

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

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

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<b>VESTRY</b>	Interim Chair:	Peter Sharp	01224 895357



### Services at St. James' & St Philip's during March 2017

**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.**

Vestry Secretary: Anne O'Gorman,  
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**The copy deadline for the April Newsletter is Sunday 26th March. 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 March 2017

Day/Date	Event
1st March - Ash Wednesday	10.30 Imposition of ashes and communion. Rev. Jane Nelson.
5th March - 1st Sunday in Lent.	<b>9.00 Reserved Sacrament. Arma Iles</b> <b>10.30 Eucharist. Rev. Jane Nelson.</b>
12th March - 2nd Sunday in Lent	<b>9.00 Reserved Sacrament. Arma Iles.</b> <b>10.30 Songs of Praise.</b> <b>Anne O’Gorman/David Fleming.</b>
19th March - 3rd Sunday in Lent.	<b>9.00 Reserved Sacrament. Peter Smart.</b> <b>10.30 Reserved Sacrament. Peter Smart.</b>
26th March - Mothering Sunday.	<b>9.00 Reserved Sacrament.</b> <b>Pam Levack-Moir.</b> <b>10.30 Reserved Sacrament. Peter Smart.</b>
2nd April - Passion Sunday.	<b>9.00 Reserved Sacrament. Arma Iles</b> <b>10.30 Eucharist. Rev. Jane Nelson.</b>

Year A – Readings are from the NRSV of the Bible  
Year C readings begin on Advent Sunday

10.30 am Lessons 1+2	10.30 am Gospel	Greeter	Coffee Rota
Diana Peters	Irene Paterson	Irene Paterson	Peter Sharp
David Fleming	Val Cadd	Anne O’Gorman	Diane Fleming
Richard Clark	Ellie MacLeod	Stella Wilson	Doreen Brankin
Val Cadd	Peter Sharp	Diane Fleming	Edna Craig
Ellie MacLeod	Richard Clark	Anne Sproul	Irene Paterson

## Readers, Greeters, Vestry and Coffee Rota

Date	Readings	9.00 am Greeter/ Reader
5th March - 1st Sunday in Lent	Gen 2.15-17;3.1-7 Ps 32 Ro 5.12-19 Mt 4.1-11	Doreen Brankin
12th March - 2nd Sunday in Lent Songs of Praise: Redemption.	Gen 12.1-4a Ps 121 Ro 4.1-5,13-17 Jn 3.1-17 or Mt 17.1-9	Edna Craig
19th March - 3rd Sunday in Lent	Ex 17.1-7 Ps 95 Ro 5.1-11 Jn 4.5-42	Jean Carnie
26th March - Mothering Sunday	Ex 2.1-10 Ps 34 2 C 1.3-7 Lk 2.33-35	Melvin Christie
2nd April - Passion Sunday	Ezek 37.1-14 Ps 130 Ro 8.6-11 Jn 11.1-45	Doreen Brankin

### From Dr Peter Smart

Both the calendar year and our liturgical year are moving on apace. Christmas is for many of us now a fading memory. Winter, such as we have had a true winter this year (so far, at least), will turn into spring on 1 March, according to the meteorologists. And the same day, 1 March, is/was, depending on when you read this, the start of a new season in our church calendar: Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent.

This was a day when traditionally many Christians attended church, at the start of the period of 40 days' devotion, penitence and fasting. It is true that the numbers attending Ash Wednesday services today are smaller, but here at St James' and St Ternan's we ensure that all who wish to attend can do so, by having a morning service at St James' and an evening service at St Ternan's.

As the prologue to the Ash Wednesday service recites, 'since early days, Christians have observed with great devotion the time of our Lord's passion and resurrection and prepared for this by a season of penitence and fasting.' We hear the call to repentance and the assurance of forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel, to assist us to grow in faith and devotion to our Lord. We are invited to observe a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy word. We offer those attending worship the opportunity to witness the spirit of penitence by receiving a sign of the cross in ashes on the forehead, with the words, 'Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return,' to remind us of our mortality. We are urged to turn away from sin and to be faithful to Christ.

The service is solemn and concludes with Communion. But it

can also be quite moving for those in attendance. If you read this before Ash Wednesday, why not come along to one of our services. If you are reading this after Ash Wednesday, how about putting a note in your diary to come next year? And making a pledge to do something different in your life this season of Lent? Maybe giving up something you otherwise enjoy? Or maybe doing something extra, such as Bible study, or praying for God's world and its people, or checking up on someone who is poorly? Giving, as well as giving up, can be on the agenda.

Blessings! Peter

O Lord,  
grant that your faithful people  
may enter this season of penitence with faithfulness,  
and complete it with steadfast devotion;  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, world without end.

**Thank you!**

At the Eucharist and following coffee and nibbles in the Hall, I had intended to thank you all – I had written an address and everything. But come the moment and I was – uncharacteristically – struck dumb and only said a few words and left you with a favourite poem/prayer. When David and I moved to the North Mearns in 2003 it was to live near our daughter and grandchild, with no intention of being 'involved' in church matters - but the letter written by our Welsh Rector, as an introduction to the then Rector of

law of Scotland". The law in Scotland (as in England and Wales) permits same sex marriages (as well as civil partnerships). So what is being proposed brings the practice of the church into line with the law.

The Canon also says that "No cleric shall solemnise a marriage between persons of the same sex unless said cleric shall have been nominated on behalf of the Church to the Registrar General for Scotland ". We were told that the Bishop must agree to a cleric carrying out same sex marriages and he will take into account the views of the vestry on this matter. No cleric will be compelled to carry out same sex marriages against their wishes. Not surprisingly a range of views were expressed at the meeting ranging from those who felt that this would be contrary to biblical teaching to those who thought that the church must be seen to be serving all the community and not discriminating against those who, through no fault of their own, were homosexual.

