

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

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
VESTRY	Interim Chair:	Peter Sharp	01224 895357

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

**The copy deadline for the December Newsletter is Sunday 24th January
 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

Episcopal Churches of St. James' Stonehaven. St. Philip's Catterline. December 2015 & January 2016



Services at St. James' & St Philip's during December & January

Sundays.

9.00 a.m. Said Eucharist

10.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist

**4.00 p.m. Eucharist St Philips (13th December &
 10th January)**

Weekday Services

10.30 a.m. Wednesday:-Eucharist.

7.00 p.m. Healing Service (2nd December & 6th January)

DIARY NOTES November 2015

Day/Date	Event
Weds. 2 nd December	10.30 – Healing service followed by Eucharist
Saturday 5 th December	10.30 – Christmas Coffee Morning and sale
Sunday 6 th December – 2 nd Sunday of Advent	9.00 Reserved Sacrament 10.30 Eucharist 4.00 pm – Joint Carol Service at St Bridget’s Hall
Monday 7 th December -	8.00 – Rock Choir Performance. All welcome.
Tuesday 8 th December	7.30 – Vestry meeting at Anne O’Gorman’s
Weds 9 th December	9.15 – Worship group meets in Office 10.30 – Reserved Sacrament
Saturday 12 th December	10.30 – 2.30 Tree of Remembrance – baubles – coffee available! 7.00 – Ceilidh in Hall – to the music of the Swannies. Stovies – sign list at back of church!
Sunday 13 th December 3 rd Sunday of Advent	9.00 – Reserved Sacrament 10.30 All Age Service 4.00 Eucharist at St Philip’s
Wednesday 16 th December	10.30 – Reserved Sacrament
Thursday 17 th December	Christingle service – all children welcome. Time TBA
Sunday 20 th December – 4 th Sunday of Advent	9.00 Reserved Sacrament 10.30 Reserved Sacrament 4.00 pm – Nine Lessons and Carols
Wednesday 23 rd December	10.30 Eucharist
Thursday 24th December	11.30 – Midnight Mass – 1st Mass of Christmas
Friday 25 th December	9.30 – Family Service Reserved Sacrament
Sunday 27 th December – 1 st S of Christmas/St John Apostle and Evangelist	9.00 – Reserved Sacrament 10.30 – Reserved Sacrament
Wednesday 30 th	Eucharist

Year C – Readings are from the NRSV of the Bible

10.30 am Lessons 1+2	10.30 am Gospel	Greeter	Coffee Rota
Peter Sharp	Val Cadd	Val Cadd	Diane Fleming
---	Heather Grant	Irene Paterson	Doreen Brankin
Anne O’Gorman or Tom Walker	Richard Clark	Diane Fleming	Peter Sharp
David Fleming	Worship group	Stella Wilson	N/A
Worship group	Worship group	Anyone !!	Anyone !!!
Worship group	Worship group	Diane Fleming	Doreen Brankin

Apologies, but I don’t have the list for January yet.

Readers, Greeters, Vestry and Coffee Rota

Date	Readings	8.30 am Greeter/ Reader
6th December - 2nd S of Advent	Baruch ch 5. Or Mal. 3. 1-4 Phil. 1. 3-11 Luke 3. 1-6	Doreen Brankin
13th December - 3rd S of Advent	Zeph 3. 14-end Phil 4. 4-7 Luke 3. 7-18	Jean Carnie
20th December 4th S of Advent Nine Lessons and Carols Time TBA	Mic. 5. 2-5a Heb. 10. 5-10 Luke 1. 39-45[46-55]	Edna Craig TBA
Thursday 24th December - Christmas Eve - 11.30 Midnight Mass	Isa 52. 7-10 Heb 1. 1-4[5-12] John 1. 1-14	No 8.30 service
Friday 25th December - Christmas Day - 9.30 am Eucharist	Isa. 9. 2-7 Titus 2. 11-14 Luke 2. 1-14[15-20]	N/A
Sunday 27th December 1st S after Christmas	1 Sam. 2. 18-20, 26 Col. 3. 12-17 Luke 2. 41-end	Mel Christie

