

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.

October

2016

Group Conveners			
Property	lauraechristie @yahoo.co.uk	Laura Christie	01569 762482
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VESTRY	Interim Chair:	Peter Sharp	01224 895357



Services at St. James' & St Philip's during October

Sundays.

9.00 a.m. Said Eucharist

10.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist

4.00 p.m. Eucharist St Philips (9th October)

Weekday Services

10.30 a.m. Wednesday:-Eucharist.

10.30a.m. Healing Service (5th October)

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

The copy deadline for the October Newsletter is Sunday 23rd October

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 October 2016

Day/Date	Event
Sunday 2 October Trinity 19	9.00 Reserved Sacrament. Anne Geldart 10.30 Reserved Sacrament - Harvest Festival Anne Geldart
Weds 5 October	10.30 Reserved Sacrament and Healing Service. Anne Geldart
Sunday 9 October Trinity 20	9.00 Reserved Sacrament. Anne Geldart 10.30 Songs of Praise. Anne Geldart 4.00 pm Reserved Sacrament. St Philip's. Anne Geldart
Weds 12 October	10.30. Reserved Sacrament Anne Geldart
Sunday 16 October Trinity 21	9.00 Reserved Sacrament Peter Smart 10.30 Eucharist Bishop Nigel
Weds 19 October	10.30 Reserved Sacrament Peter Smart
Sunday 23 October Last Sunday after Trinity	9.00 Reserved Sacrament. Pam Levack-Moir/ Arma Iles 10.30 Eucharist and Adult Baptism. Rev. Jane Nelson
Weds 26 October	10.30 Reserved Sacrament. Pam Levack-Moir/ Arma Iles
Sunday 30 October 4th Sunday before Advent or ALL SAINTS	9.00 Reserved Sacrament. Peter Smart 10.30 Reserved Sacrament. Peter Smart AGM after service

Year C – 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	Lead Intercessions
Val Cadd	Peter Sharp	Diana Peters	Peter Sharp	
All Age Service	Heather Grant	Stella Wilson	Janet Okumu	
Ellie McLeod	Richard Clark	Diane Fleming	Doreen Brankin	
Richard Clark	Val Cadd	Irene Paterson	Edna Craig	
Heather Grant	Tom Walker	Val Cadd	Irene Paterson	
Val Cadd	Irene Paterson	Val Cadd	Edna Craig	

Readers, Greeters, Vestry and Coffee Rota

Date	Readings	8.30 am Greeter/ Reader
2nd October Trinity 19	Hab. 1. 1-4; 2. 1-4 2 Tim 1. 1-14 Luke 17. 5-10	Doreen Brankin
9th October Trinity 20	2 Kings 5. 1-3, 7-15 2 Tim 2. 8-15 Luke 17. 11-19	Jean Carnie
16th October Trinity 21	Genesis 22. 22-31 2 Tim 3. 14 - 4.5 Luke 18. 1-8	Edna Craig
23rd October Last S after Trinity	Ecclus. 35. 12-17 or Jer 14. 7-18, 19-end 2 Tim 4. 6-8, 16-18 Luke 18. 9-14	Arma Iles
30 October 4th S before Advent or ALL SAINTS -	Isa 1. 10-18 2 Thess ch 1. Luke 19. 1-10 - or readings for All SS	Mel Christie
6th November 3rd S before Advent	Job 19. 23-27a 2 Thess. 2. 1-5, 13-end Luke 20. 27-38	Doreen Brankin

From Dr Peter Smart

Come, ye faithful people, come, raise the song of harvest home

The harvesters have been busy all across the Mearns for well over two months, first with the autumn-sown grain from last year, then this year's spring-sown grain and now the potatoes. What's more, some of the fields that were harvested back in July have already been ploughed and made ready for this year's autumn sowings. Intensive farming indeed!