What happens next? As I said earlier it will be discussed and voted on at the Diocesan Synod. The approval of Diocesan Synods is not required but their views will obviously be taken to General Synod in the summer. General Synod will vote on the Canon, and any amendments that may be accepted, by all the Houses. That is there will be a separate vote amongst the House of Bishops, Clergy and the Lay members. Each House must approve the Canon by a two thirds majority, if not there will be no change.

This is an important step for the church to contemplate and, whatever is the decision of Synod, it will bring pain to some people. However, it is a decision that, I believe, the church cannot avoid making any longer. You are asked to pray for those who will carry the responsibility of taking the decision.

Peter Sharp

You are also invited to a launch event in the Invercarron Resource Centre at 7.30 pm on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March, to be conducted by representatives of Christian Aid.

David Macdonald

### **Same Sex Marriage**

At the last meeting of General Synod, members were presented with a revision to the Canon that deals with marriage in the church. Canons set out the laws by which our church operates. These changes, if eventually agreed, would offer the possibility of same sex marriages being carried out in our churches.

This is clearly an issue on which there are strong and differing views within our church. As the next step is for the Canon to be discussed at our Diocesan Synod on the 11<sup>th</sup> March, Bishop Nigel arranged for two meetings to be held at which members of the church could hear in detail what is being proposed, the reasons behind the changes and the possible consequences. David Fleming, Pam Levack-Moir and Anne O’Gorman and myself attended the one held in Brechin. I will set out what is being proposed but please feel free to speak with any of us. As your Lay Representative I will be attending the Diocesan Synod (I am not a member of General Synod) and I am keen to hear your views. It will also be discussed at our next vestry meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> March. The changes to the Canon that are being proposed can be found at <http://www.scotland.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/General-Synod-2016-Agenda-and-Papers.pdf> section 8, Canon 31. The part of the Canon that says that “The Doctrine of this Church is that Marriage is a physical, spiritual and mystical union of one man and one woman created by their mutual consent of heart, mind and will thereto, and is a holy and lifelong estate instituted of God.” is being deleted. The new Canon states that any marriage “shall be solemnised strictly in accordance with the civil

St James, Rita Acarnley, changed all that. Within a few weeks Bishop Neville Chamberlain appointed me Lay Reader and David was licensed to serve and assist at the Eucharist. Ever since it has been our delight and joy to give our time and efforts to assist with bringing the worship of the living God and our Lord Jesus Christ. This has been made extra special because David and I were able to work together – he tells me he enjoys being my chauffeur and gofer – this he has had to do more and more as clergy changes placed more on our shoulders. This became more evident after Maggie and Lizzie moved to England. Finally he has been my strong support and stay while my mobility became somewhat limited.

So now I want to thank you all: those who contributed to the splendid gifts to me and David, those who brought plates of goodies for the coffee and nibbles, all who contributed in any way to the events. But especially I wanted to thank you all for coming. It was lovely to see you all – many of whom I have not seen for ages. We are not moving away so will still see you out and about in Stonehaven and at our local supermarkets – and of course we will still come to the St James’ events.

Best wishes – Anne & David

### **February Sunday Lunch.**

Please may I say a huge thank you to everyone who contributed to the lovely lunch spread on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February when we were able with Bishop Nigel and members of St. Ternan's Church, Muchalls to say thank you to Anne and David Geldart.

Anne O'G very kindly arranged the food list and everyone was so generous and thoughtful with their food, a super team effort - thank you one and all.

Val Cadd (Social Convenor)

### **Spring Coffee morning**

Our first coffee morning will be held on the first Saturday of March - 4th from 10a.m. until 11.30a.m. There will be the usual stalls, cake and candy, raffle, knitting, books and tombola (spring colours) and donations will be very gratefully received. We will set up the hall on Friday afternoon between 2p.m. and 3p.m. (The hall now has a booking until 2p.m. on a Friday afternoon.) I would be very grateful if anyone has time to help on Saturday 4th but if not please come along bring some friends/family and support us. Many thanks.

Val Cadd (Social Convenor)

### **Flower Rota**

The flowers at the altar will have been removed at the end of February for Lent. I am going to draw up the flower rota for the rest of the year (from Easter until Advent) and would like to know if any members of the congregation have any requests for their flowers during the year. Also is there anyone who would like to join the rota? - I divide the year up into 2 week slots.

Many thanks,

Val Cadd

**"The Moving Stories of Mothers in Malawi"**  
**A photographic exhibition by Christian Aid**  
**Stonehaven Library, Evan Street**  
**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March**



In the weeks before and after Mothering Sunday (26<sup>th</sup> March), I wish to invite you to visit this vivid account of how Christian Aid has improved the pregnancy experience of women and men in the Karonga District in northern Malawi using money gifted by groups of churches in Scotland, match funded by the Scottish Government.

Women in Malawi are in unnecessary danger as they become mothers. In 2013, one in 36 women died during childbirth. This project was born from a belief that every mother should be able to give birth safely with the medical care that she needs.

<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/scotland/latest-news/malawi-partnerships.aspx>

This hyperlink will tell you what Christian Aid's partners in Karonga have done with the money, including the "Men as Partners" scheme, where 91 men have been trained as male advocates to fellow men on issues of "positive masculinity". But the images of mothers and their babies (and their "men as partners"), taken by Edinburgh photographer Robert Omerod, and the stories told by these mothers, will bring to life the difference that these gifts have made in championing the right of mothers to give birth with support and with dignity and transforming attitudes towards motherhood, family life and gender roles.