

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.

Group Conveners			
Property	david.w.fleming@suerscribe.com	David Fleming	01569 767200
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<b>VESTRY</b>	Interim Chair:	Peter Sharp	01224 895357



### Services at St. James' & St Philip's during May 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,  
 Tel: 01569-765793 email: anneogorman1@btinternet.com

**The copy deadline for the May Newsletter is Sunday 27th May.**  
**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 May 2017

Day/Date	Event
7th May 4th Sunday of Easter	<b>9.00 Reserved Sacrament. Arma Iles</b> <b>10.30 Eucharist. Rev. Jane Nelson.</b>
10th May	10.30 Eucharist and Healing Service <b>Arma Iles/Pam Levack Moir</b>
14th May 5th Sunday of Easter	<b>9.00 Reserved Sacrament. Arma Iles.</b> <b>10.30 Songs of Praise.</b> <b>David Fleming/Anne O’Gorman</b>
21st May 6th Sunday of Easter	<b>9.00 Reserved Sacrament.</b> <b>Pam Levack-Moir</b> <b>10.30 Reserved Sacrament. Peter Smart</b>
25th May Ascension Day	19.30 St Laurence, Laurencekirk Preacher: the Dean
28th May Sunday after Ascension	<b>9.00 Reserved Sacrament. Peter Smart</b> <b>10.30 Reserved Sacrament. Peter Smart</b>

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

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

**Readers, Greeters, Vestry and Coffee Rota**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Readings</b>	<b>9.00 am Greeter/ Reader</b>
7th May- 4th Sunday in Easter	Acts 2.42-47 Ps 23 1 P 2.19-25 Jn 10.1-10	Jean Carnie
14th May - 5th Sunday in Easter Songs of Praise	Acts 7.55-60 Ps 31. 1-5, 15-16 1P 2. 2-10	Doreen Brankin
21st May - 6th Sunday in Easter	Acts 17.22-31 Ps 66.7-18 1 P 3.13-22 Jn 14.15-21	Melvin Christie
28th May Sunday after Ascension	Acts 1.6-14 Ps 68.1-10,33-36 1 P 4.12-14;5.6-11 Jn 17.1-11	Edna Craig
4th June - Whitsunday	Acts 2.1-21 or Nu11.24-30 Ps 104.25-35,37 1 C 12.3b-13 or Acts2.1-21 Jn 20.19-23 or Jn 7.37-39	Jean Carnie

**From Dr Peter Smart**

**TIME TO SLOW DOWN A BIT**

I hope that by now everyone is aware of Bishop Nigel's forthcoming retirement. He announced his intention to retire at the end of July this year at Diocesan Synod in March. Nigel has been a great friend to many of us fortunate to work with him, and Anne his wife has, I know, been greeted with warmth wherever she goes in the diocese. Nigel and Anne will be relocating to Lincolnshire where they will be closer to their children and grandchildren, a noble reason for retiring to a specific location.

We shall have an opportunity to offer them our best wishes for a long and happy retirement, when +Nigel celebrates the Eucharist with us on Pentecost Sunday (4 June). This will be a joint service at St Ternan's, to be followed by refreshments, where the congregations of both St James' and St Ternan's can enjoy fellowship together, as we did earlier this year at St James'.

+Nigel has been Interim Rector to the two congregations since Maggie's retirement in January 2015, and he has tried to be at one of our churches on a rotating basis almost once a month since then, as well as attending Vestry meetings from time to time. We may sometimes feel that St James' and St Ternan's are 'forgotten' at the most northerly point of the diocese. They are not, and +Nigel has sought to debunk that impression by being with us as frequently as possible. We now await finding out who our successor interim rector will be, as well as who our acting Bishop will be, and what new relationships we have to build.

