it remains one of my favourites. What is known as the Huron Carol was written in and around 1642 by a French Jesuit missionary Jean de Brebuf who lived and ministered in the wilds of Canada. In the carol, which is considered to be Canada's one and only native carol, Brebuf uses imagery that speaks of the place in which it was written. He wrote it with the intention that the imagery of his evocative words would connect with the native Canadians, the Hurons. Through the words of the carol he believed that the indigenous people would come to know and love Our Lord Jesus Christ. Brebuf's words speak of a great cold country a place where the native Americans made use of the resources of the land, he uses imagery such as 'the moon of wintertime when all the birds had fled' and even has the wee babe is wrapped in rabbit skins to

keep warm. These are words which spoke to the people of that place and time and also to a little girl, that being me, growing up on the edge of great forests.

Brebuf had an understanding that a knowledge and understanding of God need to be relevant to the people that he encountered otherwise the story, the faith, would not grow, the faith would be lost and ignored for being of a foreign culture. Brebuf in a sense made the mission at 'Sainte Marie among the Hurons', which is in Quebec, a place of hospitality and welcome for the native Americans who came to not only trade but in time to worship there.

Christmas is more than anything else a time of hospitality, a time of welcome as we welcome the Christ child into our hearts, as we engage with not only our families and friends but also with those on the edges of our communities, regardless of their circumstances. It is a time when Christians are reminded to be home to the spirit of God, be willing to welcome that Spirit into our lives so that we in our way can transform the world around us. It is a time when we can ask ourselves how would we welcome the stranger, how would we welcome the Christ Child and his parents into our communities.

Christmas is a time of hope, and my hope for our church communities is that we will become a true place of welcome for all. That we will recognize the needs of not only our existing church community but the needs of the stranger. That is not to say that our traditions should be ignored or dispensed with but that we need to think how we can encourage others to come to know the love of God. Brebuf a Roman Catholic, never dispensed with Holy Communion but he did encourage the singing of a hymn that included the words Gitiche Manitou which meant Great Spirit or, as we would say, God in several of the Algonquian languages. As they say we live in uncertain

times!!! Just like Brebuf however, we are people of faith, who know that we are held in God's love. Let us pray that in the months and years to come we will be able to embrace what lies ahead while hold onto the truth of God's love.

Wishing you every joy this Christmas Tide.
God Bless you and all that you love

Mary

Twas in the moon of wintertime when all the birds had fled
That mighty Gitchi Manitou sent angel choirs instead;
Before their light the stars grew dim and wondering hunters
heard the hymn,

Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria.
Within a lodge of broken bark the tender babe was found;
A ragged robe of rabbit skin enwrapped his beauty round
But as the hunter braves drew nigh the angel song rang loud
and high

Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria.
The earliest moon of wintertime is not so round and fair
As was the ring of glory on the helpless infant there.
The chiefs from far before him knelt with gifts of fox and beaver
pelt.

Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria.
O children of the forest free, O seed of Manitou
The holy Child of earth and heaven is born today for you.
Come kneel before the radiant boy who brings you beauty
peace and joy.

Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria.

Transitional Ministry

As you know, medical problems prevented Mary and Mike joining us last month. Fingers crossed, we now have new dates. They will be arriving in Stonehaven on 10-11 January.

The licensing service, when Mary officially becomes the rector of St James' and St Philip's and transitional minister, will be at 11.00am on Saturday 22nd January. The service will be taken by the Bishop and Mary will celebrate Holy Communion as part of it. The service will be followed by a light lunch in the hall.

Everyone is welcome to attend and we hope that there will be a large turn-out to greet Mary and her husband Mike. We are expecting a number of visitors including people from other local churches and from elsewhere in the diocese.

Mary will also celebrate Holy Eucharist on the following Sunday (23rd) at 10.00 am.