October is the month when we normally observe harvest festival, a time to raise the song of harvest home, to thank God for the bounty of food from field and forest, sea and river. It is surely also a time to remember those who do not have access to the variety of food that most of us do. Pray for those close to home, who rely on food banks and organisations such as the Cyrenians for a good meal, and pray for those way beyond our shores who go to bed night after night with empty bellies, because of drought and crop failure, or because they simply do not have the wherewithal to buy food. It's estimated that 1 in every 11 people on this earth go to bed hungry most nights.

As we celebrate our harvest festivals, let us also remember Christ's words, *'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.'* Hunger and thirst go way beyond ensuring that we have enough to fill our stomachs. Many hunger for a safe place to live, to be treated with dignity and without discrimination and persecution, and for their spiritual needs to be met as well. We know that Jesus is the way to having those needs met: let us continue to pray, at harvest time and throughout the year, that those who do not know Christ may come to know him and to be part of his harvest.

Paul, Philemon, Onesimus and modern day slavery

The British government estimates that there are around 13,000 people in modern day slavery in the UK today. Over 3,000 people, including nearly 1,000 children, were referred to British authorities as potential victims of slavery in 2015, a 40% increase on 2014. Many of these people, our fellow human beings, are used as forced labour in industries such as agriculture, construction and prostitution. According to recent news bulletins, many people living in the First Minister's constituency in Govanhill, Glasgow, are allegedly being paid less than half the national living wage when they can get work. Perhaps not slaves as such, but surely a kind of slave labour.

Looking further afield, bonded labour is rife in many countries, particularly in Asia and Africa: whole families who owe some debt to their enslavers, bonded (tied) to working for minimal payment as they seek to pay off an ever-increasing level of debt. The International Labour Organisation estimates that there are some 5.5 million children in slavery across the world. In total, it is estimated that more than 24 million people are working in slavery world-wide.

I used these and other statistics when I preached on the lectionary reading from Paul's letter to Philemon at St Ternan's on 4 September. Philemon was a convert of Paul's. Onesimus was Philemon's slave. We can't be sure whether Onesimus ran away from slavery, or whether he was sent by Philemon to help look after Paul in his old age. But, as Paul wrote, he came to love Onesimus as if he were his son. He wanted him to return to Philemon, not as a slave but as a brother. Paul's message was that the new Christian community should be different, both spiritually and socially, from society at large.

This is our clearest evidence of how Paul would deal with

asking for money so that he might live at the expense of others, but by scrounging crusts and discarded vegetables and by working as a day labourer. Soon a few companions joined him. After three years, in 1210, the Pope authorized the forming of the Order of Friars Minor, commonly called the Franciscans. Francis and his companions took literally the words of Christ when he sent his disciples out to preach. They would have no money, and no property, individually or collectively. Their task was to preach, declaring by word and action the love of God in Christ.

11th- Philip, Deacon and Evangelist. In the sixth chapter of Acts, we read that the Apostles commissioned seven men in the congregation at Jerusalem to supervise the church's ministry to the needs of its widows and other poor.

There was a general persecution of the Church at Jerusalem, and Philip fled to Samaria, where he preached the Gospel to the Samaritans, a group who were considered outsiders by most Jews. They received the message with eagerness, and soon Peter and John came to Samaria to bless the new converts. After this, Philip was walking along the road from Jerusalem to Gaza when he met a eunuch of the Queen of Ethiopia returning home after worshipping in Jerusalem. The man was reading from Isaiah 53 ("He was wounded for our transgressions"), and Philip told him about Jesus, and persuaded him that the words were a prophecy of the saving work of Jesus. The man was baptized, and went on his way rejoicing, while Philip went north to Caesarea.

When Paul (accompanied by Luke) was going up to Jerusalem for the last time, he paused at Caesarea and spent several days with Philip.

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

This year the meeting will be held after the 10.30 service on 30th October. All members of the congregation are encouraged to attend.

Could those of you who produce reports let Anne O'Gorman have them as soon as possible please.

This year we will have 3 vacancies on the vestry. If you would like to offer your services then please contact Anne or one of the vestry members. The term of office of a vestry member is 3 years and the vestry meets 10 or 11 times a year, with meetings lasting for about 90 minutes.

Peter

October in the Christian Year

Here are some anniversaries that fall in October.

