

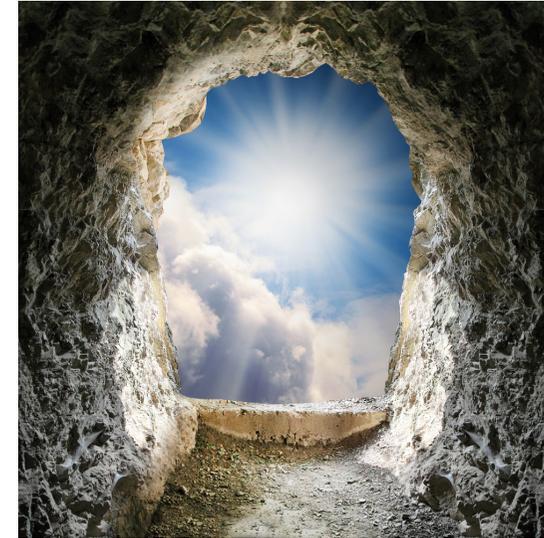
St James', Stonehaven and St Philip's, Catterline  
 Interim Rector. The Bishop of Brechin.  
 Lay Reader: Mrs. Anne Geldart,  
 Church Phone No: 01569 764473

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

April

2016

Group Conveners			
Property	lauraechristie @yahoo.co.uk	Laura Christie	01569 762482
Communication	peterfsharp @tiscali.co.uk	Peter Sharp	01224 895357
Pastoral Care			01569 764473
Music	david.w.fleming @surescribe.com	David Fleming	01569 767200
Remembering	tomcarniesbl @talktalk.net	Jean Carnie	01569 765114
Social	rcadd @btinternet.com	Val Cadd	01569 764402
Lay Reader emerita	arma.iles18@gmail.com	Arma Iles	01569 764080
Hall Management	david.w.fleming @surescribe.com	David Fleming	01569 767200
Lay Reader	ageldart @btinternet.com	Anne Geldart	01569 731707
Weekly Pew Sheet	peterskinneff @yahoo.com	Diana Peters	01561 362412
Protection of Vulnerable Groups Officer	irenepateson@yahoo.co.uk	Irene Paterson	01569 764394
<b>VESTRY</b>	Interim Chair:	Peter Sharp	01224 895357



### Services at St. James' & St Philip's during April

#### Sundays.

- 9.00 a.m. Said Eucharist
- 10.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist
- 4.00 p.m. Eucharist St Philips (10th April)

#### Weekday Services

- 10.30 a.m. Wednesday:-Eucharist.
- 10.30 a.m. Healing Service (6th April)

Vestry Secretary: Anne O'Gorman, 114 Forest Park, Stonehaven.  
 Tel: 01569-765793 email: anneogorman1@btinternet.com

**The copy deadline for the May Newsletter is Sunday 24th 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

DIARY NOTES April 2016

Day/Date	Event
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	10.00 am – 3.00 pm – Book Browse
<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April – 2<sup>nd</sup> S of Easter – Annunciation</b>	<b>9.00 Reserved Sacrament 10.30 Reserved Sacrament with sermon</b>
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> April	7.30 – Vestry Meeting at Anne O’Gorman’s residence
Weds 6 <sup>th</sup> April	10.30 – Healing & Reserved Sacrament – no sermon
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> April	10.30 – Spring Coffee Morning
<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April – 3<sup>rd</sup> S of Easter</b>	<b>9.00 Reserved Sacrament 10.30 All Age Service 4.00 pm – Reserved Sacrament at St Philip’s, Catterline</b>
Weds 13 <sup>th</sup> April	9.15 – Worship Group Meeting in Office 10.30 – Reserved Sacrament
<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April – 4<sup>th</sup> S of Easter</b>	<b>9.00 – Reserved Sacrament 10.30 – Reserved Sacrament</b>
Weds 20 <sup>th</sup> April	10.30 Reserved Sacrament
<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April – 5<sup>th</sup> S of Easter</b>	<b>9.00 Reserved Sacrament 10.30 Eucharist – Bishop Nigel presiding</b>
Weds 27 <sup>th</sup> April	10.30 (Saint Peter Chanel, Martyr) Reserved Sacrament

