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

Services at St. James' during August 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

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DIARY NOTES August 2026

Day/Date	Event
2nd August 9th Sunday after Trinity	10.00 am Reserved Sacrament Mrs Anne O'Gorman
9th August 10th Sunday after Trinity	10.00 am Holy Communion Rev Canon Mary Jepp
16th August 11th Sunday after Trinity	10.00 am Holy Communion Rev Canon Mary Jepp
23rd August 12th Sunday after Trinity	10.00 am Holy Communion Rev Canon Mary Jepp
30thAugust 13th Sunday after Trinity	10.00 am Songs of Praise Claire/Irene

From Mary,

Saturday the 25th of July was the Feast of St James the apostle, the patron of our church St James the Great and so on Sunday the 26th we celebrated our patronal festival. In the preparations for the day, someone said that it was the first time in a long while that Stonehaven had had a patronal festival.

What a wonderful occasion it has been. The church was polished, flowers adorned the window sills and wonderful food was prepared for all to share. And the pews, well, the church was edging towards feeling full and so the singing, well the singing….many thanks to all.

All this aside, our focus on the 26th was on James the Great. He was one of the first to be called by Jesus and remained close to him having been present at the Transfiguration, the healing of Jarius' daughter, and in the Garden of Gethsemane. James had seen and experienced a great deal in his time with Jesus, events which inspired him to take the message of God's love into the wider world following the Ascension. And so off he went.

Sea travel was the norm in those days, and although to us it seems a very long way to travel to the far corners of the Mediterranean from Palestine it was the done thing. Into the land of the pagans, the unbelievers. Now the story that follows becomes complicated with many twists and turns. James, following a time in Spain, returns to Palestine and is martyred, and then his remains it is believed are returned to Spain for burial, they are lost and found. Eventually a church is constructed over his remains this becoming the destination for the Camino de Compostela.

Thousands of people make the journey to Compostela every year, following a variety of European routes. St James is, amongst other things, the patron saint of pilgrimage. Wikipedia defines pilgrimage as "as purposeful, physical journey to a sacred or holy place, often undertaken for spiritual renewal, penance, or personal transformation." In our secular world the definition has broadened. Regardless it is, I think, about journey and perhaps about unexpected outcomes. Many of us even if we have not gone intentionally on a pilgrimage will have experienced similar when we step away from our daily lives, perhaps travelling and in those travels we encounter something of the other in conversations, in encounters or in the natural world. Experiences which may change perspectives or help us to draw closer to God. Recently I spent time, as many of you know, on a Sea Cadet boat offshore, on the penultimate night I experienced great peace, a closeness to, as accompanied by dolphins galore I watched the sun set. I suppose it was one of those moments when I was in the right place at the right time. There are many of those moments in our lives if we are attentive, someone once said to me that it required you to have your spiritual antennae turned on.

Of course it is, I think worth saying that life actually is a pilgrimage, and we are pilgrims on this earth, even if we never stray from home territory. The confirmation question springs to mind…Where is God? Answer: God is everywhere. Consider St James, consider his travels, remember those who have gone before us here in Stonehaven and know that God is with us where ever we go….look and see!

A Pilgrim's Prayer. A Prayer for our journey. Dear Lord, Be for us our companion on the walk, Our guide at the crossroads, Our breath in our weariness, Our protection in danger, Our

shelter on the Road, Our shade in the heat, Our light in the darkness, Our consolation in our discouragements, And our strength in our intentions. So that with your guidance we may arrive safe and sound at the end of the Road and enriched with grace and virtue we return safely to our homes filled with joy. Amen

Pilgrim's prayer to Santiago de Compostela (St James the Great) Spain

Vestry Minutes 13th May 2026

Correspondence

An email had been received from Suresh (from Indian Missionary) thanking Needles and Natter for their donation of £300 towards sewing machines. Mary has received another £75.

Treasurer's Report

Main Account: £15,690.69
Fabric Fund Account: £8,332.94
Buildings Account: £2,811.36
St Philip's: £11,676.96

Peter pointed out that, as can be seen from the figures, our total income is in line with the budget and expenditure is about £6,000 less than expected. As he has previously reported to vestry the large difference between budget and actual income under the heading 'Misc. Income/Other is due to the transference of £5,000 from the investment income to our current account.

One set of repairs/maintenance has already been carried out

on the organ earlier this year and the cost of this was covered by the generous legacy from Hilary's mother. There is a further, and final, repair currently being undertaken and the cost of this is £3,310 (+ VAT). We are holding a number of fund raising events to offset this cost. Unfortunately the Government has closed down the scheme where we could have reclaimed VAT. Any similar scheme in future in the responsibility of the Scottish Government and, despite us applying pressure to them through the Scottish Churches Committee (on which Peter sits as an SEC representative) nothing has happened before the elections.