Peter

Tree of Life

For over 15 years one of the trees in the church yard/garden of St James Episcopal Church, Arbuthnott Street, Stonehaven has been decorated by members of the community in memory of their family and friends who have passed away and they wish to remember especially at Christmas time. We call the tree - THE TREE OF LIFE.

The congregation of St James would like to invite everyone who would like to, to place a simple bauble on the tree from Wednesday 1st December. The tree is next to the side gate beside the church wall and can be accessed either inside or outside the church property. The effect is very simple yet stunning.

You are very welcome to either bring you own bauble or there will be a basket of baubles in the church for you. The baubles will stay on the tree until 12th Night - 6th January. If you would

like to retrieve your bauble we would ask you to do so by the 6th January.

The basket of baubles will be available daily (during daylight hours) in the church and also at St. James' Book Browse that will run on Friday 3rd December and Saturday 4th December from 10am until 5pm and Sunday 5th December from 11am until 5pm.

We hope you will get both pleasure and comfort from The Tree of Life.

Val

Vestry Minutes 18th October 2021 (via Zoom)

Correspondence

A 'thank you' letter from Far and Wide for the harvest produce and money donated to the Food Bank had been received.

Treasurer's Report

Main Account:	£49,662.28
Fabric Fund Account:	£2,499.27
Buildings Account:	£729.14
St Philip's:	£1,222.94

Peter reported on the budget for 2021/2022 and presented the annual accounts for both St James and St Philip's. These were approved by the Vestry.

Report on St James

There have been two requests for plaques in the church and the Garden of Remembrance. These will cost £50 each.

The art exhibition will not be taking place in church this year.

There was a discussion about restarting coffee and tea after the

Sunday morning service. It was decided to start this at the AGM and then review it.

David has had no response from the Church of Scotland regarding the font from Garthdee. Because of its weight (about 400 Kgs) it will require a foundation and help to lift it.

Report on St Philip's

There was a discussion on the report circulated about the Catterline Community Church taking out a lease. On advice from the Diocesan Solicitor this will take the form of a 'Licence to Occupy'. Peter and David have made some proposals to the Community Church on behalf of the Vestry, one of which is that if the Community Church hire the church to another group they will keep the income. The lease fee is still to be agreed. The lease is likely to be for a minimum of 20 years with 5-year break points and a rent review. There is a question over who pays for insurance of the building. The Community Church should already have their own public liability and contents cover. The Community Church had raised the issue of burials in the churchyard and David had taken advice from Bishop Andrew. The graveyard is a private one, it is also a Commonwealth War Grave site and Aberdeenshire Council maintain it. There was a discussion on costs and whether there were any burial records. The area around the three East Windows is very damp and the stained glass is in need of repair – the lead has distorted and allows water to penetrate. The price quoted for this repair is £20,000. David is looking at funding for this. The draft Quinquennial report shows no other major work is required.

Worship

Michael Turner will be taking the service on 24th October, Bishop Andrew on the 21st November.

There will be no parade for Remembrance Sunday this year.

There will be a service at South Church with representatives from the Military, British Legion and other churches. David will represent St James.

There will be a 10 am service at St James. At the end of the service there will be a two minute silence, a reading of 'They shall not grow old' and the National Anthem.

Discussion with Bishop Andrew

The Joint Committee will meet soon for discussion on

- The draft formal agreement for St James and St Ternan's
- The Licensing Services
- Review of costs
- Support and review of ministry.

Fabric

Church: We are still awaiting the Quinquennial Reports.

Hall: One group has owned up to the damage on the wall. A member of that group will repaint that wall with washable paint. The crucifix has been repaired.

Garden: The Canon 35 has been submitted for the works proposed for the churchyard. The total cost is likely to be £17,000 and grants of £7,000 from the Province and £2,000 from the Diocese have been received.

Heather remarked that the gardens and particularly the Garden of Remembrance are looking very good.

Rectory: The new rectory is ready for occupation.