*Please note: We usually move our Healing Service to the first Thursday evening after Summer Time begins. However, some have expressed a preference to keep the service to the first Wednesday of each month. So this is what we shall do unless we hear to the contrary.*

Year C – Readings are from the NRSV of the Bible

10.30 am Lessons 1+2	10.30 am Gospel	Greeter	Coffee Rota	Lead Intercessions
Tom Walker	Ellie McLeod	Doreen Brankin	Edna Craig	
All Age Service	Irene Paterson	Val Cadd	Peter Sharp	Anne O’Gorman
David Fleming	Peter Sharp	Diane Fleming	Doreen Brankin /Irene Paterson	
Heather Grant	Diana Peters	Stella Wilson/ Janet Okumu	Peter Sharp	Arma Iles
David Fleming	Richard Clark	Diana Peters	Diane Fleming	

## Readers, Greeters, Vestry and Coffee Rota

Date	Readings	8.30 am Greeter/ Reader
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> April - 2<sup>nd</sup> S of Easter</b>	Acts 5. 27-32 Rev. 1. 4-8 John 20. 19-end	Jean Carnie
<b>10<sup>th</sup> April - 3<sup>rd</sup> S of Easter</b>	Acts 9. 1-6[7-20] Rev. 5. 11-end John 21. 1-19	Edna Craig
<b>17<sup>th</sup> April - 4<sup>th</sup> S of Easter</b>	Acts 9. 36-end Rev. 7. 9-end John 10. 1-10 or 11-18	Doreen Brankin
<b>24<sup>th</sup> April - 5<sup>th</sup> S of Easter</b>	Acts 11. 1-18 Rev. 21. 1-6 John 13. 31-35	Mel Christie
<b>1<sup>st</sup> May - 6<sup>th</sup> S of Easter</b>	Acts 16. 9-15 Rev. 21. 10, 22 - 22.5 John 14. 23-29	Arma Iles

## Minutes of Vestry Meeting 20<sup>th</sup> January 2016

### Correspondence

Peter Smart and Anne Geldart are to attend the Diocesan conference. It was agreed that the vestry would contribute towards this: Peter to the sum of £25 and Anne £50. Peter Smart had received a letter from the Lord Lieutenant of Angus saying that there would be a street party for the Queen's official 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in June. This suggestion would be taken to the Social Committee at their meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> February.

### Treasurer's Report

Main Account	£5,629.65
Fabric Fund Account	£7,395.53
Buildings Account	£607.00
St Philip's	£1,450.00

The accounts are at the independent examiner's for audit.

### St James' Report

David reported that an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund had been submitted and that a decision meeting would take place on 8<sup>th</sup> March. He explained that the application was made up of emergency repairs, items from the quinquennial report, the heating system and items relating to community interaction. The final form, together with a letter from the Bishop, will be submitted on 22<sup>nd</sup> January. There is also a Leader Fund from Europe (run by Aberdeenshire) and a bid will be put in for that. The closing date for this is 29<sup>th</sup> January.

It was noted that if we put in any education areas we would need permission under Canon 35. The Bishop and Diocesan

Building Committee are aware of our plans.

### **St Philip's Report**

Peter reported that extra fire extinguishers had been put into St Philips.

The Vestry is unsure who at Catterline holds the key to St Philips. Anne Geldart will find this out.

Melvin will put up the sign which has come down in the bad weather.

### **The Way Forward**

David has made a list of all members from the congregational list who have not confirmed their details. He has asked if other members of the vestry could please contact those members and confirm these details.

### **Worship**

Anne Geldart reported that the Christmas lunch for those on their own was very successful and Lynn said it was hoped to repeat it this year. There was good publicity for the meal in the Mearns Leader, as well as for the Tree of Life.

