

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

CHRIST IS RISEN



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

Day/Date	Event
5th May 6th Sunday in Easter	10.00am Morning Prayer Anne O’Gorman
12th May 7th Sunday in Easter	10.00am Holy Communion Rev. Canon Mary Jepp
19th May Whitsunday	10.00am Reflection and Reserved Sacrament Anne O’Gorman and Ian Wilson
26th May Trinity Sunday	10.00am Holy Communion Rev. Emma or Martyn Percy

From Mary,

The summer season approaches, well, we hope! The time of travel and visitors. Regardless of declining church numbers many people on their travels gravitate towards local churches. Both St James and St Ternan's are open for visitors every day. Quite often individuals will say to me how wonderful it is to be able to find a church that is open, and to be able to take the opportunity to rest awhile. Sometimes they come in search of God, sometimes they come in search of conversation, sometimes to seek out architectural gems, and sometimes simply to escape the busyness of life in the stillness of a sacred space. I am sure no one would dispute the wonderfulness of these visits, but I am slightly concerned about those who decide that they may follow up their mid week visit, with the decision to come to a service.

As a foreigner, who has travelled a great deal, I am very aware of how our 'habits', our traditions, our accents quite often get in the way of our relationships and of our experiences. I remember when I first took Mike home, my mum saying...'I think he is lovely dear, but I haven't got a clue what he is saying!' It took awhile for my poor mum to get to grips with Mike, to understand him, and even experience the joys of mushy peas and the like. They became very close over time, but it really only happened because they were determined to make the relationship work. I think they both realised that there was a lot at stake. For us as Christians, if we take Christ's mandate at the end of Matthew's Gospel 'to go and make disciples of all nations' we should consider what that really means and how we can accomplish our callings.

How can we truly welcome those who come through the door?
How can we demonstrate God's love? How can we be

inclusive and not exclusive. I can remember being taken to a Quaker Service, I can remember attending a Pentecostal Service where individuals were speaking in tongues and, as a dear friend would say, I didn't have a Scooby! It was only through the kindness of individuals that I was able to make sense of what was going on. I would love to attend an Orthodox service but....!!! to be truthful it actually frightens me...! Just because we know what is going on doesn't mean that others will. We stand, we sit, we use words that no one else uses,...and then there is receiving Communion! Now in saying this I am not suggesting that we should give up on our traditions, on the way we do things, but I think we need to look at the way we do church and consider are there things we can do to make things a little easier, for strangers experiencing the Episcopal Church. (Perhaps we should ask...was their experience such that they would come back? Or was it totally alien to them). I know that we are good at being friendly when people come through the door...but what about after the Service? Might it be an idea to invite someone to be with you during coffee...to conversation, to invite them truly into the circle of conversation, rather than leaving them to fend for themselves.

Over and over again we say that God is love, and we, you and I believe it. Love you know, from your relationships with others can be costly, love requires compromise. Our individual faith is hugely important to us, it speaks of family, it speaks of where we have been, it speaks of our relationship with each other and with God. I think as great a comfort as our faith is, that it also calls us to step out of our faith comfort zone and to truly welcome others into God's embrace as we experience it in relationship with one another.

Each with Tongues of Fire

It was like an earthquake –
no, more like a stillness so complete –
for me, more like the most perfect dawn
all shell-blue and gold –
for me, it was waking into heaven –
or a wind blowing straight from God
into the soul of me, between my eyes –
I felt like I was inside a flame
that did not burn but illuminated –
I became a river's mouth, a spring
bubbling, singing out God's Good News –
more like feeling bigger on the inside,
booming & echoing like a cathedral
with praise bouncing, becoming, belonging –
I found myself able to see others each
with a flame of the Holy Spirit hovering –
I could suddenly pray without distraction –
it felt like flying, this joy, this being known –
it felt like a cradling, knowledge of Love
at last, Love strong & true & never ending –
it felt like I had come into my purpose,
discovering Christ & being discovered –
for me, music exquisite, & I shone
with swooping melodies, delicate chants –
for me, the urge to heal, help, work:
and I, I saw everyone as a child, needing
the tenderness of God in Christ Jesus,
heard the call, the Call, the words of God

each morning encouraging my turning
to see Christ standing waiting for me;
in His Spirit I will glow, sacred to Him,
living prayer, praise, wholly alive.

Philippa Johnson

Vestry Minutes 8th February 2024

Correspondence

Thank you letters for donations received from Luthiers Sans Frontieres and Aberlour Children's Charity.

Letter from Bishop Andrew congratulating St James on being the Scottish winner of the Church Volunteer category of the National Church Awards 2023 for the work with the Ukrainians and the community garden, and for being recognized as exemplary by the judges.

Val received money for Christmas flowers and has sent a thank you letter.

