

**Episcopal Churches of
St. James' Stonehaven.
St. Philip's Catterline.
February 2024**



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

Day/Date	Event
4th February 5th Sunday in Epiphany	10.00am Holy Communion Rev. Canon Mary Jepp
11th February 6th Sunday in Epiphany	10.00am Holy Eucharist. Emma/Martyn Percy
18th February 1st Sunday in Lent	10.00am Holy Communion Rev. Canon Mary Jepp
25th February 2nd Sunday in Lent	10.00am Anne O’Gorman Reserved Sacrament

From Mary

Hasn't it been windy....poor Harry (our Jack Russell) was almost blown off her paws this morning, to say nothing of her mistress. What a force the wind is and I am sure most of us this year would be able to come up with stories of how it changes things. The wind and its power can be both a force for good and bad. Hence the phrase "winds of change". In beginning to write this article, I wondered about this phrase and so I researched it...did you know that Prime Minister Harold Macmillan used this phrase in an address to the Parliament of South Africa on 3 February 1960. The speech was made at a time when Britain had begun decolonisation, a period which would see world maps no longer be coloured largely in pink. Macmillan stated "The wind of change is blowing through this continent. Whether we like it or not, this growth of national consciousness is a political fact". It is said that his speech was met with a stony reception as it indicated a shift in British policy in regard to apartheid.

I think most of us are of an age that we have memories of the changes in the African continent over the past 50 years and perhaps even longer. Memories of boycotts of South African produce, apartheid, individuals fleeing under the regime of Idi Amin, massacres in Rwanda, changes in regimes in Rhodesia. The continent of Africa is one of those place where there seems to be little stability and yet somehow people get on with living their lives in difficult situations. I have a dear friend in Glasgow who fled Rhodesia with her family; they left everything behind and came to Scotland. I asked her once, as we prepared a World Day of Prayer service, what would she like people to know about her beloved homeland...she said its amazing beauty and the warmth of its people, a beauty she yearns to see once again.

The world, I think, has always been in a state of change. Of course change has not always affected us directly in our own individual lives. These days, we are very aware of all that is going on in the world. Perhaps it is a result of covid, or perhaps it is just an ongoing cycle of change which has always existed in our world. These changes include changes that we see in society and in the life of the institutional church. None of us are immune from the world that we live in. It is important to note that transition is never easy, especially when outcomes are uncertain, after all certainty and security is what many of us yearn for. When we have certainty in some things it allows us to be adventurous in other things.

So where is our certainty, where is our hope? In God? Or have the uncertainties of our world led us to have our vision of God become hazy. In the early 2000's Stuart Townsend wrote the hymn 'In Christ Alone', and although some may not agree with all of its theology the first stanza, which is rooted in 2 Corinthians, holds a great truth that we as Christians need, I think, to consider and engage with...

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All, Here in the love of Christ I stand.

These words for me as a Transitional Minister are important. In my position, where I have been charged by Bishop Andrew, to help the 2 charges imagine a future, and support change towards sustainable churches there have been many challenges. There is a need to hold the past but at the same time to move

forward, and that means uncertainty, as the Bishop said only last week transition is always difficult and I believe he is right. He also said that when he looks around the Diocese and he looks at St James and St Ternan's he sees charges which truly do have a future and that is down to you engaging with the reality of recognizing the truth of Church in our modern world and continually asking the question 'how do we engage with God?' 'how do we engage with each other?' and how do we engage with the communities in which we live?'

The Holy Spirit is often imagined to be a wind...a wind of change. So let us pray that we will be open to what lies ahead remembering that in Christ alone our hope is found, he is our solid ground.

Christmas Flowers.

Thank you to Pam who decorated the altar for Christmas - the flowers were bought with a kind donation. She provided lots of the greenery for the window ledges in the church, the baptistery and the font and with Anne they produced a splendid display.

Thank you to Laura for the lovely displays at the rear of the church. A huge thank you, ladies, I am very grateful to you all.

Thank you to Laura and Mel for their help assembling and decorating the Christmas trees - it was nice we could light them both. Thank you Mary and Mike for the loan of your spare tree.

Thank you Anne, Paula, Laura, Mel, Mike and Peter for packing away the Christmas decorations and the Tree of Life baubles as Twelfth Night approached. Thank you so much, I

am very grateful to you all.

There will be fresh flowers at the altar from Sunday 21st January until Lent, Stella asked Laura if she would arrange flowers in memory of her Bill.