The funeral directors borrowed the votive candles and left some presents of chocolate under the tree, which went to the people attending the Christmas lunch.

The Christingle service went well. It included children and parents from the Mums and Toddlers group as well as children and teachers from Primary 1 at Dunottar School.

Anne Geldart has taken an assembly at Arduthie School and it is hoped that children, in their individual classes, will visit the church.

Rev Jane Nelson is on sick leave for three months but it is hoped that we will have a priest to take a service at St James at least once a month. The Dean, Fr Francis Bridger will take the service on 7<sup>th</sup> February and when the new priest (Peter Mead) is installed at Arbroath on 13<sup>th</sup> March, this should see

Its origin (since it has none) none knows:  
But that all origin from it arose  
Although by night.  
I know there is no other thing so fair  
And earth and heaven drink refreshment there  
Although by night.

Full well I know its depth no one can sound  
And that no ford to cross it can be found  
Though it be night.

Its clarity unclouded still shall be;  
Out of it comes the light by which we see  
Though it be night.

Flush with its banks the stream so proudly swells:  
I know it waters nations, heavens, and hells  
Though it be night.

The current that is nourished by this source  
I know to be omnipotent in force  
Although by night.

From source and current a new current swells  
Which neither of the other twain excels  
Though it be night.

The eternal source hides in the Living Bread  
That we with lie eternal may be fed  
Though it be night.

Here to all creatures it is crying, hark!  
That they should drink their fill though in the dark,  
For it is night.

This living fount which is to me so dear  
Within the bread of life I see it clear  
Though it be night.

Anne

He was born into an impoverished family of noble ancestry. He was born in old Castile, and his name was Juan de Ypez y Alvarez. He was a little man. He started his training as a nurse in a monastery at Medina del Campo where he received tuition from the Carmelites. He met Theresa of Avila who seems to have taken him under her wing. He was attracted to the Carthusian order – a contemplative order, but Theresa persuaded him to help her with her reforms of the Carmelite Order. He introduced a number of reforms – particularly wanting to make the order more severe – discalced, which means ‘barefoot’. This brought him into conflict with his superiors and he was imprisoned for a time.

These experiences inspired him to write a number of poems, which show a gradual progression of mystical inspiration. In particular he wrote of the ‘Dark night of the soul’, where he describes the soul being purified as it approaches God. His superiors did not trust his approach and once again, after a while, he was removed from his position as head of the friary. He was banished to Andalucia and died in 1591 from inhumane treatment at the age of 49.

I copy below an extract from one of his poems, entitled ‘Song of the Soul that is glad to know God by faith’. Do not be surprised if it has hints of Mother Julian of Norwich about it. I think these ideas were being shared around at that time. I think he is trying to express the idea that, despite times of deepest darkness, it is still possible to know God, and this knowing of God is made clear to us in the Eucharist – the Living Bread which is Christ’s body.

*‘Song of the Soul that is glad to know God by faith’ -*  
by John of the Cross.

How well I know the fountain’s rushing flow  
Although by night.

Its deathless spring is hidden. Even so  
Full well I guess from whence its sources flow  
Though it be night.

the Bishop able to take extra services at St James or St Ternans. Peter Smart said he is hoping to get Rev David Gordon, on the Episcopal team at Ninewells, to help us out with services. All services are covered until Easter. The Ash Wednesday service will be held in the morning at St James, and in the evening at St Ternans.

### **Fabric**

**Church:** Gauld Heating have given a quote of £1,800 for the tubular heaters under the pews.

The broken bulbs have been replaced.

Mel will look at the roof tiles above the baptistery to assess any damage after the bad weather.

**Hall:** David is to meet with a lady from Aberdeen who is associated with playgroups. It is hoped that she might be able to give some help in hiring out the hall.

David reported some problems with the heating system.