It was Nigel who invited me to be your Interim Ministry

Co-ordinator, back in December 2014, just ahead of Maggie's retirement, and I'm glad I said 'yes' to the invitation. Being an interim something or other has been part of my church life ever since I was licensed Lay Reader by Bishop Bruce Cameron in 2005. First, this was working as a member of a team of three keeping the show on the road at St Devenick's in Bielside, Aberdeen, during an inter-regnum following a difficult period in the history of that congregation. Then, Bishop Bob Gillies asked me to provide cover for the small (5 or 6 member) congregation at Woodhead of Fyvie, twice a month, during their inter-regnum from 2008 until Margaret and I moved from Maryculter in 2010. This involved an 80 mile round trip, which I managed in all weathers. On the other two Sundays most months, I worked as a member of the lay ministry team at St Peter's, Torry. All this was after I had retired from full-time employment at RGU, and was perhaps hoping for some time off!

Having moved to the Brechin Diocese, I led the lay ministry team at St Mary's and St Peter's, Montrose and St David's, Inverbervie through the inter-regnum there from late 2012 to September 2014. Boy, was I looking forward to some time off once Rev Sam Ferguson took up the appointment of Rector to those congregations - time off which lasted all of three months!

I'm telling you all this because I have decided that I now need to slow down a bit. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the ministry teams and congregations of both churches since January 2015, and I hope that I have managed to bring some new insights to worship from time to time. Naively, perhaps, I didn't realise that your interregnum would last more than two years, and there's still no real sign in sight that it will end any-time soon.

and probably part of, the Christian congregation in Rome. Very possibly their father Simon had himself become a Christian, though this must remain conjecture.

**25<sup>th</sup> - Bede the Venerable.** Bede was a monk at the English monastery of Wearmouth and Jarrow, in Northumbria. From the age of seven, he spent all his life at that monastery except for a few brief visits to nearby sites. He says of himself: "I have devoted my energies to a study of the Scriptures, observing monastic discipline, and singing the daily services in church; study, teaching, and writing have always been my delight."

He was the first person to write scholarly works in the English language, although unfortunately only fragments of his English writings have survived. He translated the Gospel of John into Old English, completing the work on the very day of his death. He also wrote extensively in Latin. He wrote commentaries on the Pentateuch and other portions of Holy Scripture. His best-known work is his *History of The English Church and People*. It gives a history of Britain up to 729, speaking of the Celtic peoples who were converted to Christianity during the first three centuries of the Christian era, and the invasion of the Anglo-Saxon pagans in the fifth and sixth centuries, and their subsequent conversion by Celtic missionaries from the north and west, and Roman missionaries from the south and east. His work is our chief source for the history of the British Isles during this period. Fortunately, Bede was careful to sort fact from hearsay, and to tell us the sources of his information. He also wrote hymns and other verse, the first martyrology with historical notes, letters and homilies, works on grammar, on chronology and astronomy -- he was aware that the earth is a sphere, and he is the first historian to date events *Anno Domini*, and the earliest known writer to state that the solar year is not exactly 365 and a quarter days long, so that the Julian calendar (one leap year every four years) requires some adjusting if the months are not to get out of step with the seasons.

(Based on **James Kiefer's Christian Biographies** )

We will be applying for 'Canon 35' permission from the diocese for a couple of the changes:

Putting brass handrails either side of the pulpit steps to make them safer.

Installing visitor counters to measure our success

Disposal of about 6 pews, to make room for the exhibitions

Section Three is the two Exhibition Spaces at the west end of the church. We are at the stage of draft design, and we do need some help from congregational members. We need to decide which of the very many historical items throughout the church we want to highlight, and how we are going to make the Exhibitions enthralling and entertaining to all our possible visitors and friend.

If anyone would like to help with the work, please let me (or other members of the Buildings Committee (Peter Sharp, Richard Clark or Melvin Christie) know.

Once the draft design has been completed, there will be a display at the back of the church to explain what we would like to do. Please look out for it, and feel free to comment on any of the ideas in it.

David Fleming

### May in the Christian Year

Here are a couple of anniversaries that fall in May.