Finally if anyone would like flowers at the altar please speak to Mary, Anne or Val and, apart from Lent and Advent, that can be arranged. There will be fresh flowers at Easter - Easter Sunday is 31st March

Happy New Year and best wishes to all for 2024, Val Cadd

AGM Reports (continued)

Lay Representative

The main responsibility of the Lay Representative is to attend the Diocesan Synod. As you may know, the Diocesan Synod is the governing body of the diocese and meets annually. Each church is represented by its Lay Representative and clergy. This year the synod met on 4th March in St Mary's, Broughty Ferry. There will be a second meeting on 28th October at St Ninian's Dundee which as it hasn't taken place at the time of writing this report. I will give a verbal report on it at the AGM. Synod started with the traditional service of Holy Communion, led by Bishop Andrew.

As well as receiving reports from the various diocesan committees, synod gives people the opportunity to discuss and approve (or otherwise) various proposed changes to the way in which the SEC works. Such changes are initially brought to General Synod and then, following any alterations, are sent down to Diocesan Synods for their views before being finally

approved.

The first item was a suggested revision of the form of pastoral offices for use by Priests, Deacons, Readers and Authorised Lay Ministers. This dealt with the form of a variety of services including those used when administering to the infirm or dying, and baptism to persons unable through infirmity to be baptised in a church.

The second item was a discussion of proposed changes to Canon 4. This canon sets out the processes to be followed when electing a new bishop. It proposed changes to the time allowed for various stages in the process and ensuring that those involved in the election process are fully informed of their responsibilities. It also allows for a minimum of 2 candidates to be interviewed; previously the shortlist had to have a minimum of 3 candidates, and this had sometimes proved challenging.

There was an update on the Net Zero Action Plan. The document, which sets out a series of steps to help the church achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2030, was in the process of revision following changes proposed after discussion of an earlier version at diocesan synods and with other interested parties. Since synod the revised plan, issued in May and available on the Provincial website, has been approved by General Synod.

The final major item concerned proposed changes to the Cathedral Statutes. This document sets out the way in which our cathedral in Dundee is governed. The main changes were to free up the appointment of honorary canons to allow lay, ecumenical and Companionship canons and also a Canon Theologian and Minor Canons. It suggested a better

definition of what the cathedral actually is, along with some sharpening of the governance of the cathedral and chapter. Gendered language had also been removed.

Synod concluded with the Bishop confirming the Acts of Synod.

Peter Sharp

Protection of Vulnerable Groups

PVG Co-ordinator is appointed to take responsibility on behalf of the Vestry for ensuring that the work of the Church is carried out in accordance with the Law and the Church's policies on the protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults. These policies focus on prevention and safeguarding by ensuring that anybody appointed or volunteering to do "regulated work" with children or vulnerable adults have their details submitted to Disclosure Scotland who check for any relevant criminal convictions. Vulnerable adults include those people who, because they are affected by disability, mental disorder, illness, infirmity or ageing, are unable to protect themselves from abuse, or are more vulnerable to being abused than persons who are not so affected. Regulated work could include teaching or supervising Sunday School or providing some kind of regular welfare service to people with particular needs.

I have to confirm that anybody involved in regulated work has the correct level of PVG clearance and has received relevant training. Although we very occasionally have children at our Sunday Services, at present no specific person carries out "regulated work" which meets the above criteria. If this situation changes in future, it is the responsibility of Vestry to ensure the correct procedures are followed.

At the beginning of each year, I submit a Congregational Safeguarding Checklist to the Diocese confirming that, amongst other things, we have all the correct signs and posters in the Church and Hall and that Vestry members have seen the most up to date safeguarding advice.

The notice board in the church displays a poster with SEC Policies for Children and Vulnerable Adults along with Child-line and The Silver Line posters, the name/contact details of the PVG Co-ordinator, the Diocesan Protection Officer and the Provincial Officer. This year, following the retirement of Donald Urquhart, a new Provincial Safeguarding Officer was appointed, namely Mr John Wylie. It is hoped that a training day will take place on Saturday 24th February 2024 when all PVG Co-ordinators will meet John Wylie.

