

**Episcopal Churches of
St. James' Stonehaven.
St. Philip's Catterline.
March 2023**



**Services at St. James' during
March 2023**

Sundays.

10.00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Tuesdays

10.00 a.m. Said Holy Eucharist

Friday.

7.00pm Compline

1st Wednesday of the month

7.00pm Still @ 7. An opportunity to explore contemplative prayer/meditation within the Christian Tradition



DIARY NOTES March 2023

Day/Date	Event
5th March 2nd Sunday in Lent	10.00am Holy Eucharist. Rev Mary Jepp
12th March 3rd Sunday in Lent	10.00am Reserved Sacrament. Arma Iles
19th March Mothering Sunday	10.00am Holy Eucharist. Rev Mary Jepp
26th March Passion Sunday	10.00am Reserved Sacrament. Arma Iles

From Mary,

Today the 22nd of February is Ash Wednesday, the reading for today is the story of the woman caught in adultery...below you will find something that I wrote a while ago – a story for your consideration as we begin our Lenten Journey. Yours in Christ, Mary

The old woman sat beneath an olive tree, as if to teach. At her feet sat the women of her village waiting, yearning to hear a story of long ago. A young voice rose from the assembled group, 'Tell us of the time you met Jesus'...and so with a sigh she began.

It was so long ago, but still I remember, for that day, at least, I had no voice, no name apart from adulteress.

In the stillness of the night at dawn, from the narrow passage outside our dwelling I heard the sound of footsteps, of voices raised, and then the sound of banging on the door, and finally sounds of splintering wood as they, the guardians of the law, pushed through the opening to my home. They, the guardians of the law, the Pharisees, and teachers invaded what was mine. And so with heavy hands, and accusations on their lips, they grabbed and dragged me from my home... 'Adulteress' they shrieked. They quoted law; but carefully ignored the fact that two witnesses to the alleged offence, not simply circumstantial evidence, must be produced. Two witnesses of intercourse...now there's a feat! They said that we were caught, caught in the act. We...but where was my partner to this crime? The law clearly states that both, adulterer and adulteress be stoned to death...but on that day I stood alone.

So many questions? Perhaps a trap. A trap for whom? Much later someone, perhaps a man named John, wrote of that day. The words he used suggested snares, but those words are often overlooked. The author of the tale chose words suggesting that adultery was not so much committed, but that it was suffered. Suffered, an interesting turn of phrase, it speaks perhaps of violence. It begs the question, what were the circumstance of this offence?

I was a married woman and that was known, and so perhaps my husband. to rid himself of me, had hatched a plot, in which I would be trapped and then disposed of. A woman, a commodity of little value.

Perhaps, however, there was another story, another plot, perhaps my husband was himself a dupe for those who knew the law. Perhaps he was in league with Pharisees, and I, to win him favour, became the bait to trap a bigger prey, that man called Jesus, a friend to outcasts, such as me.

A bigger plot...but what for me could be bigger than my life...for me at least what was at stake was not the politics of men it was about

my very life, existence, and integrity.

And so with force, they pulled and dragged me through the dusty maze of streets. I, guilty in their eyes, although I was alone. And as we went I cried for justice. My voice, however, was not heard. The hearts and minds of my accusers were as stone. There was no intention that my case be heard, I knew there would be no trial, no fairness in their very actions. I knew my rights in law would be denied. What made the matter so much worse was the denial of justice, by them who called themselves the guardians of the law.

Into the temple courts we came, a woman dragged by men. Across the court yard we moved, I resisting, and so into the presence of a seated teacher I was brought. He sat, the man named Jesus, surrounded by men intent on listening to his words of hope which contravened the ancient law. Words which I have learnt taught not just of law but of relationship and care.

Into the stillness of their enquiry the Pharisees broke with words of accusation on their lips. "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?"

The man did not respond...but simply sat drawing in the dirt. I stood, a solitary woman in a crowd of men. Terrified, waiting and watching, seeing him as yet another man. I wondered if he played the games of men, games of power, which I had seen before. The group stood tense, like hounds, they waited for release. And so, on a precipice, he sat, balanced between defending the Mosaic law, which called for death, and Roman law which forbid our people the right to execute. Two options, but here he chose a third. He urged whoever was without sin to cast the first stone. The crowd, deflated by his words stood motionless and slowly heads lowered, turned and walked away.