**Rectory:** The new tenants are now in. There are some jobs to be done: (i) the lock on the shower room door needs replacing, (ii) the taps in the kitchen do not turn off properly, (iii) gutters overflow in heavy rain. Mel is to organise these repairs.

### **Fund Raising/Social**

There is to be a Book Browse on 6<sup>th</sup> February.

The Burns Supper is on 30<sup>th</sup> January and Lynn said they were still looking for a lady speaker.

The next Social Committee is on 9<sup>th</sup> February.

Anne O’Gorman asked if she could have details of hall bookings so that the Social Committee could arrange the year’s events without any clash of dates.

### **AOCB**

David circulated a Welcome Leaflet for Vestry members to

look at.

**Date of Next Meeting: 22<sup>nd</sup> February**

### **Social Committee**

The Spring Coffee Morning will be held on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April from 10a.m. until 11.30a.m. in the church hall. We are having the following stalls, books, raffle, cake and candy, knitting and a tombola in spring colours - pink, yellow, green and blue. We will be setting up the hall on Friday (8<sup>th</sup>) afternoon between 2p.m and 3p.m. and all contributions will be very gratefully received.

Please support the coffee morning if you can - many thanks for all your support.

Val Cadd (Social Convenor)

### **Flower rota.**

We will be putting flower arrangements in all the church windows to celebrate the Queen's Official birthday on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June. If you would like to put a decoration in one of the windows please let me know - many thanks.

Val Cadd (Flower Rota)

### **John Betjeman**

John Betjeman wrote many poems about churches and the church year. Between 1953 and 1957 he wrote for and broadcast a number of poems on the BBC. The following is part of a longer poem (broadcast in November 1953) which may have a resonance in the congregation! Part two (about the lights) next month.

both St Ternan's and St James' quota is reduced. As the Cathedral pays 22% of total Quota it was asked if that was fair given that the Cathedral is a Diocesan asset for the benefit of us all. There is a major challenge in trying to make the cathedral more accessible, especially for disabled people. The Provost would like a large sum of money to be taken from the bank balance to pay for any necessary changes. In conclusion the Bishop responded that the request would definitely be considered but spoke of applying for grants.

The Bishop added that we needed to invest where we can get growth. Not a message that will necessarily go down well with some congregations.

I am grateful to Colin Horn from St Ternan's for allowing me to use the meticulous notes that he took.

Arma

### **St John of the Cross**



The only thing I knew about St John of the Cross was from a painting by Salvador Dali called 'The Christ of St John of the Cross.' I have reproduced it here. It is a view of Christ crucified, as though seen from above with the cross suspended in the sky. My former students were well taken with it. You may have seen it yourselves.

When I came to read a bit about St John of the Cross I discovered that he is best known by his writings - of which I confess I have not been much acquainted. When I first wrote about this Christian leader and teacher I fully intended to obtain a copy of selections from his poetry. But

I'm afraid it became one of those good intentions that never materialised. However I did find out a few pertinent pieces of information about him.

can be accessed 4 days a week but it is necessary to make an appointment.

Various Canons were discussed. Synod concurred with the proposals put forward among them a proposal to reduce the age from 18 to 16 when folk can be involved with church affairs, e.g. being voted on to the vestry.

The Dean then spoke about the small congregations and what they achieve especially as most congregations have an ageing attendance making it difficult for small congregations to ever be able to afford the stipend.

We broke into several small groups to discuss how to address these challenges.

Kerry Dixon, who ran these groups, itemised what was thought to be the main points raised:

- More local mission work.

- The form of worship to be looked at. Make worship more appealing.

- Increase discipleship.

- Really utilise the church buildings - making the space work for us.

Some of the ideas put forward in my group were quite diverse with one gentleman wanting to close all the churches in the diocese except for the cathedral!!

Pat Miller, the Companion Links Officer, reported on the hardships experienced in Swaziland, mainly because of the prolonged drought.

