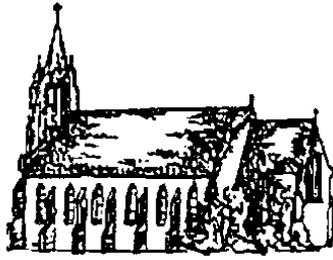


Saint James



Cruden Bay

Saint Mary



Ellon



November 2015

***WE SEEK TO BE CHURCHES FILLED WITH GOD'S LOVE,
GIVING IT AWAY TO OTHERS***

Saint Mary's and Saint James's are congregations of the Scottish Episcopal Church, the Scottish part of the worldwide Anglican Communion, which includes the Churches of England, Ireland, Wales, the Episcopal Church of the USA, and the Anglican Church of Canada as well as churches in most countries of the world.

However, even more important than that, we are members of God's family and all members of that family, from whichever denomination (or none), are welcome to worship with us. We try to welcome everyone in a non-judgmental way. Our congregations seek to develop the ministry of everyone, allowing people to find what God is asking of them and the gifts that he is giving to them.

The usual Sunday worship times are -

*8-15am Early Eucharist in Saint Mary's
9-30am The Eucharist in Saint James's
11-0am The Eucharist in Saint Mary's
4pm Story Time Service in Saint Mary's*

During term-time, there is *Whizz Kids* in Saint Mary's Hall at 11am, with a crèche for younger children.

There are celebrations of the Eucharist each Wednesday at 10-0am at Saint Mary's. Other services as announced in Church. The Sacrament is reserved in both Saint Mary's and Saint James's.

OUR PARISH PRAYER

Father, pour out your Spirit upon us and grant us a new vision of your glory, a new experience of your power, a new faithfulness to your word and a new consecration to your service, that your love may grow among us and your kingdom come: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**Front Photo by David Crosley
Saint Mary's Harvest Festival**

In this month's magazine:-

❖ Community News - Are you involved in Community Events in our area involving church members, which will be of interest to our readers in Cruden Bay and Ellon? Let us know about them!

❖ The Rector's Letter

❖ Aberdeen Cyrenians

❖ Graham Dench

❖ Saint Mary's Church Christmas Card

❖ All Not Rosary in Rome

❖ All our usual features:-

➤ Diary of weekly church services and events

➤ Bible Quiz

➤ Recent events in both churches

The Rector's Letter

As we move into a season of shorter days and longer nights, so we move into a time where darkness is very much part of our natural environment. For some, this is a difficult season, and for some the darkness can bring a sense of sadness or even depression.

We also find ourselves this month at a time of Remembrance, remembering as we do, all those whose lives have been laid down during times of war for the sake of our national freedom. Sir Edward Grey, the Foreign Secretary at the time of the First World War, famously said at its outbreak, 'The lamps are going out all over Europe, we shall not see them again in our lifetime.' This time it wasn't the natural order that was descending into darkness, but rather a nation, and indeed a whole continent.

So what is the answer to darkness, be it natural, political, emotional or spiritual. Perhaps one thing that can help us when surrounded by darkness is the presence of hope in our lives - hope that the darkness is not for ever, hope that the darkness won't overwhelm us with despair, hope that even in the darkness we can find a way forward, and hope that even in the darkness good will be present and good will prosper.

It was King George VI who pointed our nation to such a hope in his Christmas broadcast in 1939, as we once again descended into the darkness of a war that would spread across this continent and across the world. He quoted the poem written by Minnie Haskins, 'The Gate of the Year'. 'I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year, "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown." And he replied, "Go out into the darkness, and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be better than light, and safer than a known way.'

Jesus said, 'I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.' (John 8:12).

As we enter this time of natural darkness, and as some of us face times of emotional or spiritual darkness, may I encourage you to daily put your hand into the hand of God, may I encourage you to daily follow His Son, Jesus Christ, to daily look to Him and call on Him who is light, in whom there is no darkness, and whose light brings hope and strength.

As the evening collect says, 'Lighten our darkness, Lord we pray, and in Your great mercy, defend us from all perils and dangers of this night, for the love of Your only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.'

Yours in Him

Andrew

Graham Dench

To the congregations of both Saint Mary on the Rock and Saint James Cruden Bay and all the members of the Mothers' Union.

We say a heartfelt thank you to you all for your prayers, cards, letters and flowers sent to us on the loss of Graham. We have been so aware of your prayers surrounding us and keeping us going over the past few months. Graham was the rock of our family, always there with advice, help and love. He is and will always be deeply missed by us all.

We know the Lord has been and still is walking by our side and we rejoice that Graham is at peace and at home with Him.

Bless you all

Pam and all the family.

Aberdeen Cyrenians

David Crosley writes:

A further update on the situation regarding the weekly collections at Saint Mary's and Saint James', for the Cyrenians.

