

St James', Stonehaven and St Philip's, Catterline  
 Interim Rector. The Dean, the Very Rev Francis Bridger.  
 Vestry Secretary: Anne O'Gorman,

**Episcopal Churches of  
 St. James' Stonehaven.  
 St. Philip's Catterline.  
 April 2018**

GROUP CONVENORS	
Property	David Fleming
Communication	Peter Sharp
Music	David Fleming
Social	Val Cadd
Lay Reader emeritus	Arma Iles
Weekly Pew Sheet	Diana Peters
Hall Management	David Fleming
Protection of Vulnerable Groups Officer	Irene Paterson
Vestry	Peter Sharp

**CHURCH TELEPHONE NUMBER: 01569 764473**



**Services at St. James' & St Philip's during  
 April 2018**

**Sundays.**  
 9.00 a.m. Said Eucharist  
 10.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist

**Second Wednesday in the month.**  
 10.30 a.m. Eucharist and Healing Service

**No services at St Philip's, Catterline until further notice.**



**The copy deadline for the May Newsletter is Sunday 22nd April.  
 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

**Year B – Readings are from the NRSV of the Bible**

**DIARY NOTES April 2018**

<b>Day/Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
<b>1st April Easter Day</b>	<b>9.00 Harbour Service</b> <b>10.30 Reserved Sacrament. Arma Iles.</b>
<b>8th April 2nd Sunday after Easter</b>  <b>Songs of Praise</b>	<b>9.00 Reserved Sacrament. Arma Iles.</b> <b>10.30 David Fleming/Anne O’Gorman</b>
11th April	10.30 Reserved Sacrament and Healing Service. Arma Iles.
<b>15th April 3rd Sunday after Easter</b>	<b>9.00 Reserved Sacrament. Arma Iles.</b> <b>10.30 Eucharist Rev. Jane Nelson</b>
<b>22nd April 4th Sunday after Easter</b>	<b>9.00 Reserved Sacrament. Arma Iles.</b> <b>10.30 Reserved Sacrament. Arma Iles.</b>
<b>29th April 5th Sunday after Easter</b>	<b>9.00 Reserved Sacrament. Arma Iles.</b> <b>10.30 Joint Service at St Ternan’s</b>

<b>10.30 am Lessons 1+2</b>	<b>10.30 am Gospel</b>	<b>Greeter</b>	<b>Coffee Rota</b>
Edward Dickens	Ellie McLeod	Ellie McLeod	Doreen Brankin
David Smail	Irene Paterson	David Smail	Irene Paterson
Peter Sharp	Edward Dickens	Edward Dickens	Peter Sharp
David Fleming	Val Cadd	David Fleming	Val Cadd
Joint Service at St Ternan’s			
Diana Peters	Richard Clark	Stella Wilson	Diane Fleming

Readers, Greeters, Vestry and Coffee Rota

Date	Readings
1st April Easter Day	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
8th April 2nd Sunday after Easter	Acts 4.32-35 Ps 133 1 Jn 1.1-2:2 Jn 20.19-31
15th April 3rd Sunday after Easter	Acts 3.12-19 Ps 4 1 Jn 3.1-7 Lk 24.36b-48
22nd April 4th Sunday after Easter	Acts 4.5-12 Ps 23 1 Jn 3.16-24 Jn 10.11-18
29th April 5th Sunday after Easter	Acts 8.26-40 Ps 22.24-30 1 Jn 4.7-21 Jn 15.1-8
6th May 6th Sunday after Easter	Acts 10.44-48 Ps 98 1 Jn 5.1-6 Jn 15.9-17

From Dr Peter Smart

**First, an apology!**

I obviously jumped the gun last month, when I wrote 'spring is on its way'. Errumph! I couldn't have foreseen the 'beast from the east'. Now the wind seems to be the 'pest from them west'. Let's pray for more settled weather to see us through spring into summer.

**Au revoir, auf wiedersehen, até a logo – but not goodbye**

As you know, the start of my sabbatical is imminent. This is likely to be my last pastoral letter for a few months. But I shall still be taking an interest in what's going on at St James' and St Ternan's and may well join you as a member of the congregation from time to time.

Now that both churches are back in full working order, I pray that both congregations will find ways of making use of their buildings for more than a couple of hours a week on Sundays. Both congregations take a great pride in their respective buildings, so much so that it seems a pity to use such substantial sums of your own money and very generous grants and bequests simply for your own limited use.