Fund Raising/Social

Anne has banked £250 from the sale of jam and marmalade. David reported that 75 books have been sold giving £300 net sales.

It is proposed to have a Book Browse on the first weekend in December in the church. Set up will be on Thursday and packing up on Monday. The opening times will be 10am-5pm,

11 am–5 pm on Sunday. David is to look at additional lighting. There will also be sales of preserves and hand knits.

AOCB

Peter expressed his thanks to Diane who has completed her three year term of office.

Next Meeting: 22nd November (via Zoom)

St James in 1966

The World: **Jan:** US launched biggest offensive ever in Vietnam, Indira Gandhi became Indian PM, Australian PM Menzies resigned after 16 years. **Feb:** Freddie Laker formed cut-price transatlantic airline. **Mar:** US astronauts docked in space, Pope and Archbishop of Canterbury (Michael Ramsey) met in Rome, Labour won landslide victory in British election. **April:** Soviet spacecraft orbits the moon, first regular English Channel hovercraft service began. **May:** Moors murderers Brady and Hindley jailed for life. **June:** Eamon de Valera became President of Ireland aged 83, unmanned US spacecraft landed on moon. **July:** France withdrew armed forces from NATO, Vietnam war protests at American Embassy in London, Harold Wilson imposed freeze on earnings, Race riots in Chicago, New York and Cleveland. **Aug:** China – Cultural Revolution announced by Mao Tse-tung, Frances Chichester sailed round world. **Sept:** S African PM Verwoerd assassinated, Falkland Islands raided by Argentina. **Oct:** Aberfan disaster, spy George Blake escaped from jail in London, President Johnson visited troops in Vietnam. **Nov:** floods ruined many art treasures in Florence, Jack Lynch became new Irish PM, George Blake arrived in E Berlin, Ronald Reagan elected Governor of California. **Dec:** Ian Smith refused UK proposals to end UDI in Rhodesia, Rhodesia left Commonwealth.

Also: Truman Capote's novel '*In Cold Blood*', Joe Orton's play

'Loot'

Bob Dylan and Joan Baez became two of the great cult figures of the 1960s. Lord Thomson of Fleet bought *The Times* from the Astor family. Jack Nicklaus won US Masters and British Open golf championships. American physicist Murray Gell-Mann postulated existence of quarks.

England football team won the World Cup against West Germany at Wembley.

Stonehaven

12th January 1966: The Rector stated that several letters had been exchanged between Professor McDonald (Diocesan Registrar) and the solicitors acting for Mr G B Dewar of Invercarron, Stonehaven Ltd regarding the sale of the ground. Two members had been quoted prices from two local builders in the region of £700 - £1000. After lengthy discussion it was proposed by Mr J Emslie, seconded by Canon Hayes that the ground in question be not sold until the Vestry had a meeting with the Diocesan Registrar.

The balance sheet for the year ending 30th November 1965 showed a deficit of £100-5s-3d. A resolution passed by the Representative Church Council in May 1965 stated that the stipend would be increased to £960 commencing January 1966. It was agreed to increase the stipend of the Rector to this sum.

21st January 1966: The Annual General Meeting was held in the hall. 36 communicant members were present. The Rector welcomed two new members to the congregation – Mr and Mrs Harper – and hoped they would be very happy in Stonehaven. It was agreed that the Secretary would write to the Rev J C Campbell, Minister of Dunnottar Parish Church, expressing regret that, because of ill health, he was having to resign a charge held for over 30 years. The congregation and Rector also expressed their appreciation of his long and faithful ministry in Stonehaven. They were pleased to read that a Doctor of

Divinity was to be conferred by the University of Edinburgh and 'hoped that, freed from the responsibilities of a parish, Mr Campbell will so recover his health as to have much happiness in his retirement years'. Mr Reid was re-elected to the Vestry, Mr J Emslie declined to stand again and Mr R Taylor was appointed. Mr R J Christie was also appointed, having been co-opted earlier. The Rector said that the Women's World Day of Prayer would be held in St James and it was agreed to hold the service at 7.30 pm on 25th February. Congratulations were offered to Mrs Scott on the birth of a daughter, and to Mrs Wilson on the birth of a son. The Wednesday evening services during Lent would be on the theme 'To Serve Thee Better', the services to be held in the hall. Tea was served by the Ladies of the Work Party.