Treasurer's Report

Main Account	£11,370.26
Fabric Fund Account	£8,218.43
Buildings Account	£2,897.36
St Philip's	£8,753.43

Worship/Priest's Report

Mary remembered Sandy Cook who died on 15th January and had been a vestry member. Vestry expressed their thanks for all he had done for St James.

Mary reported that, from September, Edward would no longer be

able to be a vestry member as he hopes to be selected to train as an Episcopal priest and therefore cannot take services or be on vestry in his home church.

On Ash Wednesday there will be a communion service and Imposition of Ashes at 7 pm. The Lent course will be looking at the Gospel readings and will take place after the 10 am service on Tuesdays.

Mary will be away with the Sea Cadets from 14th – 23rd March. During Holy Week there will be 'Churches Together' services on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings at St James. Fr Mark, Sarah and Mary will each take a service. There will be a communion service and Stripping of the Altar on Maundy Thursday at 7 pm and a service on Good Friday afternoon (time to be announced). There was a discussion about the Easter Saturday vigil, David is to speak to Michael Turner. There will be a service at the harbour on Easter Sunday followed by breakfast at St Bridget's.

Net Zero

The Net Zero team are intending to put support and resources into charges which have already shown they are working towards the Net Zero agenda. The idea is that this will provide initiatives for others to adopt. At a meeting of the Cross Diocesan Working Group Peter Sharp mentioned that we had had an energy audit done and this generated a lot of interest for representatives of other dioceses. It was agreed that St James should put its name forward as a primary adopter.

Funding to support Net Zero is imminent. The Rectory Green fund will improve the insulation of rectories. This is unlikely to be useful for St James but funding for church buildings is likely to follow.

Fabric

Church: The Loxone heating system is generally working well although it is cold at the front and back of the church which is particularly noticeable when we have functions in church. David and Peter Fogiel are to explore further measures. We cannot put in additional heaters because of the power limitations to the building. Solar panels may be an option. It had also been noted that the switches for the under-seat heating were being switched off, possibly by people unknowingly stepping on them. David has put a wooden edging around them to alleviate the problem.

The interactive monitor which is part of the exhibition has ceased to work and is now with Peter Campbell of Nort East Tech Repair in Stonehaven.

The Meraki CCTV Cloud Licence is due to expire on 2nd April 2024. David has been in touch with Bill Anderson regarding this. There will be an upgrade to the system on 11th February. The Emergency Sensor lighting is working well but could be better in the rear corridor between the office and the rear door of the church. With assistance from Mike Jepp an LED Corn lamp has been replaced in the Nave and a bulb replaced in the lighting fixture above the coffee table in the nave.

The rear corridor painting has been completed by the Convenor team and painting in the corridor between the nave and office has been done to a reasonable height, although could be extended with the loan of an extending ladder from St Ternan's. The North and South porches also need painting.

Stonehaven Roofing Services have now completed the major project of annual cleaning of gutters and roof repairs using a cherry picker. There still remains the problem of water ingress

at the rear door near the toilet. The firm have been alerted to this and their attendance is awaited.

We still have to resolve enhancing the safety of our current concrete walkways. During the cold weather those opening the church have been vigilant in gritting the pathways.

Garden and Shed Storm Babet made a major impact by tearing our plastic sheeting greenhouse apart. Many of the frame rods were buckled and the remains were removed to be recycled. However, the Masons are making a financial contribution towards a more substantial greenhouse.

The post for the Garden of Rest sign had rotted and the sign is currently resting against the northeast side of the church. A new post is being sought and the sign will then be replaced.

The metal post for the new Episcopal Church sign has been delivered and we await the new Episcopal Church sign. Canon 35 and council planning applications have been approved for this.

Church Hall No particular issues except on one occasion a complete toilet roll was found in the toilet bowl by the Wednesday morning Art Group. We were alerted to the fact that some groups had been rather lax in completing the Hall Users' Check List which ensures that all is as it should be at the end of a let.

Paula is seeking funding to replace the windows and to change the lighting to LED in line with Net Zero.

20+ rolls of insulation have been delivered and Mike and Peter have made a start in laying it.

Single lettings for the hall continue to slowly increase.

Fund Raising/Social

The end of 2023 was busy with the Rock Concert in November, Granite City Brass concert in December and the Christmas coffee morning.

There was a Thursday afternoon 'Bring and Share' event in December during which the fiddlers, who practise in the hall, and James from Inspire entertained us.

After the service on 4th February we had bacon rolls in the hall. 27 members attended and thanks go to Mike for his cooking skills.

Planned events for this year include a concert on 18th February at 2.30 pm in aid of the Red Cross Ukrainian Crisis. There will be a coffee morning on 2nd March, a Quiz Night in April and the Feein' Market on 1st June.