I know that St James' will soon have their historical displays open to public view and I hope that these will attract many visitors. I know that both churches are engaging in outreach to the local communities with the book browse and coffee mornings, and that St James' church hall is used for brownies and guides and mothers and toddlers, and that Anne O'G is planning a regular short worship event with the latter group.

But what about concerts? Or film evenings? Or a book festival? Or an occasional 'pub quiz'? Or beetle drive? Or lunch club or tea and cakes? Or Taizé services? Or a different form of worship

one evening in the week? Or a monthly prayer meeting and breakfast (bacon and eggs and prayer go quite well together!)? Or other community events that will bring people into the churches? As a member of St Ternan's said proudly, 'our church is now fit for another 20 years'. As a member of St James' observed, 'to abandon St James' would tear the heart out of episcopalianism in Stonehaven'. Our numbers are small enough as it is, in both places. Few of *us* are likely to be around in 20 years' time. So how can we keep the heart beating into the foreseeable future? How can we ensure that the buildings are still being used as places of worship in 20 years' time, if that is God's will? In the meantime, let us not forget that the 'church' is not the building. The church is that part of the body of Christ that happens to meet there as their spiritual home. This could equally easily be someone's front room, a school hall, a room over the pub, or (in best Old Testament fashion) even a tent. In my view both churches desperately need a degree of professional leadership, pastoral care, education for discipleship, priestly and missional support, that we are not currently able to provide. That will cost. So we desperately need to keep some money earmarked to pay for such support. The more we spend on fabric, the less we have for ministry. Even now, at best estimate, the most the two churches together could afford is about 40% (or two days a week) of a full-time minister.

How about this as a cautionary tale, told by the former minister of a large kirk in the city centre of Aberdeen? 'By the time we took the decision to close the kirk and sell the building (which is now a restaurant and nightclub) we were down to less than 30 regular worshippers a week. On the day of the last service, over 300 people turned up and stood in tears and said, "what a shame *you've* closed *our* church!"'

Let me assure you that I am not advocating the closure or

grace," meaning grace used as an excuse for moral laxity. Bonhoeffer had been taught not to "resist the powers that be," but he came to believe that to do so was sometimes the right choice. In 1939 his brother-in-law introduced him to a group planning the overthrow of Hitler, and he made significant contributions to their work. He was arrested in April 1943 and imprisoned in Berlin. After the failure of the attempt on Hitler's life in April 1944, he was sent first to Buchenwald and then to Schoenberg Prison. On Sunday 8 April 1945, he had just finished conducting a service of worship at Schoenberg, when two soldiers came in, saying, "Prisoner Bonhoeffer, make ready and come with us," the standard summons to a condemned prisoner. As he left, he said to another prisoner, "This is the end - - but for me, the beginning -- of life." He was hanged the next day, less than a week before the Allies reached the camp.

**19<sup>th</sup> - Alphege**, Archbishop of Canterbury. Born about 953, he first became a monk and then a hermit before being appointed Abbot of Bath. In 984 he became Bishop of Westminster. In 994 King Ethelred the Unready sent him to parley with the Danish invaders Anlaf and Swein. The Anglo-Saxons paid tribute, but Anlaf became a Christian and swore never to invade England again. In 1005 Alphege became Archbishop of Canterbury. In 1011 the Danes overran much of southern England. The payment of the tribute agreed on (the Danegeld) did not stop them, and in September they captured Canterbury and held Alphege and other prominent persons for ransom. The others were duly paid for and released, but the price demanded for Alphege was a fantastically high 3,000 pounds. Alphege, knowing the poverty of his people, refused to pay or let anyone else pay for him. The infuriated Danes, at the end of a drunken feast, brought him out and repeated their demands. When he again refused, they threw various objects at him and finally an axeman delivered the death-blow.

Peter Sharp

Diocesan Library while a third helped local people to clear land and plant fruit trees for a new parish vegetable garden. You may remember that, through Anne O’Gorman, we obtained a grant from Far and Wide to support this work in Swaziland.

The visiting speaker this year was Rev. Steve Godfrey a priest at St Andrew’s Church, Des Moines and Missioner for Congregational Development and Transitions in the Diocese of Iowa. He explained that during the previous year they had held a series of 40 Revival Gatherings across the diocese, which covers an area roughly twice the size of Scotland. This is being followed up by meetings to grow leaders in the diocese. To give some indication of the complexities faced by the Episcopal Church, he said that his own church was also used weekly by between 35 and 100 South Sudanese Christians and also by over 100 Muslims who had fled persecution in South Sudan.