The SEC website reminds us “it is important to remember that it is everyone’s responsibility to protect the vulnerable and everyone working in and attending services in the SEC has an important part to play in developing a safe and supportive culture within the Church that protects everyone, regardless of the nature of their vulnerability”. If any member of the congregation has concerns about possible incidents involving children or vulnerable adults they need to notify the PVG Co-ordinator. If no-one is available and there is somebody at immediate risk, the police or local social work department should be contacted.

Any PVG issues are discussed as a standing item at every 6-8 weekly vestry meeting. There have been no issues reported.

Irene Paterson

Social Committee

The Social Committee year began in December 2022 with The Christmas coffee morning, our first coffee morning for three years - Covid 19 stopping everything socially in March 2020. It was lovely to see the hall busy and raised £713.50.

In March the Spring Coffee morning was held and ladies from the Ukranian community had a stall which was a great success and again the hall was busy and £637 was raised.

Our coffee mornings are a success because of the team effort of friends and members of the congregation – thank you ladies and gentlemen.

On 6th May – King Charles III held his coronation and we celebrated on Sunday 7th by holding a bring and share afternoon tea in the hall – 15 of us enjoyed a fine tea and lots of chat. The hall was very busy on Sunday 9th July for a bring and share lunch we shared with St.Ternan’s following our organist’s – Ian’s – recital and Mary’s invitation for us to join her and Mike to celebrate the 15th anniversary of her ordination as a deacon. Thank you Mary and Mike for sharing your celebration and sparkling wine with us all.

A huge thank you to all the ladies and gentlemen for your delicious contributions to the table food and helping with clearing up afterwards.

We celebrated Autumn at the beginning of October with bacon rolls served and enjoyed in the hall following the 10 o’clock service. A huge thank you to Mike for cooking the bacon – you are a star. 21 folk enjoyed the bacon rolls and lots of chat. Thank you for the donations of bacon and bread rolls and the retiring collection and to everyone who helped to clear up.

Finally – another huge Senior harvest service and afternoon tea – thank you to Mary, Margaret Wells, Anne, Diane, David, Loreen, Peter, Clare, Rita, Paula, Peter, Gwynne and Jane for the harvest service, hymn music, food, serving tea/coffee, setting up, decorating and clearing the tables, washing up, tidying and working together – a team effort.

I am standing down as Social Convenor as the role is growing to include all the fund raising we are doing. My best wishes to the new Social Convenor.

May I thank all the friends I have made being involved in the Social Committee and especially Stella who taught me that the tables at the coffee morning look very pretty if a bit of care is taken matching the crockery, David for the placing of the tables to get as many as possible in but leaving room for the waitresses to serve, Gill for all your help with the laundry, everyone who has always worked very hard at every function and Gill and Irene who arranged their plans around a coffee morning.

I am looking forward to continuing to help at church functions.

Val Cadd

Fundraising

After 10 years+ In April we saw the final St James Book Browse. Over the years thousands of pounds have been raised. Huge thanks to David and Diane and all their helpers who have worked together to make the Book Browse the success it was.

This year we have to look at different ways of raising funds. We have held some great and varied concerts and events in church.

The Rock Choir, who used to use our church for their weekly practices, offered to perform a concert for us. The ticket cost for the concert also included a glass of wine. This proved very successful and a second concert followed later in the year.

The King's Coronation weekend saw a free concert, for the community, performed by Granite City Brass. Many who attended had never been to a Brass Band Concert before. It was lovely to see so many children.

In October 120+ people attended another concert, this time we held a raffle and had a retiring collection, with all monies going to the church.

In June St James had a stall again at the Fein Market selling home crafts. We were awarded a shield for the best-dressed stall.

We held a very successful Fashion Show run by Lola, a Boutique whose premises are in Stonehaven. Not only raising funds for the church, but supporting a local business.

We had 2 different events in July both organized by Ian Lovegrove, our organist. Firstly a concert performed mainly by peripatetic teachers from Aberdeen. There was a great variety of music., from singing, to performances on musical instruments. Secondly a lunchtime organ recital from Ian. Members from St Ternan's joined us for this.

In September we held a quiz in the hall. 55 people attended

this from at least 5 different churches in and around Stonehaven. Thanks to Mike and Mary our question masters.

Aberdeenshire held its Open Doors on the 16th and 17th September. We decided to have a craft, cake and plant stall in the hall. We also had coffee available. The tea/coffee was a donation, people just came with lots of chatting happening.