6th February 1966: The meeting was called to consider correspondence between J C Reid and Sons, Solicitors, Laurencekirk and Professor McDonald. It was decided no decision be taken by the Vestry meantime regarding the sale of the ground.

27th April 1966: It was reported to the Secretary that the sink in the Church House was in a very bad condition. Mr Christie was asked to examine the sink after which he agreed that something would have to be done. After discussing the various types of units it was agreed that a stainless steel sink unit be installed.

30th May 1966: The meeting was called to consider an application from Messrs Wilsone and Duffus, Solicitors, Aberdeen on behalf of their client, Mr George Robertson, Allardice Street for the purchase of land lying on the west side of the church for the sum of £500. The intention was to build a house of five rooms, kitchen, bathroom and garage. After lengthy discussion it was decided not to sell the ground meantime. It was also agreed to explore the possibility of utilising the ground ourselves for the building of a Rectory.

The Secretary was instructed to write to Major Innes ,who had met with an unfortunate accident, wishing him a speedy recovery.

As parts of the wall were getting into a state of disrepair Mr R J Christie offered to see what he could do in the way of repairs. The Secretary had also had a letter from Mr E Barclay in which he stated that he was no longer able to keep the grounds and wished to give them up.

9th June 1966: A special meeting was held in the Church Hall. The main business of the meeting was to explore the possibilities of selling the Rectory at 35 Gurney Street and from the proceeds of the sale to erect a new Rectory on the Church's ground and part of the Church's feu. The Diocesan Architect, Mr J Anderson, had been invited to attend in a professional capacity and, after hospitality at the Rectory, which enabled him to assess the possible value of the house, he proceeded, together with members of the Vestry, to survey the proposed building site. The following points were made:

- At present day levels the Rectory should sell for a sum of at least £7,000 taking into consideration its position, interior amenities and being in first class order throughout.
- A compact bungalow, consisting of lounge, study, dining room, 3 bedrooms, kitchen, bathroom with the usual offices and central heating could be built for the above sum on the site suggested.
- Under no circumstances should the Church part with the ground to any private individual but should retain it for its own use.

Mr Anderson undertook to send some sketches of houses already erected and which might be suitable for the site. He also promised to advise the Diocesan Trustees of his findings. The Rector undertook to find out the possibility of obtaining a Dunderdale Grant for the building of new rectories and to inform the Bishop of the Vestry's deliberations.

30th June 1966: The meeting was called to consider the adjusted plans for the proposed erection of a Rectory on the ground

adjoining the Church. The Rector suggested the members of the Vestry should go over the present Rectory and compare the accommodation against the proposed new building. On returning to the study the members were unanimous in their decision not to proceed with the proposition.

Diane

Annual General Meeting

For the benefit of those of you who were unable to attend this year's AGM, these are the reports presented at the meeting.

Report on St James' and St Philip's 2021 Peter Sharp

To say the least, the last 12 months have been challenging for the church. When it came to writing this report I found myself searching on the web for information to remind me when the church had been allowed to open and when it had to be closed. We are still required to wear masks while in church and communion is taken in only one element, but otherwise we are getting back to normal. Let us hope, and pray, that the winter months don't lead to a resurgence of the virus.

The vestry have often been faced with difficult decisions about how to organise worship. Thanks must go to all who made the church "Covid Safe". We have tried to keep the disruption to worship to a minimum; in the December newsletter Bishop Andrew commented that 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!