PVG

Irene reported that she will be attending a meeting on 24th February with other PVG officers and the new co-ordinator,

AOCB

Anne asked if the church hall could be used as the emergency space for Inspire. Inspire also asked if they could bring a small pony into the garden. Vestry granted both requests.

The World Day of Prayer is on 1st March at 7.30 pm and will be organized by St James this year.

There are 2 plaques waiting to be installed on the memorial boards. One is for Edna Craig and a date has been arranged. The other is for a relative of Jean Carnie and Val will speak to Jean about a date.

Next Meeting: 11th April 2024

Summary of Vestry Meeting on 11th April

- The law now requires there to be a Register of Persons Holding a Controlled Interest in Land. So far as St James' and St Philip's are concerned those are the diocesan trustees, i.e. the Bishop, Dean and Chancellor. Mary, Anne and Peter Sharp have been informed by the bishop that they are recorded on the register as associates.
- Mary reported that the Easter services went well and numbers were up on last year.
- Mary has had a meeting with the Bishop. He is pleased with the positive developments in both charges.
- Mary said that her one concern is the Worship Team. We need to encourage others in our own congregation to take part. At present Anne is taking on the lion's share. Training would be available for leading intercessions, laying up, serving or any other tasks.
- The rear corridor painting has been completed by the Convenor team and painting in the corridor between the Nave and Office has now been done to ceiling height, although the small ceiling area has still to be done as well as some final touches to complete the job.
- Stonehaven Roofing Services have now completed the major project of annual cleaning of gutters and roof repairs using a cherry picker.
- Additional insulation has been laid in the hall roof space. Paula is actively seeking funding to replace the hall windows and change the lighting to LED in line with NetZero.
- Very successful concert in February given by Ian and friends raising over £1,000 for the Gaza Red Cross appeal.

- Coffee morning raised over £600.
- As St James is now holding more evening events open to the public, it is thought it be wise to install 2 emergency lights which would activate if there was a power outage in the main area of the church. It is thought that one would be located on the pillar between the lectern and piano, the other would be located on the pillar by the organ at the rear of the church. This was agreed.

Easter Saturday

Thank you to everyone who was very busy in the church on Easter Saturday morning. Mary and Anne dressed the altar and Paula, Jane and Peter spring cleaned the pews and window ledges.

Thank you to Diana and Tony for picking (with permission) 200 daffodils, Heather for your Easter wreath and Stella and Paula for their flower donations to decorate the church for Easter Sunday and Paula for your help with the flowers. The church looked very colourful and the daffodils had their wonderful scent.

Thank you all very much for your hard work - the inside of the church looked good.

Val Cadd (Flower Convenor)

Social Report

Another successful and enjoyable Quiz Night, hosted by Mary and Mike, was held in the church hall on Friday 19th April. Entry money and a generously supported raffle raised £431.

Future Events:

- Granite City Brass Band Concert on Sunday 26th May at 7pm. There will be a raffle and a retiring collection.
- Feein' Market on Saturday 1st June. Offers of homecrafts, baking and help will be much appreciated.
- Rock Choir Concert on Friday 28th June. Tickets (which include a glass of wine) will be £10 and there will be a raffle.

For further details on these events, please contact Anne.

Jane.

Light relief

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.'
'The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Don't let worry kill you off – let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again', giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

David

Readers, and Greeters,

Date	Readings
5th May 6th Sunday in Easter	Acts 10.44-48 Ps 98 1 Jn 5.1-6 Jn 15.9-17
12th May 7th Sunday in Easter	Acts 1.15-17,21-26 Ps 1 1 Jn 5.9-13 Jn 17.6-19
19th May Whitsunday	Acts 2.1-21 or Ezek 37.1-14 Ps 104.25-35,37 Ro 8.22-27 or Acts 2.1-21 Jn 15.26-27;16.4b-15
26th May Trinity Sunday	Is 6.1-8 Ps 29 Ro 8.12-17 Jn 3.1-17
2nd June 1st Sunday after Trinity	1 Sa 3.1-10(11-20) Ps 139.(1-5),12-17 2 C 4.5-12 Mk 2.23-3.6

Year A – Readings are from the NRSV of the Bible

Greeter	Lessons 1+2	Coffee
Val Cadd	Val Cadd	Peter Sharp
David Fleming	Diane Fleming	Diane Fleming
David Fleming	David Fleming	Irene Paterson
Paula Fogiel	Edward Harrison	Richard Clark
Peter Fogiel	Peter Fogiel	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	
Property	Paula Fogiel, Peter Fogiel and Mike Jepp
Communication	Peter Sharp
Music	David Fleming
Social and fund-raising	Paula Fogiel, Anne O'Gorman & Jane Cook
Flowers	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 next Newsletter is Sunday 26th May 2024.
Reminders will not be sent out.**

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