

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



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

Day/Date	Event
3rd March 3rd Sunday in Lent	10.00am Holy Communion Rev. Canon Mary Jepp
10th March 4th Sunday in Lent	10.00am Anne O’Gorman Songs of Praise for Mothering Sunday
17th March 5th Sunday in Lent	10.00am Anne O’Gorman Reserved Sacrament
24th March Palm Sunday	10.00am Anne O’Gorman Reserved Sacrament
25th March	7.00pm “Churches Together” Service. Rev. Sarah Smith
26th March	7.00pm “Churches Together” Service. Rev Canon Mary Jepp
27th March	7.00pm “Churches Together” Service. Father Mark Impson
28th March Maundy Thursday	7.00pm Holy Eucharist and Stripping of Altar
29th March Good Friday	2.00pm Tenebrae 7.00pm Compline
31st March Easter Sunday	8.00am Joint service at Harbour followed by breakfast at St Bridget’s. 10.00am Holy Communion Rev. Canon Mary Jepp

From Mary,

I thought that I would write something on the 'World Day of Prayer' which traditionally is held on the first Friday in March. In all the places I have lived the gatherings on that day have been part of my life. Up until fairly recently they were always called 'The Women's World Day of Prayer' and although the name has changed, the materials for the service, as I understand it, are composed/collated by women in a particular named country. In this year's service booklet it says: "In 1910 more than 400 women met for the World Mission Conference (Edinburgh) bringing their experience and wisdom developed through years of ecumenical partnership in many countries. WDP was born. Today 'World Day of Prayer' is an ecumenical prayer movement bringing together millions from over 100 countries to pray, worship and learn each year".

1910! Before the first World War...I wonder what drew those women together. The 19th century had come to a close, and I expect that those women who gathered were aware of world conflicts and movements. It was a time when the Suffragists were raising their voices, their motto 'deeds not words' perhaps was an influence. The 19th century, as every other century, was riddled with wars - the later part of the century included the Boer wars and the Boxer Rebellion. The woman who gathered would have seen the reality of returning veterans, they would have been aware of the injustice of social policy within their own country.

As many of you know, I have worked and travelled in a great many places, places of both poverty and wealth and I have come to the understanding that what most people want is to get on with their lives. Over the years, of course, what that means has changed in line with the world in which we live, but basically it

is about having in the first instance our basic needs met. Today, where we live, it's about having somewhere to live, something to eat, healthcare, education and safety, in 1910 their priorities would have been somewhat different, as their starting point was different.

And so we come to this year....the materials for the World Day of Prayer are written by representatives from a different country each year. Representatives who, many months in advance, gather together. want to say this year there is an elephant in the room....the elephant being that the service has been put together by the World Day of Prayer Committee for Palestine, their words had probably even gone to print prior to the Hamas invasion of October. The theme they had chosen was "I beg you...Bear with one another in Love."

We all of course bring our own experience, our own pre-judging to the mix of our understanding, none of us is immune from this. So I bring the following, I grew up 3 doors up from a Synagogue, I went out with a Jewish chap called Peter Smurlick (can you imagine I could have ended up as Mary Smurlick!), and I have spent some time visiting the West Bank. You can perhaps see that I have mixed emotions. As we travelled south through the West Bank, time was spent in Sychar, in ancient times Shechem, this is believed to be the site of Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well, after all it was Samaritan territory. There in what is quite an ordinary town or city is an Orthodox Church, it is the Church of Jacob's Well. Here you will find a very ancient well, that has connections with Christianity, Judaism and Islam. It is said that this 40 foot deep well is the most authentic sight, in what is referred to as the Holy Land. It is a place of gathering, a place where over the centuries individuals have come to source the most basic of human needs...water. And here the Samaritan woman had been

given a gift of greater understanding.

I would stand by my understanding that what most individuals want is a simple secure life. When we listen to the news reports and see the violence of this world, let us think of the ordinary people who just want to get on, think of the ordinary people who laugh and cry and want the best for their children. Who, simply put, yearn to live in peace. I continually wonder how this can be accomplished. I accept that many would say that I am being simplistic, that there is more to it than that, but I truly believe that we must pray for all people who are caught up in the violence and power struggles of this world. Let us join in prayer with those who suffer in this world regardless of their colour or creed and pray for the peace of the world.

These are the words of commitment which are part of the World Prayer Day Services...will you join in these words?...

May we commit to working for peace, as we stand with all women, particularly those experiencing oppression, violence or discrimination. May we be faithful advocates with decision makers working on all levels of society, including religious institutions. May we bear with one another in love until God's justice and peace reign throughout the whole world. Let us go now and be agents of peace.

Grateful Thanks

Following the recent death of my daughter, Ruth, I have been overwhelmed by the messages of support that I have received. I would just like to say how much I and my family have appreciated being in so many of your thoughts and prayers at this time.

Arma.

Easter Flowers

We will be decorating the church on Easter Saturday- 30th March at 10am.