Despite these issues, we have been able to make progress with

the work of the church. In last year's report we announced that it was agreed that we should work with St Ternan's to appoint a transitional minister. The diocese has been very supportive in enabling this. In June they purchased a property in Stonehaven to be the new rectory. Finally in August we were able to announce that the Revd. Mary Jepp had agreed to become our transitional minister. At the time of writing this report we are not sure when she will arrive. Her husband has had a recent cardiac problem and it is not clear how long he will take to recover.

Our thanks should go to the members of the Joint Co-ordinating Group who worked hard to bring this about. We are particularly thankful that representatives from both vestries were able to work in harmony. 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, particularly to Arma and Anne for taking services.

The appointment of Mary marks the start of a new phase in our church life. It does not mean that we can now relax and let Mary get on with running the two churches. While she will carry out many of the duties of an incumbent, such as taking some Sunday services and pastoral work, an important part of her work is to help the two congregations move towards building a sustainable future for the charges. That will require commitment from ourselves, not just to cover services when Mary is at St Ternan's but taking part in the process of discernment of the role of St James' in the future life of Stonehaven and the surrounding area.

The post is for 3 years in the first instance. As Bishop Andrew wrote in the October newsletter "At the end of the project, the

Transitional Minister may move on and an incumbent appointed. Or the Transitional Minister might wish to change role and become the next incumbent. Either is possible.” It may also be that at the end of 3 years there is still work for us to do and some form of further transitional ministry is required.

As you know, we have been unable to restart services at St Philip’s. However, the Community Church in Catterline have, with the blessing of the bishop and approval of the vestry, been using the building on occasions for their worship. They have now approached us to see if they may formalise this arrangement and take out a form of long-term lease of the church. Discussions are in progress and any arrangement would have to be agreed by the bishop as well as the vestry. However, the building would still remain as the Scottish Episcopal Church of St Philip’s, and we would be able to use it when required. But it would mean that the building was being regularly used for the benefit of the local Christian community.

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. Having meetings on Zoom is not always easy and we miss the fellowship of face-to-face meetings (and coffee and biscuits). Particular thanks go to Anne who acts as a very efficient vestry secretary. Thanks also go to all members of the congregation who act as greeters and readers of the lessons.

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 virtually, by Zoom, on 6th March and,

instead of being an all-day meeting lasted for 3 hours. Synod received reports from the various diocesan committees but, to save time, there was little discussion of them. The main business of Synod was to discuss two issues, and this was done by breaking up into small groups.

The first issue was a motion originating from last year's General Synod "That this Synod, expressing the need for urgent action in relation to the global climate emergency, call on the Church in Society Committee, working in conjunction with other appropriate bodies, to bring forward a programme of actions to General Synod 2021 to resource the Scottish Episcopal Church in working towards net zero carbon emissions by 2030."

The feedback from the groups highlighted problems such as the need to audit the church's carbon footprint and how to measure it, the challenge of heating church buildings, the costs of implementing changes, concerns that the proposed timescale was very short, more meetings on Zoom to save on travel.

The second issue was to consider the proposal from the review group looking at Canon 4. This canon sets out the process for electing a bishop. The current process involves a Preparatory Committee, consisting of members from the diocese and the wider Province, producing a short list of between 3 and 5 candidates. These then make presentations before the Electoral Synod, which is effectively the Diocesan Synod, and the successful candidate is the one who obtains a majority of votes from both the Lay members of the Electoral Synod and the Clergy members.

The proposal before Synod looked at the role played by the Preparatory Committee and the Electoral Synod. The Review

Group asked for views on two possible proposals. The first kept the roles of Preparatory Committee and Electoral Synod unchanged but required training to be undertaken by members of those groups in spiritual discernment and employment practice. The second proposal would replace the Electoral Synod with an Electoral Council. This would be smaller than the current Electoral Synod and would consist of members elected by each diocese and two bishops.

After discussion Synod voted with 46% in favour of the first option, 37% for the second option and 17% undecided.