Visiting Bishop Allan Scarfe of Iowa was an interesting speaker. He remarked that Iowa face many of the same challenges that we do and were faced with the same tough decisions that had to be made. The main theme being encouragement of different age groups to become involved, especially young people. Is modern technology perhaps an answer, he asked.

We moved on to financial matters. We checked Quota and noted that for

## ELECTRIC LIGHT AND HEATING

Alternately the fogs and rains  
Fill up the dim November lanes.  
The Church's year is nearly done  
And waiting Advent not begun.  
Our congregations shrink and shrink;  
We sneeze so much we cannot think.  
We blow our noses through the prayers,  
And coughing takes us unawares;  
We think of funerals and shrouds,  
Our breath comes out in steamy clouds  
Because the heating, we are told,  
Will not be used UNTIL IT'S COLD.  
With aching limbs and throbbing head  
We wish we were at home in bed.

Oh! brave November congregation  
Accept these lines of commendation;  
You are the Church's prop and wall,  
You keep it standing for us all!

Diane Fleming

### **Fiona Pearson**

On St David's day, March 1<sup>st</sup>, a devoted and well-remembered member of St James' congregation passed away peacefully. Fiona (Flora) Pearson was a lady who will be remembered with affection by all who knew her; a quiet, kind, unassuming person. She was a devoted mother to her sons, Alan and David, and a friend to all.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Fiona quite well. She was

a member of the 50+ Walking Group, as were Peter, my husband, and I, and at the Annual Summer Day Trips we would often travel and have lunch together. She was good company and we would usually meet up again at the Christmas Dinners even after we had all ceased being active walkers. No event at St James was complete without Fiona being there. At Coffee Mornings she was the smiling face welcoming people at the door and she was a keen supporter of other events in whatever way she could, either by her presence or financially.

A devoted member of St James' for many years she attended services on Sundays and mid-week as well as the monthly Healing Service. She also attended what was the Prayer and Spirituality Group until, owing to falling numbers caused by death or relocation, it became the first Monday of the Month Coffee Morning. She especially enjoyed the company and the wander around the Garden Centre afterwards. Fiona also attended various groups at the Resource Centre and is especially remembered by the mini-bus driver who always collected her. According to him, she was always ready on time and was always polite and gracious in her appreciation of his services.

As she got older she suffered some health issues. However she overcame a heart operation and a hip replacement. Recently she had gall bladder problems but when she was admitted to the ARI for an operation it was discovered that she had cancer. After a short time in Arduthie she took up residence in Mowat Court Nursing Home where she passed away.

Fiona was a very private person; she missed her husband Magnus who had been a lighthouse keeper. Before her marriage she had seen a bit of the world having visited South Africa and Australia and she would talk about these places with happy memories.

Holy Communion was important to Fiona and I was pleased to be able to share that with her as she gradually became weaker. Death held no fear for her and she waited quietly and serenely, and mostly pain-free, to be reunited with her husband, Magnus.

She liked her garden and seemed to have the knack of getting things to grow. I visited Alan and David on the day she died. It was a cold, but sunny, morning and at the front door was a bed of flowering snow-drops planted, I know, by Fiona, some time ago. She would have been delighted to see them flowering in the sun.

Rest in Peace, Fiona.  
You will be missed.

Arma.

### **Synod 5<sup>th</sup> March 2016**

There were 59 present with 20 apologies.

The Bishop reported that congregational numbers had fallen by 5%. Later there were to be group discussions on "What would success look like in the Diocese of Brechin?" The Diocesan Council was to discuss the priorities, especially the need to grow a younger generation of members. Fay Lamont, the Diocesan Mission Officer, said that she is always interested in talking to any congregation about plans for mission and growth.

Dr David Bertie, the Diocesan Archivist, is planning to visit each congregation during the coming year to assess which of the old documents might be better in Dundee University for safekeeping. He stressed that ownership remained with the congregation and that they could be accessed and reclaimed at any time. All the archives