4th - Francis of Assisi, Friar. Francis was born in 1182, the son of a wealthy cloth merchant. His early years were frivolous, but an experience of sickness and of military service caused him to reflect on the purpose of life. One day, in the church of San Damiano, he seemed to hear Christ saying to him, "Francis, repair my falling house." He took the words literally, and sold a bale of silk from his father's warehouse to pay for repairs to the church of San Damiano. His father was outraged, and there was a public confrontation at which his father disinherited and disowned him, and he in turn renounced his father's wealth. He declared himself "wedded to Lady Poverty", renounced all material possessions, and devoted himself to serving the poor. Since he could not pay for repairs to the Church of San Damiano, he undertook to repair it by his own efforts. He begged stones lying useless in fields, shaping them for use in repairing the church. He got his meals, not by

slavery within the community of Christ. Slavery is simply not acceptable. So Paul intends the Christian community to be an example of what the world should be like. Yet here we are, 2000 years on, and slavery is still on the world agenda. What an indictment on our so-called civilised world. Paul's letter to Philemon is his shortest, just 25 verses. It's worth a read.

Clan visit

At the All Age service on 12th September we were pleased to welcome as our visiting speaker, Catherine Knox from Clan Support Services. Catherine is an enthusiastic support volunteer and this came through in her talk. She spoke about the way that Clan aims to provide understanding, support and comfort to anyone of any age affected by cancer. From the first signs of symptoms and beyond, whether a patient, carer, family member or close friend, Clan's confidential services are available.

She spoke of the support and wellbeing centres throughout Aberdeenshire, where visitors can be assured of a warm welcome and to be put in touch with, for example, complementary therapies, counselling or advice. The complementary therapies include aromatherapy, reflexology and Reiki. There are also coffee mornings and relaxation classes at various centres. Catherine left a selection of leaflets for all to take. The centre in Stonehaven is at 8 Robert Street which is open from 10 am to 4 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays where complementary therapies are available. After her talk, Catherine remained behind to meet and talk with our members, many of whom have experience of cancer, either personally or through members of their families and friends. The collection for the day was donated to Clan Support services.

Anne Geldart

Rev. Margaret Jackson.

As many of you now know, Maggie passed away on 15th September after a long fight with cancer.

She retired from the ministry in January 2015, after serving six years as our rector, and moved down to South Shields where Lizzie had been appointed as Priest in Charge of St Simon's South Shields and Associate Minister of the Parish of Jarrow. However, she was given permission to officiate in that diocese and until recently was very active in taking services and preaching.

Since moving to South Shields she received a steady stream of visitors, a reflection of the esteem in which was held in the various parishes she served during her career.

I was fortunate to be able to visit her a number of times over the past year. While it was sad to see the physical deterioration in Maggie, her spirit seemed to remain unchanged until the end. Even on her last visit to Iona, in July, she talked about swimming in the sea!

She was a remarkable woman, and, despite sometimes giving the impression of being a female Victor Meldrew, was a caring and devoted minister. We will miss her and our thoughts go out to Lizzie and Roy.

Pam very kindly agreed to represent St James' at her funeral, as I had child-minding duties that day, and has written a short piece on the funeral.

Peter

Harvest Festival is on 2nd October and there will be a 'Soup and Sandwich' lunch after the service. The cost will be £5 for adults and £3 for children.

The Seniors' Harvest will be on 5th October, followed by tea.

AOCB

We have been invited to join the Dunottar Guild on 13th September at 7.30 pm in St Bridget's Hall.

Far and Wide have asked if we have any suggestions where funds raised from the shop should go. It was agreed that Swaziland would be a good idea as this is the charity for the Bishop's appeal. Anne will contact Pat Millar for more information.

The form for the Public Liability Certificate needs renewing. David is to do this.

Arma said that there would be a small private service to inter Fiona Pearson's ashes in the Garden of Rest.

Date of next meeting: 26th September 2016

Annual General Meeting.

The church is required to hold a meeting of the congregation once a year. The meeting is to receive reports from various office holders, approve the church accounts, to fill vacancies in the vestry and to elect the Lay Representative and Alternate Lay Representative.