One very welcome announcement was that the return on church investments had been so good in the past year, that quota was to be reduced by 18%.

While the work of our social committee has been limited by the Covid restrictions, Val and her team have been active particularly in ensuring that the church is suitably decorated for special events. We are very grateful for their efforts.

The Book Browse has also been a casualty of Covid. Customers have been invited to purchase books from a display in the Baptistery. But in the meantime, David and Diane have been advertising and selling some of the rarer books on-line and our thanks go to them.

There has been one positive outcome from the Covid crisis in that there has been a great demand from organisations to use both the hall and the church. 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 bookings.

The saga over the White Bridge continues. As you know this bridge, which forms an important link between the town centre and the church, was removed to facilitate the flood works. The completion date for the scheme appears to be a moveable feast with the latest date being 2023.

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. As I said last year, I think that we can look to the future with a certain degree of optimism.

Report by 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. One of the few ways in which the government is generous is the gift aid scheme. We reclaim 25% of the value of donations from members of the congregation who pay income tax and who have signed up for the scheme. If you are a higher rate tax-payer then you can claim back the additional tax via your income tax return. So, if you are not already signed up for gift aid then I can provide you with the necessary form.

Our accounts show a small surplus this year of £5,051.06, which is slightly down on last year's figure but, given the disruption to services, it is better than I had expected.

We cannot, however, rest on our laurels. As I'm sure that you all now know, we have appointed a transitional minister to work with ourselves and St Ternan's. That is very welcome news, but it does carry a financial cost. The diocese are helping

with this, both in purchasing a rectory and contributing towards ministry costs. I have presented the vestry with a budget which shows that we will have a deficit of about £13,000 for the next year. Over the three years that it is planned we have the minister we can meet those costs, but for the future financial viability of the church we will need to work with the minister to improve our finances.

We continue to generate income from the letting of the old rectory and renting the hall and other fund-raising activities. The latter has been seriously reduced during the pandemic but we hope that we can resume social activities in the near future. Our thanks go to all of you who put in such an effort to make them successful.

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

Treasurer's Report and Accounts

Peter Sharp

St. Philips. The income for the year was £1,647.42 and expenditure £1,470.01. Cash in the bank at the end of the financial year was £1,259.56.

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 £450. 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 £1,000 from it in the past year. We also have a small investment income from the SEC Unit Trust Pool.

Our main regular expenses are for electricity, the buildings

insurance and the emptying of the septic tank.

St. James. The Receipts and Payments Accounts shows that our income for the year was £38,881.22 and our expenditure £33,830.16 so giving us a surplus for the year of £5,051.06. The amount of money that we had in the bank at the end of the year was £74,809.75.

Congregational income, excluding tax recovered on Gift Aid, is slightly down on last year, but we have held fewer services.

Fortunately, we had no need to sell any of our shares again this year. The value of them has increased, having fallen the previous year. They are now valued at £97,490.00 but this figure varies significantly from month to month. The SEC Unit Trust has had a very successful year. The £25,000 legacy invested in the in 2020 is now valued at £39,220.25.

Our expenditure has decreased significantly but this is almost entirely explained by the renovation work. Our quota decreased; this was in part due to the diocese having accidentally over-charged us in the previous year and partly because, as mentioned in my Lay Representative's report, the diocese reduced quota by 18%.

Gift Aid is important, and I would ask that if you are a tax-payer 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.

Building Convenor's Report

David Fleming

Although the year has been dominated by the Covid lockdowns, one of the constants in life is that buildings still need attention.

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 existing Rectory continues to be occupied by the same tenant.

The wonderful news that Revd Mary Jepp will be with us shortly has led to the diocese enabling the purchase of a new Rectory, and the work to ready it for Mary's use is now all but complete.

The development that Catterline Community Church wishes to formalise their use of St Philip's is again welcome news, and means that the building will be used regularly and will be looked after by an enthusiastic group of Christians - as it should.