Paula suggested that we set up a system where visitors to the church could make a credit card donation. This has now been done – it involves donors scanning a QR code which takes them to a PayPal account linked to our bank account. PayPal makes a charge of about 6% on each donation. We will try this out for this year and then decide whether to continue.

So far as future finances are concerned, the Stock Market is still buoyant but I expect the amount of interest we get from our investments is likely to fall owing to problems our American cousins have created in the Middle East.

Worship/Priest's Report

Mary has seen Bishop Andrew and he has licensed her to serve House for Duty for St James until May 2027. This can be extended. Her working hours are 2 days a week and 3 Sundays out of 4. Mary said her tenants are due to move out of their house in Cambridgeshire by the beginning of June. She has written to the British Legion several times regarding Remembrance Sunday, with no response.

There was a discussion on the QR code and PayPal. In the

Treasurer's Report Peter said that this system is in operation. This was discussed at the Vestry Meeting on 4th March but no decision was made to implement this. The Building Group were going to look at costings and any decision has to be made via Vestry before being implemented. Many vestry members were unsure how the QR code works. Barbara was very helpful in explaining this and suggested we could avoid the 6% charge by using the Friends and Family option. There is the possibility we may be able to use PayPal at the Feein' Market. There have been issues with the sound system and David Young, (Catherine's son) who trained as a Sound Technician will come and look at the system.

The work on the organ is due to take place at the end of May. It is proposed that from September to Advent the congregation can choose the hymns at a cost of £5 towards the organ fund. Mary has received a request from Clashfarquhar Care Home for home communion. Claire Starr has previously been involved in home communions and Mary has asked her to look into this.

Peter and Paula are due to retire as Property Conveners in November. Mary has spoken to Peter and asked him to list all that they do and what roles they are still prepared to continue doing. The property is well maintained and we have a list of contractors.

Mary showed vestry a welcoming leaflet she picked up while visiting the cathedral in Orkney.

It is proposed to have a clean up in the Baptistry and at some stage replace the notice board.

Mary reported that we are developing a team to take services:

Anne, Claire, Matthew, Ian and Edward. Rex is willing to preach occasionally and has theological training, and we can use the services of Jamie.

Paula has been approached about another external concert and this led to a discussion about hiring the church or hall. It was decided to have a separate meeting about this.

Fabric

Health and Safety: Peter and Paula continue to monitor this and carry out any required maintenance.

Heating: The Loxone system is working well, but the mini-server sited in the office is failing to pass on signals and activate the two smart plugs in the office and sanctuary. This means the heating cannot be controlled remotely in these 2 rooms. The Loxone engineer has been alerted to this issue several weeks ago but has not yet fixed a date to come and fix the problem.

Organ: The organ will undergo a major overhaul by Forth Organs beginning on 26th May.

Sound System: As reported above there have been intermittent problems with this and David Young will be looking at this in mid-May.

Meraki CCTV: The hall camera No 2 is still not functioning. Bill Anderson, the engineer from Network DNA, has finally responded to messages and an invoice has been sent for the replacement camera and wiring.

Roof and Gutters: two slates have slipped, one on the south side high up and one above the Baptistry. Contact has been

made with the roof repairer and he will assess this as well as some areas of damp on the walls of the rear porch.

Church Ground and Walkways: Sand and grit continue to be available and Cameron maintains the grass cutting. Barbara and her husband are maintaining the borders and have cut back the ivy from the walls.

Inspire Garden: The damaged cold frame has been repaired. Inspire staff have been advised that Paula and Peter are no longer able to assist in the heavy duty work in the garden but will continue to support them when possible. It would be good if some other members of the congregation would offer to support them to maintain the garden.

Church Hire: Paula has had a few enquiries from individual companies about hiring the church for concerts. This will bring in money for the church but some guidelines need to be established. For example there need to be two members of the vestry/social committee at these events, no alcohol on sale, a hiring agreement signed by them. This has been accepted so far.

Church Hall: There continue to be regular lets for the hall and there are very few periods when the hall is not in use.

Rectory: The gas boiler has had its annual service. The issue with the electric box is still outstanding.

Public Entertainment Licence: This has been granted and will run until the end of April 2029.

PAT Testing: This has been completed and all electric items are good.

The Quinquennial inspection of the church and hall has taken place and a report is awaited.

Fund Raising/Social

Events which have taken place so far have included:
Over £300 was raised during Holy Week for the Bishop's Lent Appeal
Easter Coffee Morning
Words and Music
Spring Concert
Soup and Sandwich lunch for Christian Aid
Concert by Granite City Brass
Feein' Market
Rock Choir.

PVG

Bev's application has been approved.

Irene will put up a new poster and she has requested an up-dated version of the PVG book.

AOCB

Peter Fogiel asked if it was possible to change the meeting day. It might be possible to do late afternoon.