Everyone who would like to join the team that morning is very welcome and if you want any more information please ask me, Val Cadd - thank you.

Val Cadd (Flower Co-ordinator)

Vestry Minutes 11th October 2023

Correspondence

Anne had received details of the updated Codes of Canons. These can be found at: <http://www.scotland.anglican.org/who-we-are/publications/code-of-canons>

Mary has sent 2 cheques to Luthiers Sans Frontieres (UK). One from the hymn choosing and one received as the result of a talk given by Mary. She has received a thank you from LSF.

Treasurer's Report

Main Account:	£16,240.44
Fabric Fund Account:	£8,071.12
Buildings Account:	£3,617.36
St Philip's:	£9,277.02

Peter Sharp presented the annual accounts to vestry. These were approved. Peter then spoke about the proposed budget for 2023/24.

Mary reported that a gentleman has prepaid for his ashes to be buried in the Garden of Remembrance. Details of this are held in a folder in the Vestry.

Worship/Priest's Report

St James has made the finals of the National Church Awards. There are 12 churches in the final. We are entered in the category 'Community Involvement and Volunteering'. This is from our work with Inspire and the Ukrainian Drop In. The final will be streamed live on YouTube.

The Episcopal sign is going to be replaced and repositioned. Planning permission is needed and Michael has been in touch with the Council. The costs for a new sign are to be met by Alex Geldart and Joe Morrow.

The Remembrance Service is to be held at Dunnottar Church this year.

Mary will be taking the Christmas Day service at St James.

Mary reported that she would be cooking for the Sea Cadets' residential weekend.

She reported that there was a good attendance at the midweek services.

Net Zero

Peter Fogiel said that he and Paula watched the webinar session on Net Zero although he felt that what was proposed was not relevant to our church. We should formulate our own plan. Further insulation is required for the hall loft and the cost of £750 was agreed. Peter Sharp explained that the Local Net Zero Champions, who are to assist charges implementing the plan and who were originally going to be diocesan appointments, will now be funded by the Province.

Paula is applying for the free energy audit check identified in the Net Zero Plan.

Fabric

Church:

Heating: For the second time in six months the software controlling the heating system malfunctioned. It meant that programming had to be done for each individual time that heating was required rather than relying on the regular system. Andrew McCully, the administrator of the Loxone system, visited the church and was intrigued by the problem which he thought might have been caused by a system update. He adjusted our software to make it easier to control, but since we have no maintenance contract, further call-outs will attract a fee for his time and journey from Perth. David Fleming, also present, enquired as to whether the Loxone system could be applied to the hall heating whenever we replace the hall's gas boiler.

Emergency Sensor Lighting: Working well in the corridor between the nave and the office but not as good as it could be in the rear corridor between the office and the back door. Mike Jepp is to be asked to look again at it.

Lighting: LED bulbs have been fitted in both the north and south porches and the Church toilet.

Rear Corridor Painting: Still to be started by the Convenor team.

Dishwasher: This is working well.

Disabled Parking: 2 signs have been placed appropriately close to the church front door.

Roof and Gutters: Stonehaven Roofing Services have been reminded about the annual cleaning of gutters and roof repairs using a cherry picker. They have been asked for a start date so that groups using the hall can be alerted (for safety purposes).

Walkways: We still have to resolve this issue to enhance the safety of the concrete walkways.

Painting of Church doors: Following the soda blasting of the external surfaces of the main doors Cameron has almost finished the external painting of all the external doors as well as painting

both inside and outside surfaces of the main hall doors and the external surface of the hall fire exit doors.

Garden and Shed: Work has continued in the garden and the potato crop was successful.

Further work was undertaken with the help of the Masons, who have been helpful since the beginning of the project. Paula managed to get rolls of turf free via Stonehaven Chat and this has been laid near the greenhouse and the area where the large compost heap used to be. She also managed to get funding for a picnic table/bench and this is installed adjacent to the raised beds.

Church Hall

There have been no further leaks despite the heavy rainfall. It was noted that water from the external tap runs warm. An assessment by a plumber is suggested. A quote has been received for replacing the lights in the hall and church office with LED lights and there is an outstanding quote for replacing the windows. We have checked the hall for RAAC and there is none apparent. Mike has shaved the top edge of the toilet door after it got stuck and repositioned the rail in the disabled toilet. The emergency exit door will need to be replaced or repaired. A joiner will assess this. Single lettings continue to increase slowly and the groups continue as before.

Rectory

The guttering needs cleaning out and a strip of felt is needed for the shed. Flooring has been replaced in the downstairs toilet.

Fund Raising/Social

Val reported that 57 people attended the Senior Harvest Service and Tea. The following day saw the Inspire Harvest Service and Tea. Representatives from the Masons also attended.

Anne reported that the Quiz Night was a great success with 55 people from different churches taking part.

For Aberdeenshire Open Doors Day on 16th September the hall was opened for craft and plant sales and coffee/tea. This was a great morning with a lot of chatter.

