

**Episcopal Churches of
St. James' Stonehaven.
St. Philip's Catterline.
April 2026**



**Services at St. James' during
April 2026**

Sundays.

10.00 am Holy Communion

Tuesdays

10.00 am Said Holy Communion

1st Wednesday of the month

7.00 pm Still @ 7. An opportunity to explore contemplative prayer/meditation within the Christian Tradition



DIARY NOTES April 2026

Day/Date	Event
5th April Easter Sunday	10.00 am Holy Communion Rev Canon Mary Jepp
12th April 2nd Sunday in Easter	10.00 am Holy Communion Rev Canon Mary Jepp
18th April 3rd Sunday in Easter	10.00 am Holy Communion Rev Canon Mary Jepp
25th April 4th Sunday in Easter	10.00 am Reserved Sacrament Mrs Anne O’Gorman

From Mary,

Here I sit in the middle of a very early Lent, caught up in Lenten readings and services thinking to myself how difficult it is to think beyond now to the story of the Resurrection of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. It is a slightly odd mind set to be in. It has set me to wondering about the emotions of the story. We know the details, after all many of us have heard it over and over again from the time of our infancy.

I expect you know that 1 April this year is the Wednesday of Holy Week, a week of high drama and tension. Wednesday of Holy Week is sometimes called Spy Wednesday, following the story through the week there seems to be a lull in the proceedings Jesus had entered Jerusalem and returned to Bethany where he was anointed by Mary. Tensions were riding high and there is a notion that on Wednesday the temple authorities were plotting the arrest of Jesus
And so the story unfolds....

But what of the disciples, what were their thoughts their emotions....

In writing that I think of the ordinary people of our world who this very day are faced with conflict and uncertainty. I have no idea what has happened in the days since I have written these words, today is only the 18th of March, a lot can happen in 2 weeks, as we well know.

I expect that Jesus' disciples were conflicted, uncertain, terrified. The words Jesus' spoke in so many ways perhaps only added to the conflicted emotions.

So Christ was crucified....

He was buried...

And so we once again see so many emotions riding high...so much uncertainty to both their present and their future.

Into the mix come angelic words: "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen."

Do I dare to say to say words which trip yet more uncertainty and confusion....How? How could this be so?

Living in our world of conflict and uncertainty, the story of Easter may seem far removed from cluster bombs, and military actions. However, in many ways it is not. We live in a confused and violent world, where it appears that 'might is right'. It is a world where not only on the world stage but in ordinary lives individuals, and groups of individuals wield power, sometimes in defence of the marginalized but often simply for powers sake. I believe the story of Jesus' life, death and resurrection speaks into the chaos of our world even today. Speaking with individuals I realise that for many there is a sense of despair and concern as we look on at not only the current international situation but at national and local issues.

The story of Jesus speaks of rebirth, renewal, grassroots change. His story speaks of a complete change of perspective, no longer are individuals, communities, empires and nations held by the bondage of power, restricted by power. Jesus' mandate to love, is in reality a mandate for freedom. The Easter Story in every generation must be acknowledged and accepted firstly by individuals and then on a wider basis.

I think that there are many questions to consider:

What does the Jesus story mean to us?

Do we believe the story of the Resurrection?

How can we truly demonstrate that we are Easter people?

Can the Gospel set people and nations free?
What are we being called to do, to be?
Do we believe that there is a place for religion in today's
world, in our community?

I expect you may very well say... 'well she would say that...
after all she is a priest' ...but you know I do believe in the res-
urrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. I will say that most of the
time, well at least these days I do wonder what is going on,
however, I do believe that our God is faithful to his people.

Alleluia the Lord is Risen !!! He is risen in deed! Alleluia!

Yours in Christ
Mary J

ps...did you know that the reason chocolate eggs are hollow
is to remind us of the empty tomb! Enjoy!!!

Social Report

The Congregational Bacon Butty was well attended at the be-
ginning of March - thanks to Mike for cooking and everyone
who helped serve and set-up the hall. There was lots of chat-
ter and a good atmosphere in the hall.

The Easter Coffee Morning last weekend raised an amazing
£628.40 and David Fleming has generously donated a further
£55 to the total from the sales of his book on the day. A
hearty thanks to all those who helped make the coffee morn-
ing a great success. Either by advertising, donating, baking,
crafting, raffling, setting up, serving, washing up or tidying
up after (and anything else I've forgotten!). Many hands
make light work and we sure had a great many willing vol-

unteers. The morning started off slowly but business soon picked up and there was quite a buzz in the hall.

