

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

**CHRIST IS RISEN**



**Services at St. James' during  
April 2024**

**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 April 2024

<b>Day/Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
<b>7th April 2nd Sunday in Easter</b>	<b>10.00am Morning Prayer Anne O’Gorman</b>
<b>14th April 3rd Sunday in Easter</b>	<b>10.00am Holy Communion Rev. Canon Mary Jepp</b>
<b>21st April 4th Sunday in Easter</b>	<b>10.00am Reserved Sacrament Anne O’Gorman</b>
<b>28th April 5th Sunday in Easter</b>	<b>10.00am Holy Communion Rev. Canon Mary Jepp</b>

## **From Mary,**

As many of you know I ended up at sea for a week with the Sea Cadets. As I headed south, apart from knowing that we started and ended in Gosport, on the south coast, I had little notion of what my role as Senior Female Supervisor entailed. Here in Stonehaven at the Sea Cadet unit I am named as Chaplain, but carry out lots of other tasks.

On arrival on board the TS Jack Petchey I was greeted by its Captain, a serving member of the Royal Navy with the words 'in the Navy we call all our chaplains Bish can we call you Bish?'. So Bish it was. I say this only because it meant that the Cadets were aware at least to some extent as to what my role within the Unit was. I am very aware that these days that there is a need to be aware of other faiths within any organisation, and to be mindful of the place of prayers within any organisation. And so here begins a story...

Early in the week, towards the end of the day I found myself sitting in the forward mess, where the Cadets had their meals, lessons and also socialised. The kids were in uniform, and were just being kids. I must admit I was not paying particular attention to the discussion, when all of a sudden I heard a female cadet being challenged. My ears pricked up. She was being challenged because she was wearing a silver cross and it had been visible above her 'woolly pully'. The challenger said you aren't supposed to have jewellery on...she said I wear it because I am a Christian, I believe in Jesus Christ. The mess fell silent and then someone else said so do I. The Cadets knew what I did ashore and so one asked 'Bish... will you say a prayer' ...and so I did...praying especially for those who go to sea and those on board our ship. And then someone said 'can we say the Lord's Prayer' and so eleven of the 12

bowed their heads and together we prayed. One of the cadets did not join in, and the cadets asked him why... he said 'I don't know it'.

In the days that followed there were occasions when kids asked me to pray with them. Sometimes outside on the deck and sometimes going to bed. (I will say that there was one particular moment when I was thinking about Jesus calming the storm!).

There were also occasions when individual Cadets wanted to ask me about God or tell me about difficult situations in their life.

I will say that I was slightly taken aback by what had unfolded. In these days when we, I think, often despair of where society is headed, there was a group of eleven kids who wanted to pray at some level and had faith. I seriously don't think that they were trying to please me, I believe it was spontaneous. Many of the Cadets it must be said may have attended Church of England Schools where prayers are still said and that may have been a factor.

For me the most significant moment however, was when the female cadet said 'I am a Christian, I believe in Jesus Christ'. The words of a true disciple. Words of commitment. She I believe, courageously said them to a group of peers she had never met prior to the voyage. Those words might very well have been the start of bullying or ostracization, they might have lead to a miserable week. She was courageous.

I am writing this on Tuesday of Holy Week, a week when we remember the story of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, when we think about all of Jesus followers...thinking of Peter.

I wonder do we, including myself, have the courage to say those words 'I am a Christian, I believe in Jesus Christ'.

Over the next few weeks in the period between Easter and Pentecost we are required to read from the Act of the Apostles in our services, these accounts begin with Jesus' ascension into heaven and speak of the challenges that they faced as they fulfilled their individual callings.

Inspiration to lead Christian lives comes in many forms, perhaps we could start with taking the time to work through the 28 chapters or maybe our inspiration may come from reflecting on a group of kids at sea, who may not be church goers, but who have a faith, and on one particular girl who was willing to say...'I believe in Jesus Christ'. Who knows what church will look like in the coming years, but regardless, I believe that there will always be people who are willing to profess their faith in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

## **THE DONKEY**

BY G. K. CHESTERTON

When fishes flew and forests walked  
And figs grew upon thorn,  
Some moment when the moon was blood  
Then surely I was born.

With monstrous head and sickening cry  
And ears like errant wings,  
The devil's walking parody  
On all four-footed things.

The tattered outlaw of the earth,  
Of ancient crooked will;  
Starve, scourge, deride me: I am dumb,  
I keep my secret still.

Fools! For I also had my hour;  
One far fierce hour and sweet:  
There was a shout about my ears,  
And palms before my feet.

### **Litany**

Phineas Fletcher( 1582-1650)

Drop, drop, slow tears, and bathe those beauteous feet,  
which brought from heaven the news and Prince of Peace.  
Cease not, wet eyes, his mercies to entreat;  
to cry for vengeance sin doth never cease.  
In your deep floods drown all my faults and fears;  
nor let his eye see sin, but through my tears.

### **Fundraising report.**

Thank you to all who helped and supported our Spring  
Coffee Morning. We raised £612.

### **Future events**

19th April 7pm Quiz Night. Tickets £5 available from Jane,  
Paula or Anne.

26th May 7pm Granite City Brass. Retiring collection for  
church funds.

