

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



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

Day/Date	Event
5th November 22nd Sunday in Trinity	10.00am Holy Eucharist. Emma/Martyn Percy
12th November Remembrance Sunday	Service at Dunnottar Church
19th November 24th Sunday in Trinity	10.00am Anne O’Gorman Reserved Sacrament
26th November Christ the King	10.00am Holy Eucharist Rev. Canon Mary Jepp Followed by AGM in Hall

From Mary,

Mike and I have had a few days away, (the week of the storm) up at Bonar Bridge. We went north on the Monday so had a good roam around on Tuesday and Wednesday before the wind and the rain set in. As is common practice in the self-catering accommodation, where we were staying, there was a pile of tourist leaflets, including one for a tourist trail in Dornoch. Amongst the highlights of the village was the 'Witches Stone' at the end of Carnegie Street, very near to the golf course. By the time we arrived, guess what it was raining, so poor Michael and Harry, the Jack Russell, were dragged off down the village street to find the Stone.

The stone is on the site where the last execution of a witch in Scotland took place. The stone itself is engraved with the date 1622 and is situated in a very well tended garden surrounded by a picket fence, which I think belongs to the cottage opposite. If you walk a bit further you find a notice board describing the end of this poor woman. On the notice board she is named as Janet Horne, in the pamphlet she is nameless.

The namelessness of this poor soul has bothered me over the last few days. The notion that she may well have been executed because of her knowledge, perhaps of her outspokenness. And in my mithering, I have thought of women in countries even today who are punished for expressing their views, of women who are denied an education, perhaps because it is feared that they will speak out for equality and peace.

I like so many, I expect, feel overwhelmed by the world news. It is so difficult to make sense of the current world situation. Many victims are named and many are not. I realise that there is no way that we could possibly absorb the names of so many

thousand victims of the world's atrocities but I feel that the victims are on the verge of becoming simply statistics, nameless souls who have endured suffering and live in fear. I think it must be said too that there are many in our own communities who come into that same category those who are forgotten, those whose names are not known, not spoken and in time not remembered.

At the beginning of November as a church we remember those who have died, on three occasions...All Saints, All Soul's and of course Remembrance Sunday. Red poppies have become a symbol to aid us in remembering those who have given up their lives in armed combat. So here is something to consider....A few weeks ago I had a conversation with a minister, not from here who was trying to deal with the fall out from a church debate where someone asked if in the Remembrance Sunday display a white poppy might be included. One of the members of the flower committee then said if there was a single white poppy she would be leaving the church for good. Interesting as the white poppy is a remembrance for all victims of war both military and civilian, a challenge to any attempts to glamorise or celebrate war and a commitment to peace. As the daughter, wife and mother of servicemen and now as padre for Sea Cadets, as one who has waited for men to come home, as one who has known as friends both Jews and Palestinians, those on both sides of the Irish divide, Ukrainians, Russians and even Armenians I yearn for peace. I think of those whose names are not remembered beyond their own family or community and believe that we are called to pray to pray for the peace of the world, knowing that the vast majority of this people are known and loved and are not simply a number. That we are called to demonstrate peace in the places in which we live.

THE UNNAMED GRAVE

As I walk gently upon the grass
And move between the stones
A minor tremor disturbs my feet
From a person who's unknown

And as I look down on the earth
I wonder to myself
Is this the grave of someone dear
Whose life had limited wealth

No cross, no border, no headstone
To show who lies beneath
This piece of un-kept sacred ground
Now lost to those who weep

What life did they once live I ask
The family that they knew
The age of their untimely death
Their appearance as they grew

But as my thoughts begin to fly
To imagine who they must be
A sadness fills my aching heart
For the stranger I long to see

Forgotten and lost to everyone
No sentiment of prayer
No loved ones visiting with kindness
To show how much they care

Instead they sleep amongst us

As we talk and walk on by
Until another unnamed grave
Reveals the place where someone died

Let us not lament their peace and quiet
For within these graves they rest
Their lives now over, their voices still
All memories now have left
For they are always remembered
By the others who have died
As their journeys were made together
To a world on the other side

Maura Kelly

Fundraising report

October saw a concert by Granite City Brass Band. This was a great concert with more than 120 people of all ages attending. It is hoped that they will return again at the beginning of December for a Christmas concert.

18th November sees the return of the Rock Choir. Tickets cost £10 to include a glass of wine. Tickets can be ordered from Anne on 01569 765793 or Paula at paula.hall5@btinternet.com.

