

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



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

Day/Date	Event
1st October 17th Sunday in Trinity Harvest Festival	10.00am Holy Eucharist. Rev Mary Jepp
8th October 18th Sunday in Trinity	10.00am Reserved Sacrament Anne O’Gorman
15th October 19th Sunday in Trinity	10.00am Holy Eucharist. Bishop Andrew Swift
22nd October 20th Sunday in Trinity	10.00am Matins Edward Dickens
29th October 21st Sunday in Trinity	10.00am Holy Eucharist. Rev Mary Jepp

From Mary

At some point in my life I had a boss who on meeting would always start any conversation with the words "what's on top?". At that question we were supposed to spill the beans on the latest/ most significant issue, problems, even successes that had been rummaging around in your head since the last time we had met.

As I sit to write this, I have a whole list of "what's on tops" all vying for space in my wee brain. They range from catering for Sea Cadets, a meeting with Bishop Andrew, Harvest, finding a new fiddle teacher, etc. etc. The list, although diverse, seemed on waking this morning to be more or less behaving itself and then I went to the Co-op!!! And I found myself wandering away from the shop with, and I kid you not, an enormous box of not quite rotten bananas! You can only imagine the expression on Michael's face when I staggered through the front door, (over the years there have been many times when he has thought she's lost the plot...and today was yet another...last week it was the pink hair!)

Now before you say anything...I know that they can be frozen...and they will be turned into banana muffins for the Sea Cadet weekend, (of course this did require a complete restacking of the freezer, and of course questions were asked regarding the contents of wee small packages) however, the whole exercise before 10 am this morning has caused a whole bunch (not a reference to bananas) of thoughts to germinate.

Over the past few weeks it has not just been bananas that have come through the door. I have started to get a wee bit twitchy when any conversation begins with the words 'could you use....?' or 'I thought you would like!' Both statements are indicators of an autumn glut of produce. What a fruitful part of the world we live in, we have such an abundance of produce and much to be thankful for. However, there is a huge disparity of wealth even within our own nation, let alone the rest of the world. There are times when I feel overwhelmed by the reality of this disparity. In no way do I minimize the fact that most of us over the last few years have had to become careful in the way that we spend our money, but there is a truth in the stories of world poverty. And so the question emerges - what can we do? What springs to mind is a drama of the 1950's. I hadn't finished my supper and an elderly aunt said "think about the starving children in China!" (I didn't dare respond 'They can have it!') !!!!

So here we are in 2023, living on the east coast of Scotland, in a land of

great abundance, in a land of great blessing. And so we must be thankful. We are also aware of the needs of our world, and although we may be struggling, we need to remember to be realistic in what we are able to share. I read this week the phrase "we are all one...meaning comes from the lives you touch".... think about it and ask how can you in one small way change the lives of the people around you....share what you have been given especially your ability to smile with another or wipe away a few tears. At this time of Harvest, at this time of thanksgiving let us be truly thankful and demonstrate all that we have been given in many, many acts of kindness.

We bless you,
God of Seed and Harvest
And we bless each other
That the beauty of this world
And the love that created it
Might be expressed through our lives
And be a blessing to others
Now and always
AMEN

St James in 1985

The World: **Feb:** Mandela rejected offer of freedom from S African govt. **Mar:** Coal miners ended strike after 1 year. Soviet Premier Chernenko died, Gorbachev to succeed. Michael Redgrave died. Spain and Portugal joined EEC. **April:** S Africa abolished racial sex laws. **May:** Tamil violence spread in Sri Lanka. **June:** Terrorists seized TWA plane over Middle East. Air India jumbo blown up in mid-air. **July:** Boris Becker youngest to win Wimbledon at 17. Greenpeace '*Rainbow Warrior*' sunk in New Zealand. **Sept:** *Titanic* wreck found off Newfoundland. Earthquake devastated Mexico City. **Oct:** Palestinians seized Italian cruise ship '*Achille Lauro*'. Orson Welles and Yul Brynner died. **Nov:** Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev met in Geneva. **Dec:** Philip Larkin died. Poet Robert Graves died.
Also: Live Aid was held in July and raised \$70 million for famine victims in Africa.

In May 56 people died when fire engulfed a wooden stand at Bradford City Football ground. In Tottenham a policeman was hacked to death in rioting. Also in May 41 people died at Belgium's Heysel Stadium in crowd violence before the European Cup final. 25,000 were believed dead when a volcano erupted in Columbia. Artist Marc Chagall died.

Clive Sinclair launched the C5, an electric vehicle run on a washing machine motor and able to travel at 15 mph.

AIDS cases in the USA rose from 8000 to 14,000 in the course of the year.

1986 would see the Chernobyl disaster, the Gulf War, the '*Challenger*' disaster, the US bombing of Libya.

Stonehaven

24th January: Dr Steel had erected the wall boards for the kindergarten and the Ladies' Fellowship. The organ had been examined and no serious fault found. The treasurer reported that there had been some tax recovered on the previous year's covenanted subscriptions from April to August amounting to £285. The total income was £4334, outgoings amounted to £2673 leaving a cash balance of £1550.