The Bishop of Edinburgh gave his report in the afternoon. A copy of this is to be found in the Spring issue of Grapevine, which you can find on the table at the back of the church.

Peter Sharp

### **April in the Christian Year**

Here are some anniversaries that fall in April:

**10<sup>th</sup> - Dietrich Bonhoeffer.** When Hitler came to power in 1933, Bonhoeffer became a leading spokesman for the German Confessing Church, the centre of Protestant resistance to the Nazis. He organized and for a time led the underground seminary of the Confessing Church. His book *Life Together* describes the life of the Christian community in that seminary, and his book *The Cost Of Discipleship* attacks what he calls "cheap

disposal of either of our two churches. But we all recognise that our numbers are small and ageing. As we lose members for whatever reason, our giving reduces – unless we are all willing to dig deeper into our pockets and purses. This makes it even more difficult to sustain both the church building and priestly or missional support. We do face an enormous challenge. The two Vestries have had joint meetings with the Dean and Rev Kerry Dixon (the overworked diocesan mission officer) and more are planned, in the hope that together we might find ways forward with priestly and missional support. As my final challenge to you for a while, let us all find ways of praying that an acceptable way, or ways, of sustaining our congregations and churches might be found over the coming months. How about a prayer breakfast?!

### **Social Committee**

Our Spring Coffee morning is on Saturday 14th April in the church hall from 10am until 11.30am. We are having the following stalls, cake and candy, raffle, books, knitting and tombola. If you wish to donate to the tombola and wrap your gifts we are using spring colours, pink, yellow, blue and green. Tea/coffee tickets are priced at £2.50.

We will set up the hall on Friday (13th) afternoon between 3pm and 4pm and donations and help will be very gratefully received.

The next Social Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday 15th May at 12 Princess Road at 7.30pm. We will be discussing the Fee’in Market at the beginning of June and the Harbour high jinks at the end of August where we will be having stalls.

Many thanks, Val Cadd (Social Convenor)

## **Flower Rota.**

As from Easter weekend until Advent there will be flowers at the altar, sometimes fresh, sometimes artificial. The number of members of the flower rota team is now low and I am wondering if anyone would be willing to take a turn to arrange and look after some fresh flowers for a fortnight before the next on the rota.

Also if any member of the congregation would like their flowers placed and arranged during the year for a special occasion please speak to Val.

Many thanks, Val Cadd

## **Vestry Minutes 19<sup>th</sup> February 2018**

### **Matters Arising**

David has collected the bookcase and small table kindly donated by Edward Harrison.

Irene has sent the PVG report to Denise Herbert.

Peter Sharp reported that guidance notes for the new Data Protection regulations are being prepared by the Diocese.

Anne has sent a thank you letter to Bill Wilson for his donation of a new flag.

### **Correspondence**

Anne has received a copy of the Diocesan Charges for Liturgical Duty.

The next Diocesan Synod will be on 10<sup>th</sup> March in Dundee. There will be a joint vestry meeting with St Ternan's on 15<sup>th</sup> March.

Peter Sharp said that St James is due for a Quinquennial Review, possibly in May.

In the absence of a Bishop of Brechin, Synod was chaired by the Bishop of Edinburgh, who is acting as the interim bishop.

The Diocesan Mission Officer outlined the mission strategy of the diocese, apologising that, in the absence of a bishop, he had been unable to visit charges to discuss the strategy further as promised at the last synod. He mentioned that he is working with ourselves and St Ternan's about creating the first mission hub in the diocese. He announced that in the autumn he will be running a "Stepping into Evangelism" course to give practical advice on how to reach out to others. He also hoped to introduce "Faith Pictures", a short course to help Christians talk naturally to friends, neighbours and colleagues about their beliefs.

The Diocesan Ministry Officer said that one of the main issues that she had been involved with was Funeral Poverty. Together with other faith groups they had produced a leaflet to help people discuss the issue of funerals before the time comes to organise one. I have placed copies of this leaflet on the table at the back of the church. They had also got government funding to employ two staff members to carry out an in-depth analysis of the funeral industry. They had identified a number of ways in which financial hardship might be alleviated and are working to get them implemented.

As you may know, the diocese has links with the church in Iowa and in Swaziland. The Companion Diocese Links Officer described how she had been working to develop our involvement with these dioceses. For example, in September she had travelled to Swaziland with two young adult members from St Ninian's Church, where they joined up with a group from Iowa. During the visit one group travelled with a team providing rural roadside clinics. Another group established a

### **Fund Raising/Social**

The February Book Browse raised £560.50

The next events will be a Book Browse and Coffee Morning in April.