Anne

Harvest windows and bacon rolls

Harvest Sunday - 1st October saw great generosity - 8 windows (and the chancel steps) in the church were beautifully decorated with food stuffs. Each window was a different design and thought had been taken. The food stuffs were donated to the food

bank based at the Far and Wide charity shop - thank you to Paula and Peter for transporting the goods.

The church had fresh flowers for the harvest service, thank you to David S. for your support arranging some of the vases.

After the morning service bacon rolls were enjoyed by the congregation in the hall. Mike cooked the bacon in our kitchen, the bacon and rolls were kindly donated and thank you to all for your retiring donations. It was lovely to be part of the chatter.

Thank you to all for your generosity- a huge team effort.

Val Cadd (flower convenor),

Senior Harvest service and afternoon tea.

The hall was full on Wednesday (4th October) afternoon as members of the town enjoyed Mary's harvest Senior service. Margaret Wells accompanied the hymn singing on the electric piano and then everyone enjoyed tea/coffee and 'fine pieces'. Thank you so much Anne, Diane, Clare, Rita, Loreen, Paula and Jane for your delicious baking, biscuits and all other provisions towards the tea AND along with Gwynne, Peter, David, and Peter set up, laid and decorated the tables (and added more, very quickly) in readiness for the guests and then served the tea/coffee and washed up and cleared away.

It was lovely to welcome 'long known' friends from the town, members of our congregation, residents of our town's care homes and sheltered housing, friends from the Wednesday lunch club, friends of friends and whoever I have missed.

Thank you, Mary, for your thoughtful service. Thank you, Margaret, for your playing - Margaret said it is one of her highlights

of the year and was seen discussing hymns with Mary for Harvest 2024.

Val Cadd

ST JAMES PAST AND PRESENT

Last month was the last in the nostalgic trip through the past Vestry Minutes at St James. The large, heavy book, found by chance when clearing out a cupboard, ends in 1985. What happened to the minutes after this I do not know – possibly these are held in the Dundee archives.

It has been an interesting trip from June 1931 to May 1985. During this period the church lived through many major world upheavals:

- The death of George V

- The accession and abdication of Edward VIII

- The coronation of George VI

- The second World War

- VE and VJ Days and the first atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki

- The death of George VI

- The coronation of Elizabeth II.

- The first man on the moon.

Not that reading the minutes would tell you any of this. There is only a minimal mention of the war when blackout curtains are mentioned briefly and a decision to have a memorial board at the end of the war.

There is no mention of the Coronation in 1953, although I found a detailed programme of events for Stonehaven in the Tolbooth Museum which mentions a pageant and floats – I wonder if anybody remembers this – or was it cancelled because of the weather? Some children were also given a plastic mug! Of some interest (although no mention is made in the minutes) is

that there was a special Coronation Day service at 9 am on 2nd June in St James, an order of Divine Service at 9 am on Sunday 31st May (by order of the Archbishop of Canterbury) and a 6 pm Evensong followed by a film strip (the programme does not specify what the film strip was about).

The minutes are handwritten, some in a very florid script which is hard to read. Alarming, in 1948 the minutes are written in green ink. One copy only was made at meetings so members had to listen carefully when it was read out by the Secretary at each meeting. Now, of course, minutes are composed on the computer and sent out to each Vestry member by email. I wonder if present Vestry members take more notice than if they had to listen to the Secretary reading out each item!

The frequency of meetings also varied widely according to the minister at the time. Sometimes a couple of times a year, sometimes every month. In one year the AGM minutes are missing entirely.

There are some items of interest over the years. The land next to the church, and owned by the church, (where Blackwood is now, formerly Abbeyfield) was given over to sheep grazing in the 1930s, oats were grown there and a group of soldiers were allowed to camp there briefly, but boys were not allowed to play on the land under any circumstances! The transfer of this land to Abbeyfield remains shrouded in mystery after several bids were made by local interested parties to purchase and build on it. George Roberston (who owned the baker's in Al-lardice Street - now Hyve Architects) submitted plans for a 3-bedroomed house on the land, and the church architect drew up plans for a rectory on the site - consisting of a bungalow style building with 3 bedrooms. The church also stated that this parcel of land should never be sold.

Other debates sound remarkably familiar – jumble sales, organ repairs and finding an organist, cleaning, the lack of heating, and repairs to the church, hall bookings and clashing dates, numbers attending church. There was a heated debate in 1934 about golf being played on a Sunday.

One particularly interesting point is the Constitution. In 1932 it stated that ‘the temporal affairs of this Congregation shall be under the management of a Vestry consisting of the Rector ‘ex officio’, the Churchwardens ‘ex officis’ and not more than 7 or less than 3 constituent male members.’ (My underlining). This would not be overturned until January 1977 when Mrs Sharp was elected after a pertinent question was asked as to whether there was any reason why women could not be elected. I can imagine a sharp intake of breath amongst the gentlemen of the Vestry and, after electing the first female member of the Vestry, some male members would probably have had to be revived with smelling salts.