Anne O’Gorman

Flowers

Thank you to Diana and Tony for the lovely fresh Christmas tree you gave the church for Christmas 2022 and to Laura and Mel for help installing and decorating it. Then at Easter thank you Diana and Tony for picking bunches and bunches of daffodils from Mr and Mrs Forbes’, Slaines Park, Kineff to decorate the church and to David and Pam for arranging them.

At Harvest the congregation took over the decoration of the church with flowers and food stuffs which we donated to Stonehaven Food Bank based at the Far and Wide charity shop. Thank you everyone for your kind donations and Paula and Peter for taking the goods to the food bank.

For much of the year there have been artificial flowers at the altar but occasionally members of the church wish to place flowers at the altar for their special reason. If you would like to do this please speak to Mary, Anne or Val and as long it is not during Lent or Advent we will be pleased to help.

Val Cadd

Communications

Our means of communication within St James' and the wider SEC are largely unchanged from last year.

We have the weekly pewsheets which show events for the coming weeks on its back page. Then each month we have the St James' and St Philip's Newsletter which includes a reflection written by Mary, a copy of the latest confirmed minutes from the vestry and other items of interest to the congregations. This is available on-line or printed copies are available from the table at the back of the church along with material from other organisations that may be of interest to church members. On-line we have the church website (www.stjames-stonehaven.org.uk) which has various information about the church, copies of the newsletters and the notices of church events as well as an area dedicated to our church exhibition. Finally, we have a Facebook page.

Grapevine is the Diocesan magazine, and it is published three times each year. You will be offered a copy by the duty greeter, but additional copies are available the back of the church. The diocese also publishes the Brechin Bulletin weekly, which gives a roundup of diocesan news. It is available on the diocesan website but, if you would like to receive a copy by email then please let the vestry secretary, Anne O'Gorman, know.

The monthly Inspires Online gives news of events across the Province. As its name suggests this is emailed to subscribers and you can sign up for it at <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/who-we-are/publications/inspires/>.

Further information about diocesan activities can be found on

the diocese website (www.thedioceseofbrechin.org) and on the provincial website (www.scotland.anglican.org).

So, it is easy to keep in touch with what is happening elsewhere in the church. If you still have concerns or questions about any diocesan matter, then feel free to raise them with me or Mary.

I would like to thank Diane Fleming, who not only proofreads the Newsletter, but provides summaries of vestry minutes both past and present and Diana Peters who produces the weekly pew-sheets with her typical efficiency.

Peter Sharp

White Bridge – An Update

As you may know, there have been concerns expressed at problems folk encounter in using the steep steps leading up to the bridge. Indeed there has already been an accident. Vestry has raised its concerns with the Council and below is a summary of the reply received on 17th January.

“Officers are just finalising the procurement of secondary lower level handrails which will provide continuous handrails on all four approach railings. These will tie into the railings on the pillars and extend down to pavement level attached to the current railings.

Officers are moving to apply for listed building consent – necessary because of the listed status of the bridge - for a central handrail on the south side

Officers have submitted a Listed Building Consent application for white resin bonded anti-slip strips which will provide a colour

contrast strip for the step nosings and provide additional grip on the step edges. They also believe this will assist with the lighting issue on the northern side of the bridge as these will highlight the edge of the granite steps more clearly in the shadowed area beneath the pillars. Until the Listed Building Consent comes through they will install some temporary anti-slip tape on the granite steps.

The lighting on the north side is still being looked at. The higher lighting column has improved light splay to the steps that go west on the north side of the bridge but there are still concerns with the three steps off the bridge on that side. I expect they may want to see if the white nosings act to improve the situation.”

David Fleming

Bring and Share

In December we held a bring and share event. As well as members from St James we were joined by some of the young adults from inspire.

Entertainment was provided by the fiddle group, who practise in the hall on a Thursday afternoon. James used his skills by doing Makathon.



Anne

Carol Service Westminster Abbey

What an honour for Paula and I to be invited to the Carol Service at Westminster Abbey. Our names had been put forward to attend by the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Kincardineshire. This came about due to a conversation she had with Mary on the day of the opening of the White Bridge. A few weeks later we were informed that we would be receiving an official invitation nearer the time of the event. We were also told we could bring a guest with us, so Peter and my daughter Janine were also invited.

Less than a week before we were due to go our invitation from Catherine, Princess of Wales, arrived. Janine and I flew down to London early on the Thursday morning. Luckily we were allowed to drop our suitcases off at the hotel we were staying in.

