

**Episcopal Churches of
St. James' Stonehaven.
St. Philip's Catterline.
May 2022**



**Services at St. James' & St Philip's during
May 2022**

Sundays.

10.00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Tuesdays

10.00 a.m. Said Holy Eucharist

Friday.

7.00pm Compline



DIARY NOTES May 2022

Day/Date	Event
1st May 3rd Sunday in Easter	10.00am Holy Eucharist. Rev Mary Jepp
8th May 4th Sunday in Easter	10.00am Reserved Sacrament. Arma Iles
15th May 5th Sunday in Easter	10.00am Holy Eucharist. Rev Mary Jepp
22nd May 6th Sunday in Easter	10.00am Reserved Sacrament. Anne O’Gorman
29th May Sunday after Ascension	10.00am Holy Eucharist. Most Rev. Mark Strange, Primus

From Mary,

I spent the last day of my post Easter break, sitting and listening to Radio 4 with a wee bit of knitting, total indulgence. Radio 4 used to be one of the joys of being a peripatetic teacher as between schools I had the opportunity of picking up snippets on all manner of subjects, always good when called upon to take part in a village quiz. Yesterday's (25 April) best offering was 'Beyond Belief' that broadcasts on Mondays at 4.30pm. The episode was entitled 'Young and Full of Faith', the programme explored the state of faith amongst young people in Britain, the panel comprising a Sikh, a Hindu, a Roman Catholic, and a somewhat older Muslim, all of whom were practising their individual religions. Perhaps curiously they came from families where faith was not taken too seriously and in the case of the Roman Catholic his family professed no faith at all. As a starting point the presenter, Ernie Rae, referred to a YouGov survey which stated that the 'z generation', that is those who are under 25, are more likely to believe in God than their millennial peers or those who came of age in the 60's and 70's.

Questions were asked exploring the position of these young people of faith, and the motivation for their actions, that is the taking up of religious practice. It was suggested that perhaps in a world where there is very little certainty, in a world of constant change, that the "desire to follow a spiritual path gives intellectual, spiritual and emotional certainty and a sense of tranquillity." It was also suggested that there may well have been an element of rebellion in their actions...how curious! In the 60's and 70's many of us rebelled by refusing to go to church, refused to follow the time honoured practices of previous generations. It was suggested, however, that, although, at least in Britain, we are faced by increased secularization, there will be a point where secularization will bottom out and there will be

pockets of individuals in all faiths, who will be committed to their own particular spiritual practice.

It is perhaps, an interesting contrast to much that has appeared in the press, both secular and religious, as we emerge from the pandemic regarding the state of all religions in the west. The Church Times, the newspaper of the Church of England, frequently speaks of declining church attendance, which most of us have witnessed over the past 20 years or so. Much is written regarding the challenges of the future to church communities, about how we maintain the infrastructure of Christianity. These articles often focus on what is considered to be the 'millstone round our necks', the buildings. I do wonder if our focus on real estate and all things temporal is a distraction from things spiritual. I wonder if we have forgotten what our true calling is, that is to Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind...and the second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself (Matthew 22. 37, 39).

Many of us having been brought up in the church will remember that we were strongly encouraged in preparation for Confirmation, to pray daily and to read/study our Bibles, some of us may even have committed to these practices and continue following them to this day but others well.... Speaking to an Episcopalian friend recently, they reflected that in reality such practice was not encouraged in the church circles that they had been part of, that there may have been a few who set aside time daily to pray and reflect, although given lip service, it was not the norm.

It may seem a daunting task to commit to prayer and Bible study but it need not be so. Why not work your way through one of the Gospels, perhaps Luke as we are focusing on his gospel this year. Or invest in a daily reading guide as supplied

by the likes of Scripture Union, if you would like a bit of advice please ask. I, when pushed for time, rely on 'Pray as You Go', which can be found on-line, it is posted daily lasting about 12 minutes, during the time of prayer there is some music, a Bible reading and a reflection. Perhaps taking a few minutes of stillness may be your preferred way of prayer, or maybe simply repeating the Lord's Prayer or even praying for the people you see around you as you wait in the grocery or bus queue... Why not start afresh? Why not see if once again prayer, time with God may go some way to give "intellectual, spiritual and emotional certainty and a sense of tranquillity" in our chaotic world. Consider what a shame it would be if young people returning to faith showed up on our doorstep and there was no prayerful Christian community to welcome them.