Now as you know it is forbidden for a man in public to speak to a woman. But that was of no concern, he stood, stepped forward and took my hand and said, 'You are not alone sister, all have sinned, even your accusers and they must judge themselves. They must judge

themselves not only for what they have done, but also for what they have not done. They must ask themselves, what are the circumstances that have brought you to this place and what could they have done to prevent all this.' He went on saying... 'Many have turned their backs on the way that I profess, but today is an opportunity for you to choose to live a life in which you will embrace the way of the truth, a way in which injustice in this world is set aside so all can live in freedom.' And then he said: 'what is your name...now show me your life.'

St James in 1978

The World: **Jan:** former US Vice-President Hubert Humphrey died. **Mar:** supertanker *Amoco Cadiz* ran onto rocks off Brittany and 230,000 tons of crude oil caused unprecedented pollution. **May:** riots in Tehran as Muslims called for removal of Shah. Former Australian PM Sir Robert Menzies died. **July:** 200 died in Spanish campsite explosion. **Aug:** Pope Paul VI died. Kenyan President Jomo Kenyatta died. **Sept:** martial law imposed in parts of Rhodesia. 150 died in air disaster over San Diego, California. Bulgarian defector Markov killed in London. Pope John Paul I died. **Oct:** Iran oil workers' strike halves oil production. **Nov:** death of US illustrator Norman Rockwell. Death of US anthropologist Margaret Mead. **Dec:** Golda Meir died.

Also: Christopher Reeve in '*Superman*'. Robert de Niro in '*The Deer Hunter*'. John Travolta starred in '*Grease*'. *Evita* by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice had its first stage performance in London. Mass suicide in Jonestown - more than 900 members of a religious cult drank cyanide at the behest of their leader Rev Jim Jones. Louise Brown, the world's first 'test tube' baby was born in Manchester on 26th July.

Bjorn Borg won Wimbledon for the third time in a row.

Martina Navratilova beat Chris Evert.

Publication of *The Times* and *Sunday Times* was suspended during a prolonged dispute with the print unions and there were a series of strikes which lasted throughout the winter, people were turned away from hospital, bodies left unburied and rubbish accumulated in the streets.

Stonehaven

15th January: The treasurer presented the accounts for the year ending September 1977. Excess over expenditure amounted to £1463.70.

18th January: The Annual General Meeting was held in the Hall. There were 29 members present. It was pointed out that the credit balance of the accounts was due to a legacy of £1898, otherwise there would have been a deficit. The Rector expressed his thanks to those concerned with the redecoration of the church, and to Capt Christie and Mr J Christie for redecorating the vestry. The Centenary service had proved an enormous success due to the singing by the cathedral choir and the Bishop's inspiring address. There was a special thank you to Mr Bill Jolly for helping at the organ. He thanked the Lay Readers and now that a priest had been appointed at Muchalls they would be relieved of services there.

The meeting agreed to experiment with keeping the heating on for longer; to start a Parish Library for which a grant of £30 would be provided by the education board; and to advertise for a church cleaner. It was also agreed to have the service of Compline on Ash Wednesday.

13th July: The first item was to deal with the church insurances. The Commercial Union Assurance had written to say that the insurances had not been revised since 1975. It was agreed to increase the existing cover as follows: church from £50,000 to £100,000, 13 stained glass windows in church from £4250 to £6000, windows in baptistry from £1000 to £2000, furniture etc from £5000 to £7000, organ from £3000 to £6000, hall from £8000 to £15000 and furnishings from £500 to £1000. This means the present coverage of £63,250 would be increased to £121,000.

It was hoped that work on the redecoration of the Rectory would commence at an early date. The purchasing of books for the library would be left to the discretion of the Rector and Mrs Sharp.

Mr David Steel had applied to re-join the course of training for non-stipendiary ministry conducted by the Bishop of St Andrews and asked for the vestry's endorsement. A special meeting will be held about this.

Diane

Note- Vestry Minutes

There is no report on the vestry meeting as they did not meet in February.

Easter Flowers

It is planned to decorate the church with fresh flowers on the morning of Saturday 8th April (Easter Saturday) from 10am onwards. All help gratefully received.

Social Committee

The Social Committee met in late February and have arranged to hold a coffee morning in March.

SPRING COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 18th March

10am - 11.30am in the church hall.

Tea/coffee tickets £3

We will have the following stalls - cake and candy, raffle, tombola, crafts, knitting and we will be very grateful for donations to these stalls. Colour scheme for the tombola is yellow, green, blue, white or as it comes.

We will set up the hall on Friday evening at 8.15pm. Anne O’Gorman is taking the lead for this coffee morning and all enquiries should be directed to her. Please could all donations be at the hall before the start of the sale - thank you for your generosity.