DIARY NOTES January 2016

Day/Date	Event
Sunday 3 rd January 2 nd Sunday of Christmas:	9.00 Holy Communion 10.30 Holy Communion
Weds. 6 th January - the Epiphany	10.30 Healing/ Holy Communion with hymns
Sunday 10 th January - Baptism of Christ	9.00 Holy Communion 10.30 All Age Service - renewal of baptismal promises 4.00 Holy Communion at St Philip's - weather permitting!
Weds 13 th January Hilary of Poitiers	10.30 Holy Communion
Sunday 17 th January - 2 nd Sunday of Epiphany	9.00 Holy Communion 10.30 Holy Communion
Weds 20 th January	10.30 Holy Communion
Sunday 24 th January - 3 rd Sunday of Epiphany	9.00 Holy Communion 10.30 Holy Communion
Wednesday 27 th January	10.30 Holy Communion
Sunday 31 st January - 4 th Sunday of Epiphany	9.00 Holy Communion 10.30 Holy Communion

Note: At time of writing, I do not have notes of social/ fundraising events in January - please see later in the newsletter for details and keep a close eye on our weekly pew sheet - Anne

From the Bishop

ADVERTISING CHRISTMAS

Which is your favourite TV Christmas Advert? In recent years the seasonal adverts have become an art form in themselves and highly competitive for the companies that commission them. If you are really keen you can Google all of them in one go! A mumsnet.com poll likes the Aldi ad 'Favourite Things' while the most gratuitous and blasphemous one has to be for Mulberry where an expensive red leather bag replaces the baby Jesus in the Bethlehem cradle.

Fortunately it's an exception as most Christmas adverts are actually quite wholesome or even religious in sentiment. Morrison's celebrates home-made food, Argos extols its fast delivery staff, Boots and Asda celebrate all the special and fun things we do 'Because it's Christmas'. TK Maxx has a great take on loving our neighbour with little gifts for everyone on our street, the irritating, noisy and nosey neighbours included. This year John Lewis portrays a subtle approach to caring for the isolated elderly: a little girl sends a telescope by balloon to the lonely Man on the Moon so that he can see her - Age UK is the charity supported.

However my first prize goes to Sainsbury's for their simply delightful extended advert 'Mog's Christmas Calamity' featuring the much loved children's story cat. Mog somehow manages to both create and save a Christmas Eve disaster (a family home nearly burns down and the neighbours rally round). The advert supports Save the Children UK Child Literacy project. Make sure your children and grandchildren see it.

Sentiments run high in the approach towards Christmas, both happy and sad. Our Christian faith is celebrated in carols and making our Christmas Communion at St James's Stonehaven. However it's amongst our family and friends - and our neighbours

So, the next time you hear John's original organ - virtually untouched mechanically in 135 years - echoing round the wonderful acoustic of St James, give thanks for the outstanding devotion and organ-building skills of John Wardle. "He was strong in faith, giving glory to God".

David Fleming

Are there Binmen in heaven?

Are there binmen in heaven?
At the gates I mean
Because all the rubbish that gets attached in life
can't surely go on.
It would bung up Eternity.

Are there Binmen in heaven,
waiting at the gate
to sort and clear before you enter.
Recycling all the good stuff
and burning the rubbish
ashes to ashes
dust to dust.

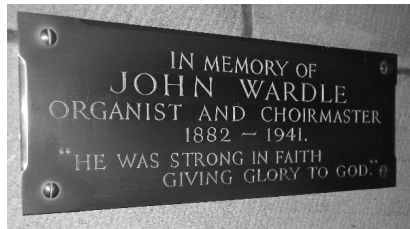
Is there a Binman
waiting for you to dump all of this.
Ready to use his skills of sorting
making new out of old
restoring what's valuable
and knowing the difference.

I met a Binman one day
Here on earth.
I don't know his name yet.
But I do feel I know him.

Hope I meet him again someday
Perhaps at the gates of Heaven!
Pam

Behind the scenes - 2

You have probably all heard and loved the sound of the Wadsworth organ in St James', as expertly played for us by Peter Parfitt. What is perhaps less obvious is a little brass plaque to the left of the console in memory of John Wardle.



Wadsworth Bros. were organ-builders in Oldham, Lancashire, and operated from 1851 through to 1947. They introduced a number of technical improvements to organs. One of these was their version of the 'tracker action' which links mechanically (in true Victorian engineering style) the keys that are played to the actual organ pipes.



The St James' organ was probably installed between 1877 and 1882, whilst the church consisted of just the nave. It was moved at a later date to its current position. You can tell that by looking at the contour of the sumptuously decorated pipes at the front, which fit the nave arches, and not the chancel arches.

What is not obvious is that shortly before 1881, John Wardle, then aged 26, had come up to Aberdeen in order to install organs (working for the Wadsworths) throughout the North East - over 50 instruments were eventually sold in Grampian alone. 1882 was a very special year for John, as he not only got married in Oldham to Ellen, his childhood sweetheart, but moved up to Aberdeen, became Organist and Choirmaster at St James, and fathered the first of his three sons, William, born the following summer.