Yours in Christ

Mary

Vestry Minutes 23rd March 2022 (via Zoom)

Matters Arising

A reply has been sent to the Fair Trade Steering Group saying that the Vestry, at the moment, have decided not to become a Fair Trade Church.

Pat Millar has been contacted for information about ongoing projects in Swaziland. This will be passed to Far and Wide for possible funding this year. Information about this will be in the Newsletter.

Treasurer's Report

Main Account	£37,940.27
Fabric Fund Account	£3,176.33
Buildings Account	£729.14
St Philip's	£1,869.87

It was explained that £8,340 had been spent on the churchyard improvements. To cover this £2,000 had been received from Aberdeenshire Council, and further grants, including from the Diocese, are still to be received.

The electricity contract had been renewed, meaning both gas and electricity contracts will be renewed in 2025.

Report on St James

It was reported that there had been delays in getting the plaques with names of the departed for the frame at the back of the church. It is not permitted for the plaques to be fixed directly to the church wall.

There was a discussion on organist's fees. It was decided to speak to Peter Parfitt and offer £60 per service, those who deputise will be paid £50.

Report on St Philip's

There is now a Memorandum of Agreement in place. While not a legal document it represents a document of trust between the Community Church and St James. Thanks were expressed to Bishop Andrew for his help.

Any improvements made by the Community Church will belong to St Philip's at the end of the agreement.

Mary and Chris Rodger will share the handover service, the Old Testament reading will be read by Peter, the intercessions given by Anne, the presentation of gifts by Val, David and Diane.

The stained-glass windows will be removed and repaired at the end of April. This will be funded by the Catterline Fund and an application has been made to St John's Wind Farm for a grant.

Woodworm has also been found. A quotation for £2,714 has been received and the vestry has agreed to this.

We are waiting for a decision on the Canon 35 request for the removal of the pews.

Worship/Priest's Report

Mary reported that she was attending two courses, one on mediation and one on transitional ministry.

A PVG meeting was held between Mary, Irene and Anne to look at the details from the recent PVG course and to make sure our procedures are up to date. The possibility of Arma leading a pastoral care group was discussed. Group members would need to have a PVG check, which now takes place online.

There was a discussion about reintroducing the chalice. Mary feels that we should wait and we need to be mindful of the congregation. Peter will put details in the Newsletter.

The Bishop's Lent Appeal will consist of a donation from the church plus any donations received from the congregation. Items to be discussed next time will include the way forward and the energy footprint of the church. Thanks were expressed to all involved in the Book Browse for their hard work.

Fabric

Church: The lights in the office fused. A temporary repair has been done. Mike will investigate and hopefully repair. David Smail has offered to paint the church toilet. David Fleming has the paint for this.

The quotation for painting the church walls is £50,000. It was agreed that we were unable to do this work at present. We await the quotation for plaster repairs in the baptistery.

Hall: Mary has visited the Guides. For the Queen's Jubilee they are hoping to create a wall hanging which should help to reduce the echo in the hall.

Garden: We are still waiting for the response to the Canon 35 for installing the font in the garden. The contractors will be back shortly to complete the churchyard renovations. A quotation of £400 has been put forward for trees and bushes. It is hoped the cost will be covered by grants.

New Rectory: Fire alarms have been purchased and Mike will fit them. Mary said the summerhouse needs a coat of paint and it was agreed that the cost of paint will be claimed on expenses.

Old Rectory: David will fit the new fire alarms and arrange for an electrical check on the premises. He will also check that the tenant has complied with the issues relating to the Quinquennial Report.

Fund Raising/Social

Val is to hold a meeting on 31st March of the Social Committee to discuss refreshments on 29th May (joint service with St Ternan's), Jubilee Lunch, the Feein' Market.