**12<sup>th</sup> - Simon of Cyrene.** As Jesus was carrying his cross out of Jerusalem to the place of execution, a man named Simon of Cyrene was coming in and the soldiers compelled him to carry the cross of Jesus. Mark calls him "the father of Alexander and Rufus" without further explanation, apparently taking it for granted that his readers would all know who Rufus and Alexander are. The Christian writer Papias tells us that Mark originally wrote his Gospel for the Christian community in Rome. This suggests that Alexander and Rufus were well known to,

So, following discussions with +Nigel and with the chairs of the two Vestries, I have indicated that, without ever leaving you in the lurch, I propose to reduce my input to St James' and St Ternan's to one Sunday a month each. In further discussion with the ministry teams, we are hoping to develop our current rhythm of worship. Rev Jane Nelson will continue to offer one Sunday a month to each congregation, to celebrate the Eucharist and consecrate the bread and wine for Reserved Sacrament services. Then, both churches are well served by a number of lay ministers with different talents, as witnessed, say, by the new series of Songs of Praise every second Sunday at St James'. +Nigel has also suggested that perhaps 4 times a year or so, there could be a joint service on a specific theme or with an invited preacher or speaker.

The ministry planning group is meeting later in May to plan our worship from July to the end of the year, and I hope by the end of our meeting we shall be able to set out an acceptable pattern of worship for both congregations. We should be able to let you know in the July/August newsletters.

### Easter Flowers.

Please may I thank the 'flower ladies' for decorating the church on Easter Saturday, everyone worked together and the church was full of colour when finished, thank you Anne, Laura, Heather, Arma and Pam.

This Easter I was asked to put flowers at the altar by Jim Lees in memory of his wife and mother and flowers by the door by Selina Hadden to celebrate her daughter's golden wedding. Please may I thank them for their kind donations. Please may I

thank Stella and Doreen for their kind donations and the flower ladies will buy flowers during the year.

Finally may I thank Diana and Tony for picking and Mary and John Forbes, Slains Park for donating 300 daffodils, Ellie for her beautiful camellias and Edna for the spiraea and white daffodils, everyone's generosity is overwhelming.

Val Cadd

### **Feein Market Saturday 3rd June 10 am - 4 pm**

St James is having a homecraft stall. ( handicrafts, home bakes, jams, knitting, jewellery, plants, veg etc.) Any donations would be gratefully received. If you are making cakes could you please speak to Anne, thank you.

Donations can either be given to Anne at church or dropped off at 114 Forest Park.(765793). I will be in all day on Friday the 2nd.

Any unsold cakes will be donated as St James's contribution towards Bishop Nigel' s farewell service at St Ternan's on the 4th June.

Anne O'Gorman

### **The Buildings Project - An Update**

Now that we have signed the contracts with the Heritage Lottery Fund and Historic Scotland, we are at last getting started on the actual work.

Section One of the project involves the repairing and re-sealing of the

roof and dealing with the dry rot that is infecting the timbers up in the south east corner of the nave – as you all no doubt can see, some woodworm you can't see, and other major building repairs and improvements. This work will commence once the Stonehaven Chorus Concert on Sunday May 21<sup>st</sup> has taken place. Three contractors are involved.

BCM Steeplejacks hope to be on site in June to finish the work they started last autumn to overhaul the roof, clear out the moss and other debris, paint the rainwater goods and a few other items.

Richardson and Starling's work to treat the dry rot and wood-worm will mean that we will have to close the building to everyone for a period of about three weeks. They will start on MONDAY 5<sup>th</sup> June, and the work might last THREE WEEKS. On the Sundays 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> June (and Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup>) involved, the services will be held in the Hall.

FM Contractors will be renewing or providing new the black wire mesh that protects our very valuable stained glass windows.

I would ask all members of the congregation to keep their eyes and ears open near the church to ensure that the contractors' staff get all the help they need, and that no one interferes with their work. We will also need a cleaning team once this work has finished so, gentlemen, find out where she is hiding the dust cloths and be prepared to polish!!

Section Two will start once the church has been re-opened following Section One. It will involve the upgrade and improvement to the electrics, the wifi, CCTV and the plumbing in the church.

We are currently finalising the details of all this Section, and clarifying which contractor is doing which job. There will be further updates in the next month or so.