The Gift Day was to be Saturday, 16th February – a letter had been written and was ready to go out. The Rector requested help on that day. There was to be no advert in the papers but it was hoped to have some press coverage.

The lock on the church door needed attention and Mr Emslie agreed to mend it. Mr Hunt had donated a cabinet to display the pewter and this was now in the church.

Due to a change in circumstances Miss Guild could no longer continue to clean the Hall. Mrs Massie had been approached and had agreed to take this on. Miss Guild would still be responsible for the hall diary and bookings.

There was a discussion on identifying the present membership and attracting new members. Some ideas expressed were that each Vestry member be responsible for a number of members; a leaflet could be produced advertising the church and its facilities; and a guide book about the history of the church.

21st February: The rector would find out at the next meeting of the Stonehaven clergy what would be required if vestry members took some responsibility for church members along similar lines taken by Church of Scotland elders.

Mr Emslie undertook to repair the lock on the Church door.

The treasurer reported a surplus of just under £1800. The Gift Day had been considerably more successful than anticipated and the amount received was £2076.

In the hall Mr Emslie would replace the strip lights which were not working. Miss Guild would contact the plumber again about the Gents' toilet.

It was agreed to write to the kindergarten ratifying their lease for the academic year 1985/86.

The rector had compiled a booklet as a Guide Book and hoped it could be printed in time for the summer. Mr Cleall suggested a post-card of the interior of the church and it was agreed that this was a good idea.

Mr Cleall suggested that inadequate heating in the church was responsible for many members not attending.

28th March: The Rector had asked Rev Finch if one of his elders would talk to the vestry about the responsibility required by each member.

The lock on the church door had been mended.

The coffee morning had raised £325. Donations received from the kindergarten amounted to £120.

In the church the internal plasterwork needed attention but nothing could be done until the external work was completed. By contacting the Hydro Board the church could arrange to have off peak heating on during the week if required. The Rector would inquire about the procedure for this. Of the 5 fan heaters in the church only 3 were working and it was agreed to ask Mr Emslie if these could be repaired. He was also asked to check the under pew heating as it was felt these were not working efficiently. Other ideas were put forward to improve the heating - using radiant heaters instead of fans and calor gas heaters for occasional use. It was estimated that it would cost approximately £2,000 to replace the heating system.

Mrs Bella Christie had suggested that the part of the garden used for

burial of ashes be railed off or marked in some way.

The Gents' toilet had been repaired and the lights replaced in the hall. It was agreed that Miss Guild remain responsible for supplies such as soap etc for the hall.

The Rectory front garden wall was in need of attention and the Rector would see to this.

It was agreed to ask hotels and the Community Centre to display the leaflet advertising the church.

25th April: Mr Anderson was looking into a suitable rail for the garden. The leaflets had been distributed to hotels etc and Mark Early had produced a plan of the interior of the church for the guide. Only 28 people had attended the open Ladies' Fellowship evening on 9th April.

A letter had been received from the Provost of the Cathedral asking if we could provide refreshments for the visiting delegation from Iowa in June.

A letter from Mrs Mary Christie regarding transfer of money from Alex Christie' estate to improve the heating.

The bill for the external work to the church amounted to £1,121.

It was agreed to contact Mr Stephen about cleaning the bell tower and the possibility of fitting external shutters to it.

Some members had complained about the difficulty of hearing what was said in church. It was agreed to pursue enquiries about a new communications system.

As there was some financial provision for heating it was agreed a survey and recommendations be carried out as what should be retained in the existing system. It was agreed to consult Mr Emslie with regard to new systems.

Mr Oliver reported that the key had broken in the lock of the hut. A new lock would be fitted.

Mrs Muir and Mrs Clapp had arranged with the gardener to plant three shrubs in memory of their husbands.

23rd May: Part of the communications system had been removed for testing. As there were already microphones and speakers in the church Johnstone Communications felt that these could probably be made to work.

Mr Oliver presented a summary of Income and Expenditure from October 1984 - May 1985. Income - £9894, Expenditure - £9404.

Rates due on the church and Rectory amounted to £386.35.

Additional income for specific projects - £2177, £5000 for structural repairs and heating.

The advantages and disadvantages of various heating systems were discussed and Mr Oliver was asked to pursue and obtain the best package appropriate to the building and funds available.

It was agreed that the kindergarten could erect a shed alongside the church hut to store their equipment. Concern was expressed about the use of outside equipment by the kindergarten. It was agreed to look into this.

It was agreed that the Rector and treasurer would decide on the printing and costs of the Guide.

Mrs Rench said she thought the slides of St James should be updated as those shown in a recent slide presentation of 'Churches of the Brechin Diocese' had been disappointing.

The Rector had prepared a framed list of clergy of St James from disestablishment to the present day to be displayed in the church.