Next Meeting: 26th April (Zoom)

Diocesan Synod

The Diocesan Synod took place on 5th March in St Mary's Church, Broughty Ferry. Given the constraints of Covid only the lay representative and clergy were allowed to attend from each charge. So altogether about 40 people were present.

Following the traditional service of Holy Communion, led by Bishop Andrew, business started with greetings from Bishop Betsey Monnot (Iowa) and Bishop Dalcy Dlamini (eSwatini), who are the bishops of our companion dioceses.

The bishop gave a review of the diocesan strategy.

Unfortunately, owing to Covid restrictions, the meetings which were being developed within the various "clusters" in the diocese had been suspended. It is to be expected that they will resume as the limitations on meetings are relaxed. The introduction of transitional ministry across the diocese has moved forward and is making encouraging progress. Work is also being done on developing support for lay ministry.

The diocesan statistics showed again a slow decline in membership.

Following its closure as an SEC congregation in 2015, the church of St John the Baptist in Stobswell, Dundee had been the location of the Diocesan Office and Diocesan Centre. In 2018 the large hall was let to the Dundee and Angus Foodbank. Recently the Foodbank has expressed an interest in purchasing the whole site and extending their services to include a cafe and advocacy centre. It has become clear, and particularly with working at home during the pandemic, that we do not require this facility. Diocesan Council has now accepted, in principle, the offer that the foodbank has made for the site. Given that Stobswell is an area of social deprivation the proposed development of the site will undoubtedly enrich and support the lives of the residents. Funds released by this purchase will be used to support the Mission and Ministry of the diocese.

Dr John Davies from the Provincial Liturgy Committee spoke about the proposed revision of the 1982 'Blue Book' liturgy. He explained that the changes are a consolidation of many years of permitted changes to less gendered language and new eucharistic prayers, e.g. for Christmas and Epiphany. The proposal was strongly supported by the Synod.

It was also announced that Allan Duffus, the Diocesan Treasurer, would retire this year, and so this would be his last spring Synod. Bob Main, treasurer at the Cathedral, was appointed as assistant treasurer for the Diocese to help with the transition.

The next spring Synod will be on Saturday 4th March 2023, but the Bishop announced that he intended to call an autumn Synod to explore environmental and carbon-zero issues in

more detail.

The Synod ended with confirmation of acts of synod, prayer and the final blessing.

Peter

St James in 1970

The World: **Jan:** Age of majority reduced from 21 to 18 in UK. **Feb:** PLO Leader Yasser Arafat visited Moscow for talks; Bertrand Russell died. **April:** Ian Paisley won Bannside by-election in N Ireland; US troops sent to Cambodia. **May:** 4 US students shot dead at Kent State University, Ohio; 6 black people died in racist riots in Georgia, US. **June:** Tonga became independent from Britain; Conservatives won election, Ted Heath Prime Minister; last US troops withdrawn from Cambodia. **July:** Roy Jenkins elected Deputy Leader of Labour Party; British Conservative politician Iain Macleod died; Aswan Dam in Egypt completed. **Aug:** British Army in Belfast used rubber bullets for the first time; race riots in Notting Hill; radioactivity leak at Windscale Power Station. **Sept:** Salvador Allende elected President of Chile; Jimi Hendrix died of drugs overdose; Egyptian leader Gamal Abdel Nasser died. **Oct:** Anwar Sadat succeeded Nasser as President of Egypt; Fiji became independent; strike by London's refuse collectors, troops sent in to break strike; Janis Joplin died of drugs overdose. **Nov:** Charles de Gaulle died; US court martial of Lt Calley for My Lai massacre; Gay Liberation Front marched in London for the first time. **Dec:** Publication of Industrial Relations Bill in UK.

Also: Dmitry Shostakovitch's '*Symphony No 14*'; Film '*Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*'; Henri Charriere's book '*Papillon*'; Germaine Greer's '*The Female Eunuch*'.

Leading figures from pop music, including the Beatles, were among those seeking spiritual renewal from the Maharishi, leader of the Spiritual Regeneration Movement.