On Sunday 8th October Granite City Brass gave a concert with 120+ people attending. The Rock Choir will be back on 18th November with tickets costing £10 to include a glass of wine.

Granite City Brass will return on 3rd December for a Christmas concert with monies raised going to the band.

PVG

A training day for co-ordinators has been arranged for 24th February.

AOCB

Val asked about flowers and decorating the church for Christmas. Mary said she would leave it to what was convenient for Val.

The AGM is on Sunday 26th November after the 10 am service.

Mr Tsunami

The following poem is for all those who have met Mr Tsunami in the local swimming pool.

Diane

Mr Tsunami by Brian Whittingham

They may as well be out for a walk.
They chat, oblivious of their trajectory.

Like an underwater explorer,
I can see there's little swimming, just walking,
though on the surface they mimic the strokesas if.

Then another two descend and yet another two.
They all join in the walking underwater
and the swimming and gossiping above.

Like they are strolling,
without a care in the world,
side by side along the Champs-Élysées
perhaps

though they are not.
They are in Scotstoun, not Paris.

And now I barely avoid Mr Tsunami
in the final stages of his one hundred lengths.

I know this information
because he and other regulars
had informed me the previous week
after we'd collided during a similar incident.

Mr Tsunami has now turned at the top of the pool
and is bearing down on the walkers at a fair rate of knots.

Having, yet again, given up any hope
of achieving my own paltry quota of lengths
I wait for the ensuing collision with interest.

The unstoppable force meeting the immovable objects.

Social/ Fundraising

4th February saw 27 people, including children enjoy bacon rolls after the service. Thank you to Mike for cooking the bacon.

!8th February in the afternoon saw about 100 people enjoy a concert given by Ian Lovegrove, our organist, and friends. A variety of instruments were played. Ranging from organ, piano, fiddle, guitar, violin and voice. What a great concert. Over £1,000 was raised for The Red Cross Ukrainian Crisis Fund. Big thank you to all involved musically, backstage and the audience for their generous donations.

Future events are Coffee Morning on 2nd March from 10am to 12.30pm. Donations of raffle prizes and items for tombola, craft or cakes stall will be gratefully received.

There will be a quiz night in April.

June 1st is Feein' Market. St James will be having a home craft stall. Donations of crafts, cakes would be greatly appreciated. Please speak to Anne for more information.

Thank you
Anne

Congratulations

Congratulations to David Smaile who has won the Stonehaven Community Award for 2023.

Anne

THANK YOU from Jane Cook.

I want to express my thanks for all the flowers, cards, thoughtful messages, phone calls, visits, prayers and hugs which have supported

Rebecca, Richard and me since Sandy's terminal diagnosis last October. We have felt comforted, upheld and blessed by your care. I am so glad I joined Sandy in membership of St James. Thank you.

Thanks

A big thankyou to the Masons who have donated £300 towards a greenhouse for the garden project

Anne



Lent Study Group

This year we will depart from a formal study and be looking at the Gospel readings for each Sunday in the week prior to their Sunday reading. The studies will take place following Holy Communion on a Tuesday morning, at approximately 11 am and will take place on February 27 and March 5, 12 and 19. All Welcome.

Mary

Music Concert

The concert on 18th February raised over a £1,000 for the Ukrainian Red Cross. This was a magnificent effort and sincere thanks go to our organist, Ian Lovegrove, and his colleagues.

Paula



Readers, and Greeters,

Date	Readings
3rd March 3rd Sunday in Lent	Ex 20.1-17 Ps 19 1 C 1.18-25 Jn 2.13-22
10th March 4th Sunday in Lent	Nu 21.4-9 Ps 107.1-3,17-22 Eph 2.1-10 Jn 3.14-21
17th March 5th Sunday in Lent	Jer 31.31-34 Ps 51.1-13 or 119.9-16 Heb 5.5-10 Jn 12.20-33
24th March Palm Sunday	Is 50.4-9a Ps 31.9-16 Phil 2.5-11 Mk 14.1-15.47 or Mk 15.1-39(40-47)
31st March Easter Sunday	Acts 10.34-43 or Is 25.6-9 Ps 118.1-2,14-24 1 C 15.1-11 or Acts 10.34-43 Jn 20.1-18 or Mk 16.1-8
7th April 2nd Sunday in Easter	Acts 4.32-35 Ps 133 1 Jn 1.1-2:2 Jn 20.19-31

Year A – Readings are from the NRSV of the Bible

Greeter	Lessons 1+2	Coffee
Peter Fogiel	Peter Fogiel	Richard Clark
David Fleming	Peter Sharp	Peter Sharp
David Fleming	David Fleming	Diane Fleming
Richard Clark	Richard Clark	Irene Paterson
Irene Paterson	Irene Paterson	Peter Fogiel
Diana Peters	Diana Peters	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 24th March 2024
Reminders will not be sent out.**

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