There was some discussion on the heating and it seems that the best method is electric under pew heaters placed under every second pew in the main area of the church and the first few rows of the Lady Chapel.

Peter Smart asked if it would be possible to have some heating in the clerical pews. All the heaters need to be on a timer, be zone controlled and have an obvious warning so that they are not left on after services.

David also raised the issue of protection for the stained glass windows. There are 49 windows, 10 of which are covered in mesh. New wire frames cost £250 each and it was agreed that those at ground level would be protected.

Peter expressed a vote of thanks to David for his hard work.

Hall: It is hoped to get Wi-Fi installed so that it reaches the hall and the back of the church.

Rectory: There had been a problem with the outside drain. This has now been rectified.

Fund Raising/Social

The harbour festival raised £360. Lynn asked if it would be possible to buy some folding tables as these were much easier to move to and from the harbour (and the Feen' Market). She will find out costs.

Diane asked to record a vote of thanks to Lynn and Anne O'Gorman for all their hard work for the festival.

The next Book Browse is on 1st October.

Maggie

There was a lovely gathering of friends in late afternoon sunshine as Maggie's coffin was carried down the tree lined pathway toward St Simon's church. There was a short but serenely beautiful and intimate service of receiving her prior to the funeral service next day. The service began outside, in the sunshine, and thereafter inside the church.

The funeral Mass was held next day with over a hundred people present. For me, and I think for many, it was particularly moving to hear Roy's voice as he delivered the eulogy of her dedicated life as a parish priest and also as a wife, mother, grandmother and dear friend to so many.

I was honoured to be present.

Pam

Vestry Minutes 29th August 2016

Matters Arising

Peter has replaced the water damaged leaflets in the Baptistery. David has completed an inspection of the Rectory.

The donated wheelchair is to be serviced and will be stored in the South Porch.

The buddleia bush which is obscuring the notice board will be dealt with shortly.

Correspondence

A copy of the draft minutes of the Synod was given to Peter Smart.

A letter has been received from the Cyrenians asking if our harvest goods could kindly be donated to them.

David had received a letter from an organisation called 'Reaching out, Inviting in' and has entered the church into a competition showing how the church reaches out to the community. He used the Book Browse as an example.

Treasurer's Report

Main Account	£18,889.64
Fabric Fund Account	£10,902.53
Buildings Account	£1,607.00
St Philip's	£878.00

There is a refund of £4,040 due for overpayment of electricity. The usage of electricity has dropped during the last year.

St James' Report

Amanda Boyle will meet with the Vestry on 12th September. She has access to the hall diary and David has sent her any certificates we have regarding the hall (eg clearance by CQC).

Peter Sharp has paid the bill in full but half the payment will be met by the Diocese.

St Philips' Report

The septic tank has been emptied.

Worship

Anne Geldart has arranged with CLAN to come and give a talk during our Songs of Praise on 11th September.

David suggested that if we are doing a themed Songs of Praise we need to look at our publicity.

Anne is now working the first two weeks of the month.

Pam said that David Geldart has written out information for the servers and there is a meeting planned to ensure the smooth running of the services.

The Bishop will be attending St James and St Ternans as part of the rota.

Fabric

Church: David reported that the damaged nave window is shortly to be removed for repair and a template has been made for the toilet window so that window can be made and replaced.

John Sanders from Simpson & Brown has done a Quinquennial Survey. David has a draft report and is awaiting a final report. BCM Steeplejacks are due on site at the end of September to survey the roof and seal up any obvious holes. There are leaks in the South East Nave, the Lady Chapel and the Baptistry.

No dry rot work will be started until the roof is sealed and the affected areas dried out.

A maintenance plan will be required and a template for this is coming from Simpson & Brown.

David has had a meeting with Aberdeenshire Council to determine what works we need permission for, we also need Canon 35 permission from the Diocese.

Design groups will be set up for the exhibition areas and David is building a list of contacts/volunteers. These range from local historians and archivists to organ builders and organists.