We continue to give very generously from both churches to the needs of the people who use the Aberdeen Cyrenians and the contributions from our Harvest Festivals were most gratefully received. Just prior to the Harvest celebrations, Andrew and I were given a conducted tour of the Summer Street premises and heard more about their work from Nicky MacBeath (Cyrenians Fundraising Officer). During this conversation she told us a lot more about the work that they do which is not just restricted to feeding those in urgent need. (Although this is a very growing need). We learnt that they also provide the following:

Domestic Abuse and Supported Accommodation

Offering support to women, men and families who are experiencing domestic abuse.

Violence Against Women

In 2006 Aberdeen Cyrenians introduced the post of Women's Support Worker funded by the Scottish Executive's Violence Against Women Fund. This move was designed to provide support to vulnerable women of all ages who have experienced or are currently experiencing physical, emotional or sexual abuse. This includes women who are involved in prostitution.

In response to the volume of women being referred to the project for support, increased funding was secured in 2008 to employ an additional part time worker.

One-to-one support is provided to clients, helping them to address issues in their lives and supporting them to access relevant services. The Women's Support Worker also facilitates a Women's Group which offers a non-threatening space to meet with others as a means of building confidence and self-esteem.

In 2011 and 2012 Violence Against Women Project was successful in achieving significant funding from The Big Lottery, The Robertson Trust and Scottish Government Violence Against Women Fund, to continue the Violence Against Women Service up to 2017.

Street Alternatives

This service allows rough sleepers and clients staying in temporary accommodation to have access to shelter, food, showers as well as a laundry service. The service survived when other services diminished thanks to the volunteers who were aware that there was nothing else available in the city for the homeless population.

Advice and Information Service

This outreach is so very important to a lot of people that we will never see, but you can be assured that it is becoming even more necessary than ever. I have also recently been asked, that with winter approaching, they provide sleeping bags! So, if anybody has sleeping bags, towels etc. that are no longer required, there is a worthwhile home for them. Just please bring

them along with any other donation that you normally give and they will be taken into the Cyrenians with the food donations.

Please do keep donating – they are so very grateful.

Saint Mary's Church Christmas Card

David Crosley writes:

Since 2010 as a congregation we have had the opportunity to sign a large Christmas card in the church and give a donation, instead of buying and exchanging cards with other members of the congregation. We will continue this outreach again this year and plan that the giving will be sent to the Aberdeen Cyrenians.

We would encourage as many of you as possible to support this project, bearing in mind that not only are you supporting a very worthwhile local Charity, but also helping in cutting out the mountain of card waste that is generated (a lot of which cannot be re-cycled!)

All Not Rosary in Rome.

Sam Coull writes:

Hundreds of Jewish families, that to this day still sell rosary beads and images of our Lord, were given a Vatican go-ahead to sell their wares, and until recently were to be found occupying an area around Rome's Colosseum. This arrangement has been going on for roughly the last two centuries.

Thinking at the time supposed that the granting of permission from the Vatican to sell Christian material was to spare Christians from extracting a profit from selling rosary beads and pictures of Jesus; some alternative reasoning at the time reckoned that it was simply an attempt to humiliate Jewish traders.

However, the civil authorities have now declared the area around the Colosseum a pedestrian precinct and traders are to be shooed off into a nearby tourist free adjacent street, where sales are likely to drop dramatically. This despite promises to the Chief Rabbi that it would be business as usual, which provoked him into joining a noisy protest at the Town Hall.

On top of government austerity measures this will spell harder times for traders and the impasse is very far from being resolved. Those who hold the 115 historic licenses now face a very uncertain future licences having been handed down from father to son through all these years.

Thought provoking stuff, but it brings to mind another incident when traders and money lenders in a temple had their tables knocked over.

**SAINT MARY-ON-THE-ROCK - ELLON
AND
SAINT JAMES's - CRUDEN BAY
CALENDAR OF SERVICES AND EVENTS:
NOVEMBER 2015**

Usual Sunday services are:

8.15am Early Eucharist in Saint Mary's
9.30am Eucharist in Saint James'
11.00am The Eucharist in Saint Mary's

Holy Communion is held every Wednesday at 10-0am in Saint Mary's Hall.

Saint Mary's Music & Praise Group meets at 7-30pm every Thursday during term time in Saint Mary's Hall.

Book and Traidcraft shop open in Saint Mary's Hall on Sundays at 12.15pm and on Wednesdays at 10.45am

Please note that certain services/events can be subject to change:

- Please check with the Weekly Notice Sheet
- OR check the website: www.stmarystjames.org.uk
- OR Contact the Parish Office on 01358 720366

IN ADDITION:

Sunday, 1st NOVEMBER – ALL SAINTS

Usual services

Tuesday, 3rd NOVEMBER

1.45pm “Among my Souvenirs”, Mothers' Union members own memories in Saint Mary's Hall.
7.00pm Session 5: **Christianity Explored** in Saint Mary's Hall.

Wednesday, 4th NOVEMBER

Usual service plus

1.00-3.30pm CREATE! in Saint Mary's Hall.

7.00pm Session 5: **Alpha Course** in Saint James'.

Thursday, 5th NOVEMBER

7.30pm Music & Praise in Saint Mary's Hall.

Friday, 6th NOVEMBER

10.00-11.15am Mainly Music in Saint Mary's Hall.

