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

Services at St. James' during June 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 June 2026

Day/Date	Event
7th June 2nd Sunday in Trinity	10.00 am Holy Communion Rev Canon Mary Jepp
14th June 3rd Sunday in Trinity	10.00 am Holy Communion Rev Canon Mary Jepp
21st June 4thSunday in Trinity	10.00 am Reserved Sacrament Mrs Anne O'Gorman
28th June 5th Sunday in Trinity	10.00 am Holy Communion Rev Canon Mary Jepp

From Mary

I find myself, as I write this, sat in the middle of a heatwave (32 C) in rural Wiltshire. Mike and I have been summoned to care for 2 hounds, initially a horse might have been on the cards also, but I think the look of sheer terror on our faces meant we were able to sidestep that duty. The hounds belong to Rob our eldest son, his wife Esme and their son Rory. The three of them are off on a half term adventure from which dogs are excluded.

This bit of Wiltshire, a village down in a dip, is exceedingly green. Their garden is enclosed by trees including a massive horse chestnut which fulfils the role of housing for many many, animals - squirrels and owls included. Any thought that the countryside is still is a misnomer. Literally seconds away from their front door are fields and green lanes.

As a wee girl, as many Canadian families do, as soon as the summer holidays began we were off to stay at the camp. My Dad's pride and joy, it was not luxurious, but it represented freedom, in the woods, on the hills behind and on the Kennebecasis River. As kids we were like wild things, no -we were wild things. The lack of hot water meant that a wash meant a dip in the river. And nobody much minded, although on Sunday evenings a kettle would be boiled to make us some-what presentable for the weekly expedition to church, followed by the reward of an ice-cream or penny sweets.

I, in those days, was a very early riser, that was when I was truly free, perhaps making a peanut butter sandwich before I ventured out. I loved the woods, early in the morning. I loved peering at wildflowers and taking the time to draw them Queen Anne's Lace/Cow Parsley and Columbine/Aquilegia

being a favourite. I think that it was in those places where as a child I truly encountered God. There was a stillness, a peace, a sense of otherness, of being held, enveloped in joy and love. And so back to Wiltshire.

Last Sunday I woke early and I found myself being drawn from bed to venture out. Below Rob and Esme's house there is a green lane. What a wonderful place, what a joy it is to be encompassed in expansive greenness, to truly notice the presence of God. And the wild flowers….including my beloved Queen Anne's Lace, I refuse to call it Cow Parsley. What a joy to find a perch, an upturned log, and simply to sit and absorb the peace of creation. And into that stillness emerged a young muntjac deer, so close, that the texture of his fur was discernible. Without rising early and taking the time all of this would have been missed. This very special moment of the presence of God would have been missed.

I've thought about, no pondered this encounter, over the last few days. I've remembered that deer figure in scripture….as the deer pants for streams so my soul pants for you, O God (Psalm 42.1) as well as several others, lines which express the soul's deep longing for God. The presence of deer, or deer in your path in other spiritual traditions also have meaning, including a spiritual call to trust your instincts, embrace gentleness, and navigate life's challenges with grace.

For me, at this moment in time, I know that if I had been trundling down the lane I would have missed this wee creature, the encounter would not have happened. I also know that I seem to be trundle through life at the moment not taking the time to pause and be, not really taking the time to be truly encompassed in God's creation. As I write this I bring to mind the moments of grace, the moments of encounter with not only the

world around me, but with individuals and ultimately with God.

If I am truthful, I would say that I have a very deep yearning for an intimacy with God that I find in nature. The place of encounter is different for each of us, it is I believe rooted in our personalities and our life experience, but nevertheless it is there….whether it be a busy city street, a quiet church, a church service, in the Eucharist, a hillside or even a green lane… Take the time, acknowledge your soul's yearning, and be open to the experience of God.

Needles and Natter Group

Needles and Natter group recently donated £300 to Suresh from the Indian Ministries, to buy sewing machines, so that training can be given to young girls and unemployed women. They learn skill that can change their lives,, this can take them to the next stage of working from home and earning money.

Anne

Vestry Minutes 4th March 2026

Correspondence

Peter Sharp had received a thank you letter from the Aberlour Children's Society for the £100 donation.

Treasurer's Report

Main Account:	£5,798.92
Fabric Fund Account:	£6, 635.64
Buildings Account:	£2,819.86
St Philip's:	£11,076.96

Peter reported that the Bank of Scotland Stonehaven is closing.
The buildings group have been looking into the costs of card readers.