An explosion crippled Apollo 13 200,000 miles from Earth and the crew transferred to the lunar module.

L-dopa was found to help people suffering from Parkinson's Disease.

Stonehaven

Nothing happened.

(**NB:** There are no minutes of any Vestry meetings during 1970. There is no record of an AGM in 1970. No pages have been torn out of the Minutes Book, and there is no indication of minutes being recorded elsewhere. Thus we can only assume that in 1970 the congregation of St James lived in a perfect Nirvana where peace, prosperity and harmony flourished, despite what was happening in the rest of the world.)

Diane

The Ballad of the Judas Tree*

By D Ruth Etchells

In Hell there grew a Judas Tree
Where Judas hanged and died
Because he could not bear to see
His master crucified.

Our Lord descended into Hell
And found his Judas there
For ever hanging on the tree
Grown from his own despair.

So Jesus cut his Judas down
And took him in his arms
“It was for this I came” he said
“And not to do you harm.

My Father gave me twelve good men
And all of them I kept
Though one betrayed, and one denied,
Some fled and others slept.

In three days’ time I must return
To make the others glad
But first I had to come to Hell
And share the death you had.

My tree will grow in place of yours
Its roots lie here as well
There is no final victory
Without this soul from Hell.”

So when we all condemned him
As of every traitor worst
Remember that of all his men
Our Lord forgave him first.

*The Judas Tree, *Cercis siliquastrum*, is a small deciduous tree from S Europe and W Asia noted for its prolific display of deep pink flowers in Spring. The myth is that Judas Iscariot hanged himself from this tree causing the white flowers to turn red.

Diane

Easter flowers.

Please can I thank Tony, Diana, Mr Jim Lees, David and Anne for all their contributions to the Easter flowers. Tony picked all the daffodils kindly donated from the fields of Mr and Mrs John Forbes, Mr Lees for the roses and tulips, David for his flower arrangements and Anne for all her help. I am very grateful to you all, thank you.

Val

Primus

On 29th May we are having a visit from the Most Rev Mark Strange who is the Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church. He will take the morning service of Holy Communion and, while it is still to be arranged, a service at St Ternan's later in the day.

Unlike the Church of England, the Scottish Episcopal Church does not have Archbishops. Instead, one of the bishops is elected as Primus by the General Synod. The title "Primus" comes from the Latin 'primus inter pares' (meaning first among equals). The Primus chairs the College of Bishops, the body where all the bishops meet regularly to deal with church business, and represents the College and the wider church at home and throughout the world-wide Anglican Communion.

The Primus also retains his responsibilities as the bishop of a diocese, in this case the diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness.

Peter

Readers, and Greeters,

Date	Readings
1st May 3rd Sunday in Easter	Acts 9.1-6(7-20) Ps 30 Rev 5.11-14 Jn 21.1-19
8th May 4th Sunday in Easter	Acts 9.36-43 Ps 23 Rev 7.9-17 Jn 10.22-30
15th May 5th Sunday in Easter	Acts 11.1-18 Ps 148 Rev 21.1-6 Jn 13.31-35
22nd May 6th Sunday in Easter	Acts 16.9-15 Ps 67 Rev 21.10,22-22.5 Jn 14.23-29 or Jn 5.1-9
29 May Sunday after Ascension	Acts 16.16-34 Ps 97 Rev 22.12-14,16-17,20-21 Jn 17.20-26

Year B – Readings are from the NRSV of the Bible

Greeter	Lessons 1+2	Coffee
	Peter Sharp	Diane Fleming
Diane Fleming	Heather Grant	Irene Paterson
Diana Peters	Richard Clark	Paula Fogiel
Peter Sharp	Diane Fleming	Val Cadd
Irene Paterson	Irene Paterson	Peter Sharp

St James', Stonehaven and St Philip's, Catterline

Rector: Rev. Mary Jepp
Vestry Secretary: Anne O'Gorman
Phone: 01569 762917 (for pastoral matters)
01569 764473 (for other enquiries)

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	Rev Mary Jepp

The copy deadline for the June Newsletter is Sunday 22nd May 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