There are a several concerts coming up in the future to keep us entertained.

- Words and Music for Easter by Ian Lovegrove and friends
- Richard Cowling
- Stonehaven Chorus

Details for the above can be found on the noticeboards.

Future events:

- Christian Aid fundraiser on Sunday 10th May - Congregational Soup & Sandwich
- June 6th - Feein' Market
- September - Open doors weekend - Coffee Morning - usually around the 20th
- October - Harvest Sunday Congregational Bring & Share
- October - Harvest Thursday Afternoon Tea & Service in the hall
- December - Christmas Coffee Morning

Next meeting is planned for Wednesday 15th April at 7pm at 35 Westfield Park (Jane's)

Barbara Ross

Vestry Minutes 14th January 2026

Matters arising

Mary has spoken to the Bishop about Claire's past experience in lay ministry and, as a consequence, she will be joining our worship team.

Mary has met with George Sneddon, the new minister at Fetteresso.

Ellie Charman, the interim minister for Laurencekirk, is looking at

how to grow all the churches in and around Laurencekirk. She will also take one service a month at St Ternan's.

Treasurer's Report

Main Account: £13,047.90

Fabric Fund Account: £6,660.63

Buildings Account: £2,828.36

St Philip's: £10,797.31

Worship/Priest's Report

Mary explained that she is doing a 'house for duty' role, which means she lives in the rectory rent free. In return she will work for 3 Sundays out of 4 and 2 days per week. She will continue as the Sea Cadet Chaplain and will spend some time with them on sea trips, for which she will be paid.

Mary will meet with Fr Mark and George Sneddon to organize services for Holy Week.

Tuesday services are going well although Mary would like to reorganize the seating arrangements - at the moment it has the appearance of a train.

It was agreed that during the peace we should revert to shaking hands with people nearby.

We will try a single line in front of the pews for communion instead of a queue.

If a priest is in the congregation the service should not be a reserved sacrament.

Mary, Mike and Geoff (the Treasurer) have resigned from St Ternan's. Their next vestry meeting will be with the Bishop

and he will speak to St Ternan's congregation after the service on 25th January.

Fabric

Peter reported that, as yet, no-one has come forward to take over the Property Convenor's role in November.

Health and Safety: The tool kit provided by the Scottish Episcopal Church continues to be used for Risk Assessment forms for any task to be performed. It has been put to good use during the recent bad weather and monthly checks of all aspects of the church and hall continue to be carried out and documented, and where required maintenance is carried out.

Painting: of the South Porch will be completed once the weather improves.

Heating: The Loxone system is working well and the engineer has replaced the box which ensures the remote plugs and timer system in the Sacristy and Office are working correctly.

Organ: The organ is to undergo a major overhaul starting on 26th January. This was arranged by David Fleming and Ian Lovegrove after the last tuning in the summer. It has not been undertaken for some time.

Meraki CCTV: Once again we had a visit recently from the police requesting sight of our CCTV images. There had been a recent break-in and burglary in a nearby street but there were no unusual images of note during the time-scale requested (when Slimming World were using the Hall.) It was discovered that one of the cameras was not working and an engineer from Network DNA has been alerted. He is checking for any software

issue before attending. A response is awaited.

Roof and Gutters: Regular checks are carried out and, since the snow and wind, we have noted 2 slates have slipped. The roof repairer will assess this as soon as possible.

Chancel: Water ingress in and around the windows has been quite severe. We have checked both inside and out and cannot see any damage but will continue to check due to the electric sockets on the sills.

Walkways: Thankfully sand and grit continue to be available. The importance of our protest against the removal of the grit/sand bin has never been underlined so emphatically with the recent heavy snowfall and freezing weather. The grit bin was almost empty but was refilled less than 48 hours after our request.

Garden: One of the cold frames, despite being a much safer and long lasting option, has been damaged but can be repaired. Paula and I have started to tidy up the strawberry patch, and have done a final dig of the potato patch, retrieving a large 'boiling' of potatoes which we handed to the staff at Inspire. If anyone would like to volunteer please don't hesitate to ask.

Church Hall: There has been a problem with the manual thermostat which over-rides the automatic heating controls. The function has not been consistent and the control box has probably reached its 'sell-by' date. In the interim while waiting for the engineer to get a new one David Fleming and Peter Fogiel cleaned up and tightened the contacts for the batteries and slider switch. This appears to have worked, albeit temporarily.