Laura has booked a stall for St James at the Feein' Market and Harbour Festival.

### **PVG**

Irene has received information from OSCR on events that need to be notified.

She will put up a copy of the PVG code of good conduct on the notice boards in the church and hall.

### **AOCB**

Anne reported that Far and Wide will be celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year with some special celebrations.

Holy Week services will be held at St Bridget's on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March, Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March (with Communion), and Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March starting at 7 pm.

### **Next Meeting 12<sup>th</sup> March**

### **Synod 2018**

Diocesan Synod meets annually at the Diocesan Centre in Dundee. It consists of all clergy and lay representatives.

Alternate lay representatives can also attend but they don't have a vote, unless they are deputising for the lay representative. The aim of the synod is to bring together the churches in the diocese to hear reports from the various diocesan bodies which carry out work on their behalf during the year, to hear the Bishop's report and from visiting speakers, to vote on any changes to canons and to approve the budget for the coming year.

Peter Sharp has received a letter from Ecclesiastical Insurance asking if we could put up a poster advertising their company. The church would get £130 if any member of the congregation took out home insurance with them. It was agreed to display the poster.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Main Account	£33,614.99
Fabric Fund Account	£11,642.99
Buildings Account	£26,989.34
St Philip's	£697.17

The accounts for 2016/17 have been accepted by OSCR.

David has received a cheque for £10,000 from Garfield Weston, and one for £2,500 from the John S Cohen Foundation. Vestry expressed their thanks to David for his hard work in obtaining grants.

### **Report on St James**

An email had been received from Pam asking if, during the cold weather, the 9 am service and the mid-week service could be held in the hall. David explained that the new heaters should be in situ before the next mid-week service and moving to the Chancel from the Lady Chapel would be warmer. Moving to the hall would involve significant effort in moving chairs. It was agreed to continue holding the 9 am service in church.

David distributed a list of church activities in case there were any issues while he was away.

A discussion was held regarding the position of the votive candle stand. It was agreed to move it back to its original corner and to develop this area with improved lighting and furnishings.

## Analysis of Future Needs

The Treasurer had previously circulated a paper detailing the financial position. Of the income 36.75% came from regular giving, 23.8% from rent and 13% from hall and church users. Of the expenditure 22% went on our quota, 19% on electricity and gas, 14% on insurance, 10% music, 9% cleaning and gardens and 8% on locum clergy. There was a surplus of approximately £15,000.

However, the following need to be considered:

- 36% of the regular giving is from 2 donors so nearly £6,000 of income could easily be lost
- 37% of income (rent and hall users) is outside our control
- The quota will increase as the subsidy from the Province is planned to drop
- Electricity and gas costs may decrease with the new systems in place
- Other 59% of expenditure is unlikely to decrease.

There is no money for a full-time rector, particularly as £10,200 of the surplus comes from letting the rectory. We could contribute one fifth of a full-time rector shared with other charges.

After discussion the following points emerged:

- Sharing is the way forward
- One model will not suit all charges
- Church growth is priority
- Question is whether to have a priest or missionary or both
- There were differences on urgency
- Agreement on continuing engagement with Kerry Dixon, although disappointment was expressed by some at the progress made at the previous meeting.

To facilitate discussion with Kerry we need to identify possibilities for mission in Stonehaven. Currently these are:

- Book Browse
- Hall users
- Community activities (eg Feein' Market and Harbour Festival)
- Special Services (eg Songs of Praise, Christingle)
- New exhibition area

There was some discussion about how other churches work and how we could learn from them while retaining the Episcopal identity and quietness and prayer which are important in our church.

## Worship

All services are covered for the next few months. Peter Smart will pass on the details of Georgie Middleton, a lay reader who will help St James during Peter Smart's sabbatical.

## Fabric

**Church:** One pane in the organ loft window has been broken. This will be repaired via an insurance claim. All lower windows have been fitted with a grill.

The new heaters have arrived and are due to be fitted during March.

David has a list of jobs which need doing for the Exhibition area.

**Hall:** The uniform organisations are concerned about sharp edges on the blue tables. David is to look at costings for replacements.

**Rectory:** A gas inspection has taken place. There is dry rot in the bathroom caused by a leaking shower. Ventilation also needs to be looked at. Quotation for the work involved is £4,504 plus VAT. It was agreed that, as the shower must be removed, it should be replaced with a bath with overhead shower.