Anne

## **The Scottish Episcopal Church. How does it work?**

Several times over the past few months I have had to field questions about the way in which the Scottish Episcopal Church (SEC) works. Actually it is not an easy question to answer and, in the past year questions as to the structure of the SEC has led arguments with a number of government agencies, including HMRC and HSE, who simply see it as an organisation managed from its headquarters in Edinburgh. In fact its structure is rather more complicated than that. So here is my understanding but I would emphasise that this is a personal view and I am responsible for any errors.

To most people their contact with the church is a visit to the local building where services are run by the priest. Occasionally a bishop might appear and this lends a degree of excitement and gravitas to the service. During the service one is asked to contribute to the collection and it is assumed that this goes towards keeping the building in good shape and the priest from off the dole. Once a year a plea goes out, largely to be ignored, for members of the congregation to join a vestry.

To start with, the way in which St James' "works" is set out in a document known as its Constitution. The church is identified in law as being a charitable organisation whose purpose is "the advancement of religion and to provide public benefit". That has many advantages including exemption from paying council tax or business rates and being able to claim back the taxed part of your donation to the collection, gift aid.

But it also carries responsibilities. The Constitution states that "temporal affairs and the general management and control of the Charge shall be under the management of a Vestry".

The vestry meets several times each year and is chaired by Mary. We publish the minutes of the vestry meetings in the newsletter, so the congregation should be aware of what business we are carrying out. Some of the responsibilities of the vestry are carried out by specific officers. For example we have a Property Convener who is responsible for matters concerning our buildings, such as maintenance and safety. In fact, as the office of convener carries such a large number of responsibilities (and you can see a list of them at <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/vestry-resources/buildings/responsibilities-of-the-property-convener/>) in St James' this role is carried out by a group of 3 people – Peter and Paula Fogiel and Mike Jepp.

Members of the vestry are also trustees of the charity that is they carry the responsibility of making sure that the charity does what it is supposed to do in a proper and legally correct manner. Every year, as treasurer, I have to send a copy of the accounts together with a report on the activities of the vestry to the Office of the Scottish Charities Regulator (OSCR), the body that has the legal responsibility for registering charities and ensuring that the trustees are carrying out their duties correctly. Failure to do this, or if OSCR has any concerns about this information, then we could lose our status as a charity with serious consequences for the future of St James'. You can go to their website (<https://www.oscr.org.uk/>) and see the relevant information about any charity.

Should there be any problems and the trustees haven't run the charity in the correct way, then they can be fined (or worse). Vestry members shouldn't be too concerned, provided that they stick to the charity rules. The church carries insurance which will cover them should there be honest mistakes.

The vestry is responsible to the congregation and each year we



hold an Annual General Meeting of the congregation at which the vestry, and its officers, account for their actions over the past year. This gives the congregation an opportunity to question the vestry and raise any matters of concern that they might have.

So every church in the SEC is an independent charity. One of the most important things that holds all these churches together in the organisation we call the Scottish Episcopal Church is Canon Law, These laws are not binding in the same sense that we must obey the law of the land, but they set out how the SEC works. To quote from the Code “This is important for understanding the role and status of the Code of Canons as the ‘constitution’ of the Church as well as a code for the regulation of its affairs including the conduct of Divine Worship, the regulation of congregations and their office bearers and the discipline of the clergy”. Those of you who attended Mary’s installation as priest-in-charge of St James’ may have noted that at one point in the proceedings, she made a vow to obey Canon Law. If you go to the website of the Scottish Episcopal Church then you can look at the various laws (<https://www.scotland.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/Code-of-Canons-2023.pdf>).

So the independence that an individual church has by virtue of its charitable status is constrained by Canon Law. For example, the vestry/congregation cannot sell the church building as permission to do this lies with the Diocesan Trustees. Nor are they free to make alterations to church property without first getting permission from the Diocesan Buildings Committee. In the next article I will explain the role of the Diocese and of the overarching body of the SEC, the Province.

Peter

## Readers, and Greeters,

Date	Readings
7th April 2nd Sunday in Easter	Acts 4.32-35 Ps 133 1 Jn 1.1-2:2 Jn 20.19-31
14th April 3rd Sunday in Easter	Acts 3.12-19 Ps 4 1 Jn 3.1-7 Lk 24.36b-48
21st April 4th Sunday in Easter	Acts 4.5-12 Ps 23 1 Jn 3.16-24 Jn 10.11-18
28th April 5th Sunday in Easter	Acts 8.26-40 Ps 22.24-30 1 Jn 4.7-21 Jn 15.1-8

**Year A – Readings are from the NRSV of the Bible**

<b>Greeter</b>	<b>Lessons 1+2</b>	<b>Coffee</b>
Diana Peters	Diana Peters	Paula Fogiel
Paula Fogiel	Edward Harrison	Val Cadd
Peter Fogiel	Heather Grant	Richard Clark
Peter Sharp	Peter Sharp	Paula Fogiel

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

Priest in Charge: Rev. Canon 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	Paula Fogiel
Protection of Vulnerable Groups Officer	Irene Paterson
Vestry	Rev. Canon Mary

**The copy deadline for the February Newsletter is Sunday 21st April 2024.  
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