Stonehaven Resilience Plan: We are one of three community

venues which are involved in this. An external generator socket has been fitted outside the hall and an additional electric box inside the hall by the original fuse box at the front door. Paula is in contact with the Community Council who will put this plan into action when needed. The use of the hall would only be needed in emergencies and would be the responsibility of those involved in the Resilience Plan. Thankfully this has not been needed in the extreme weather conditions in recent weeks.

Hall Lets: The hall is beginning to reach full capacity in session usage and one-off lets and thanks to Paula for her diligence and commitment.

Rectory: The boiler is due to be serviced.

It was agreed that the amount paid to the cleaner should be increased to £45 per week.

Fund Raising/Social

November saw the Rock Choir and a concert by Ian and Friends. December saw a very successful Coffee Morning followed the next day by a concert by the Granite City Brass Band Mearns Singers and Harps hired the church for a concert, we raised £53 for church funds from providing refreshments. The church was also hired out by AOC for a carol concert and by Richard Cowling and Liz Levy with Christmas songs.

The Social Committee met on 28th January 2026.

PVG

Anne's PVG has arrived. Irene is going to apply for PVGs for Mary and Bev so they can go out and entertain in schools/care

homes, and Arma for pastoral care.

There is PVG training in March. It is hoped that this can be shown on video as Mary, Irene and Anne are unable to attend.

AOCB

Peter Sharp said that we need to be more proactive in looking for new property convenor(s).

Peter Fogiel asked if we could please have some more service sheets printed.

Next Meeting: 4th March 2026

ADVERT



Peter Fogiel announced at the AGM that he and Paula would be retiring from the Buildings' team at the next AGM. With Mike also (perhaps!) having left Stonehaven by then, it means that we have no-one to look after the church buildings. If you would be prepared to join a small team to undertake this important job would you speak with Peter, Paula or Mary who will be glad to explain what it involves.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2026

St James the Great - Scottish Episcopal Church - Stonehaven

Monday 30 March, Tuesday 31 March, Wednesday 1 April

Stonehaven Churches Together Holy Week Evening Services
7pm St James the Great, Arbuthnott Street.

Tuesday 31 March Holy Communion 10 am

Maundy Thursday 2 April

Holy Communion and Stripping of the Altars 7pm
Followed by a silent vigil until midnight
(the Vigil is entirely optional come for as little or as much time as
you like)

Good Friday 3 April Service of Reflection 3pm

Saturday 4 April Easter Eve

Easter Vigil (the first communion of Easter) 8 pm

Easter Sunday 5 April

Churches Together Harbour Service 8 am
Followed by Breakfast at St Bridget's

Easter Morning Communion at St James 10 am

Words and Music for Easter 3pm
A concert of piano, organ, guitar and poetry
(See next page)

**St. James' Episcopal Church
Arbuthnott St., Stonehaven, AB39 2JB
Sunday 5th April 2026
3.00pm**

**WORDS AND MUSIC FOR
EASTER**

Including Music for Piano, Organ and Guitar
Performers Include: Conall McKay, Ian Lovegrove

and

Philippa Johnson - Poet
who will be composing an original poem during
the event responding to words suggested from the
audience present ...

FREE ADMISSION

Donations welcome in support of music
at St. James' Church

Readers and Greeters

Date	Readings
5th April Easter Sunday	Acts 10.34-43 or Jer 31.1-6 Ps 118.1-2,14-24 Col 3.1-4 or Acts 10.34-43 Jn 20.1-18 or Mt 28.1-10
12th April 2nd Sunday in Easter	Acts 2.14a,22-32 Ps 16 1 P 1.3-9 Jn 20.19-31
19th April 3rd Sunday in Easter	Acts 2.14a,36-41 Ps 116.1-3(4-9)10-17 1 P 1.17-23 Lk 24.13-35
26th April 4th Sunday in Easter	Acts 2.42-47 Ps 23 1 P 2.19-25 Jn 10.1-10

Year A – Readings are from the NRSV of the Bible

Greeter	Lessons 1+2	Coffee
Richard Clark	Richard Clark	Catherine Young
Irene Paterson	Irene Paterson	Val Cadd
Diana Peters	Diana Peters	Irene Paterson
Ian Wilson	Ian Wilson	Peter Sharp

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
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 April 2026.
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