Next Meeting: 7th June after the Sunday Service to discuss hiring/charges and Wednesday, 15th July

Extra Vestry Meeting 7th June 2026

Overview of costs of hire:

Hall: a) £15 per hour for non-charity bookings
b) £7.50 per hour for charities
c) £10 per hour for children's craft group
d) Brownies and Guides £7.50 per hour
e) £3.75 per hour for Playgroup and Grandmother and Toddlers rising to £5 per hour in September.
It was decided to leave other rents unchanged for the moment.

Church: £30 per hour for non-commercial events.
Costs for hiring external commercial events (concerts) – last event was charged £500

A discussion took place on:

Who and how many people would be needed to man an event. Vestry agreed that for large concerts more than 2 people would be required to cover fire exits.
Costs £500 plus heating costs and staff covering event.
Possibly £60 as paid to vergers at funerals
Outside commercial bookings to go through vestry.
How often large commercial events should take place in church.
The need to have a separate hire agreement for church events.

Not all vestry members were sure of fire exits. Hilary will look at making laminated copies of exits. It was suggested that all vestry members be shown the fire exits and Anne will show those who are there for the Rock Choir.

AOCB
Rex would like to hire the church for a talk on Ukraine and would like to pay the commercial rate.

Mary said she had spoken to Paula and asked for a list of all the

tasks she performs.

We possibly have a Buildings Convenor.

A quote for £2,467 has been received to fix the outside CCTV camera. Vestry agreed to look at this at later date.

With one of the cameras out of action it was mentioned whether the back fence by the Inspire Garden is repaired/ replaced.

11th August - St Clare –Patron saint of TV

Clare (1194 – 1253) was the famous virgin foundress of the Minoresses or Poor Clares. Born at Assisi of the Offreduccio family, Clare grew up to hear the teaching of St Francis of Assisi, and at 18 she renounced all her possessions and joined him at the Portiuncula, where she became a nun. Soon Francis found her and her companions a small house adjacent to the church of San Damiano, Assisi, which he had so lovingly restored.

And so it was that Clare became abbess in 1216 of a community of women who wished to live according to the rule and spirit of St Francis. The way of life was one of extreme poverty and austerity, but this did not seem to discourage anyone. For like the Franciscan friars, Clare's nuns soon spread to other parts of Europe, especially Spain, Bohemia, France and England, where four convents were founded in the late 13th and 14th centuries.

Clare never left her convent at Assisi – she became distinguished as one of the great medieval contemplatives, devoted to serving her community in great joy, and practising Francis-

can ideals, including the love of nature.

Clare was considered a powerful woman: when Assisi was in danger of being sacked by the armies of the Emperor Frederick II, Clare, although ill, was carried to the wall with a pyx containing the Blessed Sacrament. At sight of her and the pyx, her biographers say, the armies fled. This is why in art Clare is often depicted with a pyx or monstrance, as on the D'Estouteville Triptych of English origin c 1360. Clare was canonised only two years after her death in 1253. The Poor Clares continue today in many countries as a contemplative order.

All in all, Clare's life was one of extreme self-denial and constant contemplative prayer. So, it is hard to explain easily why Clare has been named patron saint of television. Perhaps there is a TV company somewhere who wants to launch a series called 'Help! I'm a Saint – get me out of here!'

FUTURE EVENTS

SUNDAY 2nd AUGUST 6pm –
UKRAINE UPDATE 2026 by REX

FRIDAY 21st AUGUST 7pm – QUIZ NIGHT

FRIDAY 28th AUGUST 7pm –
ABERDEEN CHORUS

Readers and Greeters

Date	Readings
2nd August 9th Sunday after Trinity	Gen 32.22-31 Ps 17.1-7,16 Ro 9.1-5 Mt 14.13-21
9th August 10th Sunday after Trinity	Gen 37.1-4,12-28 Ps 105.1-6,16-22,(45b) Ro 10.5-15 Mt 14.22-33
16th August 11th Sunday after Trinity	Gen 45.1-15 Ps 133 Ro 11.1-2a,29-32 Mt 15.(10-20)21-28
23rd August 12th Sunday after Trinity	Ex 1.8-2.10 Ps 124 Ro 12.1-8 Mt 16.13-20
30th August 13th Sunday after Trinity	Ex 3.1-15 Ps 105.1-6,23-26, (45b) Ro 12.9-21 Mt 16.21-28

Year A – Readings are from the NRSV of the Bible

Greeter	Lessons 1+2	Coffee
Natalie Easton	Natalie Easton	Hilary Cooper
Peter Fogiel	Peter Fogiel	Catherine Young
Diana Peters	Diana Peters	Val Cadd
Val Cadd	Val Cadd	Irene Paterson
Diane Fleming	Diane Fleming	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 & Barbara Ross
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 23rd August 2026.
Reminders will not be sent out.

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