The weekend of April 22nd/23rd will see the final Book Browse - huge thanks to Diane and David Fleming for the hours they have dedicated over the last 10 and a half years to this fund raiser.

For your diary - Sunday 7th May - Coronation Weekend - ‘Bring and Share’ afternoon tea in the church hall from 2pm. More details to follow.

The Social Committee will meet on Wednesday 29th March at 2.30pm at Val's home; everyone is welcome.

Val Cadd (Social Convenor)

Greening the Church

Over the years the General Synod has agreed on a series of resolutions encouraging the church to take actions towards making it environmentally sustainable. Synod 2020 agreed to "bring forward a programme of actions ... to resource the Scottish Episcopal Church in working towards achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030."

A Provincial Environmental Group (PEG) was set up, convened by the Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane, and a consultant was appointed to help in their work. The outcome has been a draft document entitled "Scottish Episcopal Church. Net Zero Action Plan (2023-2030). Empowering implementation - for a flourishing future." This can be accessed at

https://www.scotland.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/Draft-SEC-Net-Zero-Action-Plan-2023-2030-15_02_23b.pdf

We are being asked to send back comments using an on-line survey by 28th March. Vestry will be discussing it at its next meeting.

It is a very thorough and lengthy document, but I will try to give you a brief outline. The plan envisages a number of targets (or, to use management jargon, key performance indicators) that we should aim at achieving. It should be emphasised that these are to give guidance on how "net zero by 2030" might be achieved and dioceses are encouraged to develop their own version of the plan.

These targets have been developed to help us meet ten objectives, namely:

1. Energy Efficiency Excellence,
2. 100% Clean Energy,
3. Thriving Biodiversity,
4. Active Travel,
5. Zero Waste,
6. Good Governance,
7. Carbon Literate,

8. Rooted Worship,
9. Positive Finances,
10. Build a Movement

To give an example, the targets/indicators for “1. Energy Efficiency Excellence” are:

- 5% of charges complete energy audit/assessments in their churches & halls by 2025, 95% by 2028 100% of churches/halls have energy efficient lighting systems installed by 2025
- All dioceses complete EPC (Energy Performance Certificate) audits of clergy property by spring 2024, with a roll-out plan in place for upgrades by end 2024
- 35% of rectories achieve minimum EPC rating C by 2025, 75% by 2028
- 25% churches/halls achieve minimum C rating in CO2/m2 (as measured by Energy Footprint tool standardised results) by 2026, 70% by 2028
- Net Zero workshops completed by 30 charges by 2024, 120 by 2027

To put it in the context of St James'; we have an energy efficient lighting system in most of the church, but we may need to look at the hall. Our rectory has an EPC rating of C, but we don't have one for the hall.

Other targets are going to require some thought. For example, there is a target that heating systems should be electric. Fortunately, the church heating is electric, but the hall is gas and so we may have to look at it.. It is proposed in the plan that each diocese should appoint a Net Zero Delivery Manager and a Net Zero Working Group to help charges take forward the plan. It also identifies sources of funding that might be available.

Moving towards a more sustainable future is an important initiative and one we should not hesitate to engage with. It does require adjustments to the way we do things, but we owe it to ensure a healthy future not just for ourselves but also our children and grandchildren.

Peter

Readers, and Greeters,

Date	Readings
5th March 2nd Sunday in Lent	Gen 12.1-4a Ps 121 Ro 4.1-5,13-17 Jn 3.1-17 or Mt 17.1-9
12th March 3rd Sunday in Lent	Ex 17.1-7 Ps 95 Ro 5.1-11 Jn 4.5-42
19th March Mothering Sunday	Ex 2.1-10 or 1 Sa 1.20-28 Ps 34 or Ps 127.1-4 2 C 1.3-7 or Col 3.12-17 Lk 2.33-35 or Jn 19.25-27
26th March Passion Sunday	Ezek 37.1-14 Ps 130 Ro 8.6-11 Jn 11.1-45
2nd April Palm Sunday	Is 50.4-9a Ps 31.9-16 Phil 2.5-11 Mt 26.14-27.66or Mt 27.11-54

Year A – Readings are from the NRSV of the Bible

Greeter	Lessons 1+2	Coffee
Richard Clark	Val Cadd	Paula Fogiel
Irene Paterson	Irene Paterson	Peter Sharp
Diana Peters	Diana Peters	Diane Fleming
Paula Fogiel	Edward Harrison	Val Cadd
Jane Cook	Edward Dickens	Irene Paterson

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

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

GROUP CONVENORS

GROUP CONVENORS	
Property	Paula Fogiel
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 April Newsletter is Sunday 26th March 2023

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