11.00am Service at Slater Court – Ellon.

Saturday, 7th NOVEMBER

7.30am Men's Breakfast in Saint Mary's Hall.

Sunday, 8th NOVEMBER – REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Usual services plus

6.0pm – **Thanksgiving & Remembrance** service in Saint Mary's.

Monday, 9th NOVEMBER

11.0am Julian Meeting in Saint Mary's Hall.

Tuesday, 10th NOVEMBER

1.30-3.30pm Trefoil Guild in Saint Mary's Hall.

7.0pm Session 6: **Christianity Explored** in Saint Mary's Hall.

Wednesday, 11th NOVEMBER

Usual service plus

12 noon Saint Mary's Lunch Club in the hall.

7.0pm Session 6: **Alpha Course** in Saint James'.

Thursday, 12th NOVEMBER

7.30pm Saint James' Vestry in church.

7.30pm Music & Praise in Saint Mary's Hall.

Friday, 13th NOVEMBER

10.00-11.15am Mainly Music in Saint Mary's Hall.

1.30pm Assembly at Port Errol School – Cruden Bay.

Sunday, 15th NOVEMBER – 2 BEFORE ADVENT

Usual services

Tuesday, 17th NOVEMBER

7.00pm Session 7: **Christianity Explored** (and conclusion) in Saint Mary's Hall.

Wednesday, 18th NOVEMBER

Usual service plus:

1.0-3.30pm CREATE! in Saint Mary's Hall.

7.0pm Session 7: **Alpha Course** in Saint James'.

Thursday, 19th NOVEMBER

7.00pm Wedding appointment in Saint Mary's Hall.

7.30pm Music & Praise in Saint Mary's Hall.

Friday, 20th NOVEMBER

10.00-11.15am Mainly Music in Saint Mary's Hall.

10.30am Service at Bonnyton House – Ellon.

Saturday, 21st NOVEMBER

10.00am-4.00pm – Westhill Community Church for Saint Mary's Christianity Explored group

11.15am Mothers' Union Hour in Saint Mary's Hall.

Sunday, 22nd NOVEMBER – CHRIST THE KING

Usual services

Wednesday, 25th NOVEMBER

Usual service plus:

7.00pm Session 8: **Alpha Course** in Saint James'.

Thursday, 26th NOVEMBER

7.30pm Music & Praise in Saint Mary's Hall. All welcome.

Friday, 27th NOVEMBER

10.00-11.15am Mainly Music in Saint Mary's Hall.

11.30am Service at Ythanvale – Ellon.

Saturday, 28th NOVEMBER

10.00am-4.00pm – Westhill Community Church for Saint James' Alpha group

Sunday, 29th NOVEMBER – FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Usual services plus a Baptism takes place during the 11.00am service.

A Christmas Stall in the Hall takes place after this service.

Answers to “In the Life of David” Bible Quiz

Bertha Dawson writes:

- 1 **Jesse** was David’s father (1 Samuel 17.12)
- 2 David had **seven** brothers (1 Samuel 16.1,10-13)
- 3 David was born in **Bethlehem** (1 Samuel 17.12)
- 4 David was a **shepherd** before he became king (1 Samuel 16.11)
- 5 **Goliath** was the Philistine champion whom David slew (1 Samuel 17. 4-50)
- 6 David helped to soothe Saul by **playing his harp** (1 Samuel 16. 23)
- 7 **Jonathan** was David’s special friend (1 Samuel 18.1)
- 8 David showed kindness to **Mephibosheth** (2 Samuel 9)
- 9 David became king of Israel when he was **30 years old** (2 Samuel 5. 3-5)
- 10 **Solomon** succeeded David as king of Israel (1 Chronicles 23. 1)

Bible Os Quiz

(Answers begin with the letter O)

- 1 Name Naomi’s daughter-in-law
- 2 The dove returned to the ark with a leaf of this tree
- 3 This runaway slave brought a letter from Paul to Philemon
- 4 The country from which gold was brought for the building of Solomon’s Temple
- 5 An Old Testament book
- 6 The son of Ruth and Boaz
- 7 Paul commends this householder to Timothy for his care and support
- 8 This king of Israel was the father of Ahab
- 9 After Jesus’ Ascension, His disciples returned to Jerusalem from which hill?
- 10 This judge, Caleb’s nephew, freed Israel from Aram

Answers in next month’s magazine

PARISH DIRECTORY

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The Reverend Robert Spencer (01358 723193)
The Reverend Sylvia Spencer (01358 723193)
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June Riddle, Peter Robinson.

Saint Mary's Assistant Ministry Team

Hayden Barrett, Blanche Beattie, Alison Cowe, David Cowe, David Crosley,
Henna Cundill, Norman Davidson, Mandy Davis, Charles Fox,
Sarah Goodyear, Kim Leonard

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The Rector's Secretary is Carol Marr. She can be reached in the Parish Office (01358 720366) from Tuesday to Friday from 10-0am to 3-0pm.

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*Contributions for Saint Mary's should be given to Mandy and Dick Davis
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Deadline for articles for the December/January magazine: 20th November