As far as major repair work, there is some progress in tidying up the churchyard, undertaking some long-term repairs to the concrete and realigning the gateposts so that, when the White Bridge is eventually returned and reopened in about a year's time, the area will be in good order and attractive. At St Philip's, work is needed to restore the east windows, which have suffered the ravages of time, and are now letting in water. Planning for this is underway. All these major repairs are being undertaken with as little call on the church's reserves as possible.

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.

Worship Group Report

Anne O’Gorman

Due to covid churches were closed from Boxing Day and were allowed to reopen for services on Palm Sunday. Still with restrictions and no singing.

On-line services were and still are available to watch.

We were allowed to sing from June, but the wearing of masks was compulsory.

The Worship group hold a monthly meeting, where cover for the services for the following month/months are discussed.

Arma and I take the 10 a.m .Reserve Sacrament Services. Thank you to Peter Sharp for his sermons on the first Sunday, when Arma is at St Ternans. Once a month we have a Priest, to preach and take the service. The visiting Priest consecrates wafers to be used for reserved sacrament.

David, now with my assistance, chooses the hymns for the services.

Thanks go to Arma and David for all their hard work.

Social Committee Report

Val Cadd

Sadly, there is nothing to report for the year ending November 2021 as the country/world has had to work with restrictions brought about by Covid-19.

Flower rota Report

Val Cadd

The church windows were decorated the first weekend of

October 2021 for harvest. Thank you to everyone involved. Thank you also for the kind donations of food items – these were donated to Stonehaven’s food bank.

Occasionally members of the church wish to place flowers at the altar for a special reason. If you would like to do that please speak to Anne or Val and as long it is not during Lent or Advent we will be pleased to help.

Communications Group Report

Peter Sharp

Effective communication is important, none more so when our normal routines have been as disrupted as they have been in the past 18 months. I appreciate that not all members of the congregation feel confident with using computers, although it is a fact of modern life that so much information is to be found online, and the Scottish Episcopal Church is no different in that respect. But we do try to make sure that all members of the congregation have the opportunity to keep abreast of what is happening both locally and across the Province.

Firstly there is the weekly pewsheet which shows events for the coming weeks on its back page. Then each month we have the St James’ and St Philip’s Newsletter which includes a reflection written by the bishop or a member of the vestry, a copy of the latest confirmed minutes from the vestry and other items of interest to the congregations. This is available online or as a printed copy. David Fleming kindly mails copies to members of the congregation who are not online while I email copies. Printed copies are also available from the table at the back of the church along with material from other organisations that may be of interest to church members. Online we have the church website (www.stjames-stonehaven.org.uk) which has various information about the church, copies of the newsletters and the notices of church events as well as an area dedicated to our

church exhibition. Finally, we have a Facebook page.

Grapevine is the Diocesan magazine, and it is published three times each year. You will be offered a copy by the duty greeter, but additional copies are available at the back of the church. The diocese also publishes the Brechin Bulletin weekly, which gives a roundup of diocesan news. It is available on the diocesan website but, if you would like to receive a copy by email then please let the vestry secretary, Anne O’Gorman know.

Further information about diocesan activities can be found on the diocese website (www.thedioceseofbrechin.org) and on the provincial website (www.scotland.anglican.org).

The Scottish Episcopal Church also has an on-line magazine, Pisky.Scot. However, I have not been successful in accessing it from the provincial website!

So, it is easy to keep in touch with what is happening elsewhere in the church. If you still have concerns or questions about any diocesan matter, then feel free to raise it with me.

I would like to thank Diane Fleming, who not only proof reads the Newsletter, but provides summaries of vestry minutes both past and present, to David Fleming who distributes the Newsletter and Diana Peters who produces the weekly pew-sheets with her typical efficiency. I am very grateful to them.