In fact, the Constitution had been changed in 1969 and did not specify male members – it only took another 8 years for St James to catch up. Also of interest was that pew rentals were still being collected until 1963 when it was then agreed to allow names on the end of pews but it was to be pointed out that seats were free. St James must have been one of the last churches to collect pew rents as this practice had already been phased out.

I hope you have enjoyed the trip from 1931 to 1985 and the differences and similarities shown by this journey through the years. One thing which will be noted by future historians is that the coronation of King Charles III was mentioned in this year’s minutes!!

Diane

Vestry Minutes 30th August 2023

Matters Arising

Val reported that she had sent invitations to all the care homes to the Senior Harvest Afternoon Tea. Margaret Wells is happy to play the keyboard.

Correspondence

A letter was received from Mr Lees thanking Paula for arranging the painting of the family memorial bench. A cheque was enclosed to cover the cost. Paula has replied.

Mary has received a letter from Rodney Paine about the burial of ashes in the memorial garden.

Treasurer's Report

Main Account:	£14,513.46
Fabric Fund Account:	£7,662.12
Buildings Account:	£3,617.36
St Philip's:	£8,551.83

Worship/Priest's Report

Mary reported that she was involved in much work outwith St James and St Philip's, a good part of which is associated with mental health and funerals elsewhere.

St James has entered into a national church award scheme organized by the Ecclesiastical Insurance Company and we have been selected to go through to the second round.

The sponsored hymn choices have raised almost £100 for the charity Luthiers Sans Frontieres (UK).

St Philip's celebrated its 175th anniversary on 17th September and St James was invited to a celebratory service at St Philip's at 10.30 am.

The Remembrance Service will be held in Dunnottar Church this year.

Ian Lovegrove has returned from his summer holidays and David will continue to organize the organists' rota.

There was a discussion on updating the wedding and funeral fees:

<u>Funerals</u>		<u>Weddings</u>	
Church/Crematorium	£200 + mileage allowance	£500 + mileage if outside church	
Verger	£60	Heating/Verger	£100
Heating	£40	Organist	£100
Organist	£100		
If there is a second service	£100 + mileage		
Burial of ashes	£150		

The Episcopal sign is to be upgraded. This will be paid for by donations from Alex Geldart and Joe Morrow. There was a discussion as to its position. If it is to be moved then planning permission or a Canon 35 will be required.

Emma and Martyn Percy who are ordained priests living in Aberdeen will be taking some services at St James and St Ternan's. Mary has spoken to the Bishop about Ian Wilson, who has a degree in theology, about involving him in our services.

Edward has taken two Matins services. When he is officially an ordinand he will not be allowed to take services at St James or be on the Vestry.

The Inspire garden is looking good. The White Bridge was due to be opened on 9th September. Mary and Mike have been invited to the opening and the reception in the hall afterwards.

The Ukrainian evening is now held once a month, at their request. Many are now working.

Mary is putting together a service booklet for ordinary time.

Net Zero

The Provincial Net Zero delivery director, Paul Williams, has been appointed. Paul will work out of the GSO but the Plan envisages that Net Zero Champions will be appointed to support activity at diocesan level. The Net Zero toolkit has been published and can be found at <https://toolkit.secnetzero.org>. It

provides useful information and a checklist for charges to complete. Peter Fogiel has a copy of this.

Fabric

Church: A maintenance visit for the heating is awaited. The portable microphones are currently no longer required for use in services. One was sent back for testing and was passed as normal but has not yet been tested in the church. Peter Fogiel now has access to the CCTV system. The church organ was tuned on 25th July. The emergency sensor lighting is working well but some adjustment needs to be made to the light in the small corridor between the office and the back of the church. The painting of the rear corridor is still to be done. A dishwasher has been installed in the office and grateful thanks are due to Sandy and Jane Cook for donating it. Two disabled parking signs have been placed near to the church door. Stonehaven Roofing Services have attended the church twice to deal with some leaks into the church, and also to deal with water ingress in the hall roof. The major project of annual cleaning of the gutters and any roof repairs using a cherry picker has been scheduled for October. Quotations have been sought for the application of resin to enhance the safety of the current concrete walkways but the costs are prohibitive. Investigation will be made in the application of special paint/ coating for the concrete. All the benches have been refurbished at the Men's Shed apart from one which was in very poor condition and was taken apart for scrap. Cameron has finished the external painting of the rear church door and the crypt door, as well as painting the inside surfaces of all the exterior doors of the church.