Worship/Priest's Report

The Tuesday morning service has grown in numbers. At the moment a Lent study group meets after this service. Still@7 is taking place every Wednesday during Lent.

Services held in Holy Week

Joint services on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday were held in St James.
Stripping of the Altar was held at 7pm on Maundy Thursday at St James.
Good Friday service time was still to be decided.
Easter Vigil on Easter Saturday.

Mary will be away at sea with the Sea Cadets in June,
There was a discussion as to whether a Canon 35 was required if we keep the removable altar in the chancel Mary will speak to the Dean.

Net Zero

The buildings team is looking at the cost of improving the insulation in the hall. This would also help to deaden the sound. They are also looking at replacing the heating with electric panels.

Fabric

No-one has yet come forward to take over from the buildings team in November. The present team would be available for several months to assist in the changeover period and it is thought that one person could be responsible for the hall lets and one/two people to deal with the overall maintenance. Health and Safety: Monthly checks of the church and hall are carried out and documented, and maintenance carried out where necessary. Realm has serviced all the fire extinguishers, fire blankets and fire alarms.

Painting: the South Porch remains to be completed once the weather improves.

Organ: Forth Organs have assessed the organ as part of a major overhaul arranged by David Fleming and Ian Lovegrove and this is in progress. There were some problems because, due to illness on the part of the assessor, the overhaul began when Peter and Paula were on holiday and there was some inconvenience with regard to having the church open in time each morning for the firm to start work. Our apologies to all who were inconvenienced. Costs for repairs will be approximately £4,000.

Ian is looking at the possibility of doing a series of concerts to raise money for the organ repairs.

Meraki CCTV: St James' hall camera No 2 is still not functioning. Despite regular messages to Bill Anderson, the engineer from Network DNA who look after our CCTV system, he has still not responded. It was hoped to update this information soon.

Roof and Gutters: Since the period of bad weather it has

been noticed that 2 slates have slipped – one on the south side and one above the Baptistry. The roof repairer has been contacted and he will assess this as soon as possible, as well as some areas of damp on the walls of the rear porch.

Chancel: the water ingress in and around the windows had been quite severe with the stormy weather. The inside and outside have been checked and no damage to the windows can be seen but this will be constantly checked, together with the electric sockets on the sills which remain intact and undamaged.

Garden: one of the cold frames has been damaged but seems to be reparable, although one of the clear plastic sheets has disappeared. We are grateful to Barbara for her assistance with edging.

Church Hall: There are now very few periods when the hall is not let. Thanks to Paula for her hard work in obtaining the lets. The gas boiler has been serviced and a new thermostat control panel was installed which seems to make the heating more efficient and all hall users have been able to follow the new instructions. The door of the gas meter box outside the hall is difficult to open and Mike will have a look at it.

Rectory: The gas boiler has had it annual service. There is an issue with the electric box and Mike has contacted the electrician.

Public Entertainment Licence: this is due for renewal in April and the application has been sent to the Council.

The Quinquennial inspection is due in June. David Meldrum will be doing the inspection.

There has been another burglary in the church. £10 was taken from the donations box. It was the same person who was responsible for the previous thefts. The police are aware and the top of the donations box has been painted.

Some of the pews have been rearranged to make more space for refreshments after the service. Coffee tables and cushions have also been added.

Fund Raising/Social

The Quiz raised £455 and was enjoyed by all.
26 people from the congregation enjoyed bacon rolls on 1st March – thank you to Mike.
The Coffee Morning was held on 21st March.
Ian and friends gave a concert in April.

PVG

The PVG audit has been completed and returned.

AOCB

Val has been asked if it would be possible to change the time of the service to later. No decision was made.

Next Meeting: 13th May 2026

Social Report

The Spring Concert for Amnesty International was well attended and the sum of £380 was raised for the charity before Gift Aid.

May has been very busy – thanks to all who volunteered their time and efforts to the smooth running of these activities. Also, thanks to all those who donate raffle prizes.

We had the Christian Aid Fundraiser after the service on the 10th. I'm sure you will agree that the Soup, Sandwiches and Cake were all delicious and plentiful. I'm sure we will have raised a good sum for Christian Aid too, especially with the addition of Gift Aid. The hall was very busy and had a happy buzz about the place.

The Granite City Brass concert was well attended with some playing from their Community Band too. Refreshments were served at half time. There was also a raffle which along with retiring donations raised £555 for church funds.