He remained in the North East until he died in Aberdeen Royal Infirmary aged 87 in 1941 (living mainly in Aberdeen, but in Bath Street, Stonehaven for part of the time), and served St James for almost 60 years.

(including the difficult ones) and the stranger in our path (and even our enemies) that the true spirit of Christmas is tested. It's not about expensive things but rather bringing joy. In the Christmas story love overcomes unexpectedness, unreadiness and unworthiness. It makes you think: what kind of advert for Christmas are we?

+ Ngi

The Angels of Mons



We have all been seeing and singing about angels (from the realms of glory and all that), so I thought you might be interested in the origins of a traditional story arising from a battle in the First World War. Nothing to do with Christmas.

On 22-23 August 1914, the first engagement of the British Expeditionary Force occurred at the Battle of Mons. Advancing German forces were, surprisingly, thrown back by heavily outnumbered British troops. Then the British troops, suffering heavy casualties and being outflanked, were forced into rapid retreat the next day. This event found its way into the press, despite censorship, and the British public realised that defeating the Germans would not be as easy as some had thought.

On 29th September 1914, Welsh author Arthur Machen published a short story entitled 'The Bowmen'. This story described phantom bowmen from the Battle of Agincourt summoned by a soldier calling on St George, destroying a German host. In 1915, other

newspapers wanted a 'fuller' account of the Bowmen and so, eventually, the longer story of the Angels of Mons was created and became one of the legends of the first World War – thoroughly believed by millions of newspaper readers.

It went, vaguely, like this: all morning the German guns were thundering against the thousand or so British troops who held the foothills of Mons. The men joked at the shells and had bets about them and greeted them with phrases of music-hall songs. But the shells kept coming and more good British soldiers were torn limb from limb, and brother from brother, and eventually it became evident that the British artillery was likely to be battered into so much scrap iron.

There were no stouter hearts in the whole world than those of these men, but even they were appalled as the seven-times-heated hell of the German cannonade. Then just at their lowest ebb, they saw from their trenches that a tremendous host of German troops was moving against them. There were only 500 of them left and the Germans were pressing against them with what seemed like ever-increasing numbers.

There was no hope at all. They shook hands, some of them. One man improvised a new version of the battle-song 'Goodbye to Tipperary' and kept on firing. Their officers encouraged the men, but there was no hope. The grey-uniformed Germans just kept on coming, and swarmed and stirred and advanced.

Then one of the soldiers remembered having eaten at a restaurant in London where the meal was served on plates bearing a figure, printed in blue, with the motto '*Adsit Anglis Sanctus Georgius* – May St George be a present help. This soldier knew his Latin, and as he fired at the advancing Germans, now only 300 yards away, he uttered the pious motto. Until his friend slapped him on the

Worship

Anne O'Gorman had received an email from the Worship Group at the Church of Scotland asking if we would be interested in a combined carol service on 6th December at 4 pm. This was agreed. Anne will contact the Worship Group to let them know that we are interested and happy for St James to be the venue. She will also let them have Anne Geldart's contact details.

Anne O'Gorman and Laura will liaise with the Toddlers' Group about the Christingle Service. The proposed date is Thursday, 17th December. Anne Geldart has spoken to the Cyrenians about suitable food for donation for the harvest service. A list has been put on the pew sheet of suggested items. Individual members of the congregation have volunteered to decorate a window for the harvest festival service.

Fabric

Church: The dry rot seems to have reappeared. The firm who did the previous treatment has been contacted and has visited. Their report is awaited. David will speak to the Heritage Lottery Fund to see if we can apply for funding for this.

Mel has met with the electrician about under pew heaters and the quotation for the work is £1800.50

Hall: There was some discussion about cleaning. As Carron Child Care has not started there is no cleaner. Lynn knows a lady who may be interested in cleaning for us and will speak to her.

Garden: Weed killer has been applied to the driveways.

Rectory: David has visited the Rectory and all looks clean and tidy. There are a couple of small repairs to do and David will see to these. The initial contract is due to end and it was agreed to extend this if the tenant wished. David will speak to the estate agent. Ewan has been asked to give the tenants a quote for tidying the garden.

Fund Raising/Social

During August and September there were several activities: the Open Church, Book Browse, Harbour Festival and Quiz and Curry Night. These events raised over £1000.

Events coming up include a concert by Gaye Anthony, another Book Browse, Body Shop Party and a Ceilidh.

Next Meeting: 19th October 2015

Correspondence

There have been two enquiries about family history relating to St Philips.