Garden: The joint venture with Inspire continues to be a success. The base for the shed was prepared with Mike's help and the shed constructed also with Mike's help. It is now in full use. We were also assisted by a Polish employee of Realm who had come to do a six monthly check on the alarm system in the

hall. Some of the large concrete slabs were used to prepare a base for a garden bench and some of the smaller slabs have been used to make a pathway for ease of access to various parts of the garden. The large compost heap has been removed completely and a plastic greenhouse has been erected which Inspire are using.

Church Hall: Lynn from Slimming World alerted us to a possible leak in the roof. Having accessed the loft space it was discovered there was water ingress at the far end of the roof with 2 beams damp with water. (See note above re Stonehaven Roofing Services.) Single lettings for the hall have continued to increase slowly, the most recent a Zumba Class following Spanish lessons.

Rectory: Mike is replacing the downstairs toilet flooring.

Fund Raising/Social

There was a very enjoyable evening of classical music organized by Ian Lovegrove on 1st July.

On the 9th July we were joined by the congregation of St Ter-nan's for the service, followed by a recital by Ian Lovegrove before we enjoyed a bring and share lunch in the hall.

There was a Quiz Night on 1st September, and Aberdeenshire Open Doors on 16th/17th September when we had craft, cakes and plants for sale in the hall. Coffee and tea were also available.

Granite City Brass are scheduled to play on 8th October, with a raffle and retiring collection.

The Rock Choir will be performing on 18th November. There will be a raffle and tickets will be £10 to include a glass of wine.

Windows were decorated for the Harvest Festival and bacon rolls were served after the service on 1st October.

Val has expressed her intention at the AGM to step down as Social Convenor after 22 years.

Next Meeting: 11th October

Summary of vestry meeting on 11th October 2023

- Mary has sent 2 cheques to Luthiers Sans Frontiers (UK). She has received a thank you letter from LSF.
- St James has made it to the finals of the National Church Awards. Mary and Paula are going down to London for the results and presentation event.
- The Remembrance service is at Dunnottar Church this year. Mary will be taking the Christmas Day service at St James .
- The Hall loft has little insulation so this will be increased.
- Paula is applying for the free energy audit check .
- Lighting LED bulbs have been fitted in both the North & South facing porch along with the Church toilet.
- There is no concrete RAAC in the hall.
- 57 people attended the Seniors Harvest Service and Tea.
- The quiz was a great success with 55 people from different churches taking part.
- On Sunday 8th Granite City Brass gave a concert with 120+ people attending,

INSPIRE(d) Harvest and Tea



FUTURE EVENTS

SATURDAY 18th NOVEMBER 7pm
ROCK CHOIR CONCERT
TICKETS £10 Including Wine & a
Raffle

SATURDAY 2nd December 10am -
12.30pm
CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING
WITH VARIOUS STALLS AND TREE
OF LIFE

SUNDAY 3rd December 7pm
GRANITE CITY BRASS BAND
CHRISTMAS CONCERT

THURSDAY 14th DECEMBER 1pm -
3.30pm
BRING AND SHARE CHRISTMAS
PARTY

Readers, and Greeters,

Date	Readings
5th November 22nd Sunday in Trinity	Jos 3.7-17 Ps 107.1-7,33-37 1 Th 2.9-13 Mt 23.1-12
12th November Remembrance Sunday	Jos 24.1-3a,14-25 Ps 78.1-7 1 Th 4.13-18 Mt 25.1-13
19th November 24th Sunday in Trinity	Jg 4.1-7 Ps 123 1 Th 5.1-11 Mt 25.14-30
26th November Christ the King	Ezek 34.11-16,20-24 Ps 100 Eph 1.15-23 Mt 25.31-46
3rd December Advent Sunday	Is 64.1-9 Ps 80.1-7,16-18 1 C 1.3-9 Mk 13.24-37

Year A – Readings are from the NRSV of the Bible

Greeter	Lessons 1+2	Coffee
Diana Peters	Diana Peters	Paula Fogiel
<p>REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY Dunottar Church</p>		
Jane Cook	Edward Dickens	Diane Fleming
Peter Sharp	Heather Grant	Val Cadd
Val Cadd	Richard Clark	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

Property	Paula Fogiel
Communication	Peter Sharp
Music	David Fleming
Social	Val Cadd
Lay Reader emeritus	Arma Iles
Weekly Pew Sheet	Diana Peters
Hall Management	Paula Fogiel
Protection of Vulnerable Groups Officer	Irene Paterson
Vestry	Rev Mary Jepp

The copy deadline for the December/January Newsletter is Sunday 26th November 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