We then went exploring. Firstly to Westminster Abbey, then to Horse Guards Parade, Buckingham Palace and through St James Park. As recommended by Mel Christie we went on the London Eye just as London was being lit up. A wonderful sight.



Then back to the hotel for something to eat.

A must for London is to take in a show. We were lucky to get tickets to see Les Misérables in the Sondheim Theatre.

Friday morning we relaxed prior to going to the Abbey in the afternoon for the Carol Service. We met up with Peter and Paula prior to going to the Abbey. After usual checks we were offered a mince pie. A children's choir entertained us while we waited. We had been issued with coloured tickets , which colour depending on why we were invited. All the volunteers were sat in the Poets' Corner. To get there we passed through the choir stalls and then to the right. While we were seated and waiting for the start of the service there was a lot of excitement and we realised that Catherine was close by and talking to some of the youngsters in the front of where we were seating.

There was some beautiful music played on the organ prior to the start of the service. There were several special guests who performed including Beverly Knight, Adam Lambert, James Bay, Freya Riding, Jim Broadbent who read from Tolkien's letters to Father Christmas and Jacob Collier who played Last Christmas on John Lennon's piano. Lovely singing from the choir. From where we were sitting we could see the Prince of Wales read the lesson.

After the service had finished and the Royals had left we were able to look around the abbey and take photos. What a wonderful experience.

Saturday morning saw a trip to the Abbey shop for some mementos of our trip. Then Saturday evening it was back to Scotland. The trip to the airport was eventful due to Westminster bridge tube station closed because of a protest March.

Apart from a momentous weekend it was great to have some special mother and daughter time.

Anne

Sandy Cook

Sandy passed away at home on 15th January. Sandy was a faithful member of St James' congregation, serving it in many ways and latterly as a member of the vestry. He will be greatly missed.

A memorial service is to be held in St James' on Saturday 10th February at 12 noon. Our thoughts and prayers are with Jane and Rebecca at this time.

Support us, O Lord all the day long of this troublous life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes, the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over and our work is done. Then, Lord, in your mercy grant us a safe lodging, a holy rest, and peace at the last; through Christ our Lord.

Amen

THERE IS NO GOODBYE

There are moments on this planet
Periods of special time
That connects us with our loved ones
By revealing certain signs

For when the vibrations of the earth
Disturb the balance in the air
A message will reveal itself
For you to act upon with care

Then the forces will surround you
To help you if you ask
And smooth a path for you to walk
Unhindered in your task

For your loved ones will be watching
Each day when you awake
To assist you in your struggles
And the errors you might make

Pay attention to their presence
And listen with both ears
For the whisper that will call to you
And the advice that you will hear

Have courage in your footsteps
And use their wisdom without fear
To settle all your worries
From life's troubles that are near

For you travel not alone in time
On the journey that you take
As their spirits stand-by to guide you
On the choices you now make

So, do not say the word 'goodbye'
To loved ones when you part
As they will tap you on the shoulder
To cause a tremor in your heart

And when that movement stirs your soul
Get up and march ahead
As they are looking down on you
To see where you might tread

For through your senses a light will shine
To show you where to turn
As the departed gently teach you
On the lessons you must learn

Maura Kelly

Upcoming Events

- 4th Feb Bacon roll after service. Please sign list at the back of the church.
- 18th Feb 2.30 music Concert with Ian Lovegrove and Friends in aid of Ukrainian Children near the anniversary of the war
- 2nd March 10-12.0 Spring Coffee morning

Paula

Readers, and Greeters,

Date	Readings
4th February 5th Sunday in Epiphany	Is 40.21-31 Ps 147.1-12 1 C 9.16-23 Mk 1.29-39
11th February 6th Sunday in Epiphany	2 Kg 5.1-14 Ps 30 1 C 9.24-27 Mk 1.40-45
18th February 1st Sunday in Lent	Gen 9.8-17 Ps 25.1-9 1 P 3.18-22 Mk 1.9-15
25th February 2nd Sunday in Lent	Gen 17.1-7,15-16 Ps 22.22-30 Ro 4.13-25 Mk 8.31-38 or Mk 9.2-9
3rd March 3rd Sunday in Lent	Ex 20.1-17 Ps 19 1 C 1.18-25 Jn 2.13-22

Year A – Readings are from the NRSV of the Bible

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

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 Jepp

**The copy deadline for the February Newsletter is Sunday 25th February 2024
Reminders will not be sent out.**

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