The Rector had received a letter from the Scottish Churches Architectural Heritage Trust about a steeplechase to take place in July. Pairs of young people would try to see as many church steeples as possible from Orkney to Dumfries. If arrangements could be made for someone to be available to stamp a participant's card then the Rector would reply that our steeple could be added to the list.

A letter from Fr McAtamney about the possibility of using St James for services with large numbers was broached but it was found that normally times of such services would conflict. The matter was left open for discussion.

Mrs Rench said because of declining membership the Ladies' Fellowship would appreciate more help from the congregation especially at fund raising events.

(NB: There are no further minutes for 1985 in the book)

Fund Raising Report.

We have had two fund raising events in September. Both were

successful for different reasons.

55 people from many churches gathered in the hall for a quiz. Our quiz masters were Mary and Mike. Thank you to both. It was a great evening with the losers being presented with wooden spoons and the winners receiving mugs filled with sweets.

The 16th and 17th were Aberdeenshire's Open Doors Days. We had some stalls in the hall on the Saturday morning. The stalls included plants, cakes, craft and hand knits. Coffee/tea was available. It was great to see people just sitting and chatting.

October 8th at 7pm Granite City will be returning for a concert. There will be a raffle and a retiring collection.

November 18th at 7.30pm sees the return of the Rock Choir. There will be a raffle. Tickets for this event will be £10. This will include a glass of wine.

Anne

Poetry

In the next few issues we will be featuring poems written by Maura Kelly.

Maura writes "Poetry came to me very late in life and was instigated simply because my nephew (Michael) was graduating from University and I wanted to give him a gift - something he could tangibly hold. I was my mother's Carer at the time and so money was somewhat limited to me. As I pondered on what to buy him, a voice suddenly went off in my head and said 'why don't you write him a poem', something I must admit I immediately rejected. You see I was never taught poetry at school and up until that point I had no association with it in my life - it just wasn't something I was drawn too. However, as the graduation was fast approaching and I still hadn't bought him anything, I decided to sit down one day and see what I could come up with. Four days later 'The Man Who

Tried' was born. From that moment on my journey into poetry began.

I am not a prolific writer of poetry, but at this moment in time I have about 30 poems in my collection."

THE BROKEN SOUL

They thought that I was down and out
They thought that I was done
The more they kept me on the ground
The more I looked towards that sun

And as those rays of light shone down
To warm my ageing face
I found my shoulders rise once more
As I stood in humble grace

No tears, no regrets, no shattered life
Will destroy my battered soul
Instead I'll fight and pursue each dream
As I move towards my goal

The ridicule, the words of harm
The insults and the pain
Endured by a man whose defiant spirit
Fights back to erase his shame

When a man is lost and feels all alone
He must look within himself
And rid his thoughts of any doubt
That his life is blessed with wealth

No gold, no silver to weigh him down
Only pennies small and few
But in his heart he carries the belief
That his life can be renewed

Blows and strikes may knock you over
In a life that's tough and hard
But a winner will find inside his mind
The strength to rebuild his guard

So look towards that sun my lad
When your battles near their end
And remember this as you rise again
That a broken soul can mend

We are finalists in the National Church Awards.

The National Church Awards are given to churches throughout the UK for outstanding achievements in a variety of categories. This year these are architecture, maintenance, tourism, community and volunteer and friends as well as a Church of the Year award.

We at St James entered in the Church and Community volunteer category as we are all volunteers in our church along with lots of other people, in our community who volunteer with us. We, especially this last year, have achieved a huge amount with supporting the Ukrainian refugees at our Friday drop in sessions, and our Garden Scheme with the members from Inspire which grew from a small seed sown at a Thursday drop in session in the hall. We have had so many people helping out with this project by giving time and muscle power as well as trees, bushes and plants.

You can find out if we are a winner by booking a free ticket to watch the awards ceremony live online on YouTube on Monday 6th November at 4pm from the Mercers Hall in London.

Paula

Inspire Garden Project (continued)



Men

at



work!

Planting up!



Readers, and Greeters,

Date	Readings
1st October 17th Sunday in Trinity Harvest Festival	Ex 17.1-7 Ps 78.1-4,12-16 Phil 2.1-13 Mt 21.23-32
8th October 18th Sunday in Trinity	Ex 20.1-4,7-9,12-20 Ps 19 Phil 3.4b-14 Mt 21.33-46
15th October 19th Sunday in Trinity	Ex 32.1-14 Ps 106.1-6,19-23 Phil 4.1-9 Mt 22.1-14
22nd October 20th Sunday in Trinity	Ex 33.12-23 Ps 99 1 Th 1.1-10 Mt 22.15-22
29th October 21st Sunday in Trinity	Dt 34.1-12 Ps 90.1-6,13-17 1 Th 2.1-8 Mt 22.34-46

Year A – Readings are from the NRSV of the Bible

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

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 June Newsletter is Sunday 22nd October 2023

Reminders will not be sent out.

St James Episcopal Church, Stonehaven .Scottish Registered Charity No. SC000301
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