Needles & Natter is seeing increasing numbers which is great. As per Anne's article in the Brechin Bulletin we have managed to donate money to the India Village Ministries for another 3 sewing machines.

In the Church we have the Stonehaven Chorus performing on the 24th May and also the Lomas Candlelit Concert on the 29th May.

Future activities - keep your eyes peeled on the noticeboards and on the back of the pew sheet for more details.
June - Feein' Market (6th) & Rock Choir (12th)
July – Congregational Bring & Share (26th)
Further ahead events so far:
September – Open doors weekend – Coffee Morning – 19th & 20th
September – Harvest Sunday Congregational Bring & Share – Sunday 27th
October – Harvest Thursday Afternoon Tea & Service in the hall – Thursday 1st
November – Rock Choir
December – Christmas Coffee Morning – Saturday 5th

December – Brass Band – Sunday 6th

Barbara

Congratulations to Nola,

Nola de Garis, our cleaner, is to be given the Stonehaven and District Community Council's Community Award. This follows her extreme bravery, when she entered a building in Barclay Street (on the corner with Rodney Street) that was on fire (and before the arrival of the Fire Brigade) to successfully rescue an elderly gentleman from his upper floor flat. This occurred at 4 am in the morning. Had she not done so, it is highly likely the gentleman would have died from smoke inhalation.

The award will be presented on June 16th at 7pm in Number 44.

David

Your church needs you.

Since the beginning of the year we have been asking for volunteers to join the buildings group. So far there has been no responses.

The responsibilities of the group can be divided into two; church property maintenance and managing the bookings for the church and church hall.

Property maintenance covers the church, the hall and the

rectory. In general all of these buildings are in good condition but problems do crop up occasionally. For example, tiles slip on the church roof but we have an excellent slater to call upon. Similarly we have good relations with local electricians and plumbers and they can be called upon when something goes wrong.

The buildings are given a thorough inspection by a qualified architect every 5 years and the latest inspection is being carried out in the next few weeks. Hopefully, any problems identified will be rectified before the current buildings group step down. The electrical wiring needs to be inspected every 5 years and small portable electrical equipment every two years.

The group gives a report on their work at each vestry meeting, and these are published in the newsletter, so you can get an idea of what is involved by reading them.

One of the important sources of income for the church has been the letting of the hall and the church. We do not let our property to purely commercial organisations. There is a standard contract that people sign which explains matters such as health and safety. Our main concern is to have someone who will act as the contact point and manage bookings and sort out any problems. This could be done by someone who is not involved with the other responsibilities of the buildings group.

If you might be interested either in joining the buildings group or in handling bookings for church property, please speak with Peter, Paula or Mary who will be glad to explain what it involves.

Thoughts for the Day

Boasting

Three boys in the schoolyard were bragging about their fathers. The first boy said, "My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, calls it a poem, they give him £50."

The second boy said, "That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, calls it a song, they give him £100."

The third boy said, "I got you both beat. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, calls it a sermon, and it takes eight people to collect all the money!"

Sermon

A rector, known for his lengthy sermons, noticed a man get up and leave during the middle of his message. The man returned just before the conclusion of the service. Afterwards the rector asked the man where he had gone. "I went to get a haircut," was the reply.

"But," said the rector, "why didn't you do that before the service?"

"Because," the man said, "I didn't need one then."

Golf

Golfer: "I'd move heaven and earth to break 100 on this course."
Caddie: "Try heaven, you've already moved most of the earth."

Readers and Greeters

Date	Readings
7th June 2nd Sunday in Trinity	Gen 12.1-9 Ps 33.1-12 Ro 4.13-25 Mt 9.9-13,18-26
14th June 3rd Sunday in Trinity	Gen 18.1-15;(21.1-7) Ps 116.1,10-17 Ro 5.1-8 Mt 9.35-10.8(9-23)
21st June 4th Sunday in Trinity	Gen 21.8-21 Ps 86.1-10,16-17 Ro 6.1b-11 Mt 10.24-39
28th June 5th Sunday in Trinity	Gen 22.1-14 Ps 13 Ro 6.12-23 Mt 10.40-42

Year A – Readings are from the NRSV of the Bible

Greeter	Lessons 1+2	Coffee
Diane Fleming	Diane Fleming	Catherine Young
Paula Fogiel	Peter Fogiel	Val Cadd
David Fleming	David Fleming	Irene Paterson
Richard Clark	Richard Clark	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 21st June 2026.
Reminders will not be sent out.

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