Fund Raising Report

Anne O’Gorman

Sadly due to Covid our major fund raising events have been unable to take place.

David and Diane have now been registered as booksellers with Abe Books. They have sold many books far and wide. Diane has books arranged in the baptistery, which as the church is now open, can be purchased.

Anne has continued to make jam and marmalade, which have sold well. Chutney is also now being made.

PVG Report

Irene Patterson

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 Child-line 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.

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.

Readers, and Greeters,

Date	Readings
5th December 2nd Sunday in Advent	Bar 5.1-9 or Mal 3.1-4 Canticle: Lk 1.68-79 Phil 1.3-11 Lk 3.1-6
12th December 3rd Sunday in Advent	Zeph 3.14-20 Canticle: Is 12.2-6 Phil 4.4-7 Lk 3.7-18
19th December 4th Sunday in Advent	Mic 5.2-5a Canticle: Lk 1.46b-55 or Ps 80.1-7
25th December Christmas Day	Is 52.7-10 Ps 98 Heb 1.1-4(5-12) Jn 1.1-14
26th December 1st Sunday after Christmas	1 Sa 2.18-20,26 Ps 148 Col 3.12-17 Lk 2.41-52

Year B – Readings are from the NRSV of the Bible

Greeter	Lessons 1+2	Gospel
David Fleming	Peter Fogiel	Crucifer or Celebrant
Diane Fleming	Val Cadd	Crucifer or Celebrant
Diana Peters	Peter Sharp	Crucifer or Celebrant
Peter Fogiel	Diane Fleming	Crucifer or Celebrant
Combined service with Carronside Church in St Bridget's Hall		

Readers and Greeters,

Date	Readings
2nd January Epiphany	Is 60: 1-6 Ps 72: 1-15 Ep 3: 1-12 Mt 2: 1-12
9th January Baptism of Christ	Nu 6: 22-27 Ps 8 Gal 4: 4-7 or Phil 2: 5-11 Lk 2: 15-21
16th January 2nd Sunday in Epiphany	Is 62: 1-5 Ps 36: 5-10 1C 12: 1-11 Jn 2: 1-11
23rd January 3rd Sunday in Epiphany	Neh 8: 1-3, 5-6,8-10 Ps 19 1C 12: 12-31a Lk 4: 14-21
30th January Candlemas	Mal 3: 1-4 Ps 24: 7-10 Heb 2: 14-18 Lk 2: 22-40
6th February 5th Sunday in Epiphany	Is 6: 1-8 (9-13) Ps 138 1C 15: 1-11 Lk 5: 1-11

Year B – Readings are from the NRSV of the Bible

Greeter	Lessons 1+2	Coffee
David Fleming	Edward Harrison	Diane Fleming
Diane Fleming	Heather Grant	Irene Patterson
Paula Fogiel	Peter Fogiel	Paula Fogiel
Diana Peters	Richard Clark	Val Cadd
Irene Patterson	David Fleming	Peter Sharp
Val Cadd	Val Cadd	Joyce Maduekwe

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 February Newsletter is Sunday 23rd January 2022
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



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SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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and add your bauble to the
Tree of Life**

in memory of a friend or relative.

**The Tree will be available
from
1st December 2021**

Bring your
own bauble

OR

Some baubles will
be available in the
church (on the
Exhibition desk
in the nave)
during
daylight hours

St. James' Stonehaven, Arbuthnott St, Stonehaven AB39 2JB

Tel: 01569 764473 www.stjames-stonehaven.org.uk Scottish Charity No SCO00301



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Chutney



ST. JAMES' CHURCH

(NOT THE HALL)

ARBUTHNOTT STREET

**Friday 3rd and Saturday 4th
DECEMBER - 10:00 to 17:00
+ Sunday 5th DEC- 11:00 to 17:00**

Please remember that we are CASH ONLY

All proceeds to St. James' Churchyard Fund

Donations BEFOREHAND please, can be left in Church Porch