Treasurer's Report

Main Account	£2,507.71
Fabric Fund Account	£4,491.03
Buildings Account	£607.00
St Philip's	£695.00

Peter reported that the highest expenditure was for heating and it was decided to take a weekly meter reading to get some idea of usage.

Report for St James

It was reported that the exchange with St Mary's church went well, although some members of St Mary's still turned up for their service and were surprised to find the congregation from St James in place.

Diane said there were now green waste food bags in the Hall. A note has been left in the kitchen asking people using the Hall to take these home for recycling as there was no food waste recycling at the Hall and any food would be left to rot for two weeks before being collected.

David reported that as there has been no movement on Carron Child Care he will speak to Adela and encourage her to seek business planning advice.

Report for St Philips

A neighbour of St Philip's is concerned about the state of the trees in the church grounds.

Anne Geldart said there are plans to hold a Christmas tree festival again in the church..

There will be a carol service at St Philips on 20th December and Jane Nelson will attend.

Work on the wall has not started.

Diane asked if the service at St Philips could be a said service as there is no organist and very few people attend. Anne Geldart said she would prefer hymns and if there is no organist she has CDs that can provide a backing.

The Way Forward

David reported that the Congregational Rolls are now up to date.

shoulder and told him to stop him firing - wasting good bullets on dead German bodies.

Then he heard a tumult of voices crying 'St George, St George - Heaven's Knight, aid us'. And as the soldier heard these voices he saw before him beyond the trench, a long line of shapes and a shining about them. They were like men who drew the bow, and with another shout, their cloud of arrows flew singing through the air to the German army.

Then another voice called out 'Gawd help us but we're blooming marvels. Look at those grey - gentlemen, look at them' The German casualties numbered in their thousands.

The outcome was a resounding defeat for the Germans and their Great General Staff determined that the contemptible British must have employed shells containing an unknown gas of a poisonous nature, as no wounds were discernible on the bodies of the dead German soldiers.

But the man who knew his Latin also knew that St George had brought his Agincourt Bowmen to help the British.

Anne

Social committee

A huge thank you to Anne O'G for stepping in for me last month - team work is great.

This month is the Christmas Coffee Morning on Saturday 5th December. There will be a cake and candy stall, a raffle, book stall and knitting stall along with our excellent coffee. Please come along between 10a.m. and 11.30a.m. and support the

great team of ladies and gentlemen who make it all happen. Any donations to any of the stalls will be very gratefully received and we will be setting up the hall from 2p.m.-3p.m. on Friday 4th December.

The Social Committee will be meeting very soon to discuss the Burns Supper we will hold in late January. I have had 2 offers of speakers but to make the evening a success I need 2 more volunteers - a lady and a gentleman. I have already received an offer to Address the Haggis.

Please come along and support the fundraising group at the Ceilidh on Saturday 12th December - music, dancing and stovies.

Thank you for all your support during 2015 - wishing everyone a happy and contented Christmas.

Val Cadd (Social Convenor)

Flower rota

A huge thank you to Anne O'Gorman who placed 'our' flower arrangement in the Cathedral in Dundee for the flower festival at the end of October. The theme was the Saints and she chose St James. Following on from the Bishop's sermon in the summer Anne included scallop shells and used yellow chrysanthemums as a base/beach. The arrangement sat in the font in the baptistery on its return north - thank you Anne.

There will be no flowers at the altar through Advent. Thank you very much to everyone who has placed flowers in the church this year. Lots of folk have given a hand and/or bought flowers this year. The festivals and the Open day all had beautiful displays - THANK YOU.

I will be producing the flower rota for 2016 very shortly and please can I ask if anyone has any requests for special occasions they let me know and I will try and build the rota round the requests. I would like to get together all the ladies and gentlemen on the rota to decide what to do at Christmas - further information on the pew sheet.

Val

Book Browse

Despite a chilly start to the day, with snowflakes falling, the Book Browse on 21st November got off to its usual warm start (aided by the free tea and coffee) , and the steady flow of browsers grew throughout the day. Takings this time reached £349, and of course there are virtually no costs. We are very grateful for all the donations, which allow us to keep the stock fresh and up-to-date, and have allowed us to cull some of the less popular lines. This means that we have enough room and are happy to receive further donations (or books from new donors) – just leave them in the Church Baptistry at any time. It also means that we packed away in record time – 40 minutes, thanks to all the many volunteers who came along to help. The next Book Browse will be on 6th February 2016.

Diane and David Fleming

Minutes of Vestry Meeting 17th September 2015

Matters Arising

St James will prepare a floral display for the flower festival at Dundee Cathedral.

Anne Geldart confirmed that the Remembrance Service would be held in South Church this year.