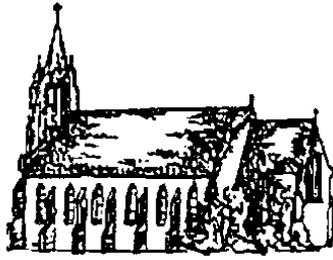


Saint James



Cruden Bay

Saint Mary



Ellon



December 2015
January 2016

***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 Cover
Wall painting in Church of the Shepherds
Shepherds Fields Bethlehem
Photo by Dick Davis**

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

❖ Saint Mary's Men's Group

❖ 'Rocky Road' Recipe

❖ Saint Mary's Church Christmas Card

❖ 'Angels Around Us'

❖ Mothers' Union

❖ Toilet Bags

❖ All our usual features:-

- Diary of weekly church services and events
- Bible Quiz
- Recent events in both churches

The Rector's Letter

We have now entered the season of Advent. Perhaps you have an Advent Calendar or perhaps you have sent an Advent Calendar as a present to a young relative, a niece or nephew, grandson or granddaughter. I still remember, as a child, the mounting excitement as I worked my way slowly through the days of Advent, opening each door as each new day arrived – and always with an eye on the biggest door to be opened on 24th December. And in a way, that early experience of a growing sense of hope and anticipation is very much what Advent is all about. And it is very much something that is needed by all of us, living as we do in such a broken world.

We live in a world that, whilst very beautiful, is also full of anguish and pain. The Paris attacks are a stark reminder that evil is very much alive in the world and at work in the hearts and minds of those who have truly lost the purpose and meaning of life as God intended it for us. They seek by force and violence to impose their own ideas on the lives of innocent people. And for those who were injured and deeply traumatised by the events of that Friday evening, life will never be the same.

I was moved to watch some of the footage of the service broadcast live from Notre Dame in Paris, held on the Sunday evening after the attacks. Here was a place of peace, a place of solace, filled with prayer and worship to God and with a message from God's Word. Paris Cardinal Andre Vingt-Trois used these words as part of his message to those gathered, 'We pray for hope, not hate,' and 'may grace be the artisan of peace.' Those who gathered in that sacred space could rest their weary souls for a while as they were ministered to and were able to bring their pain and fear to the God who calls us to Himself, the God who in Christ gives us hope, shows us grace, and brings us peace.

We all need hope in a world where events are beyond our control and evil seems to have such a stronghold. That hope is found alone in the person of Jesus, the One born in a stable in Bethlehem, and the One who will one day return to judge the earth. For when He comes He will

vindicate the innocent and draw to Himself all those who know and love Him, and He will condemn the wicked and drive them away from his presence. This scene is depicted over the main doorway of Notre Dame – a sign to those who entered there that there is a day coming when the Prince of Peace will indeed bring true and lasting peace to this broken world.

May you and those you love know the joy of Christ's birth in your heart this Christmas, and may you know His peace, as you look to Him and follow Him through this coming New Year – and may all those who miss loved ones at this poignant time be comforted by the God of all comfort who is near to all who look to Him.

Yours in Him
Andrew

Mothers' Union

Carole Fox writes:

Our Branch's 'Among my souvenirs' meeting on 3rd November resulted in a wonderful array of articles being brought to Saint Mary's hall, and it was so interesting to hear members reminiscing about why the articles were treasured by them. The collection included a large pebble, a very ancient teddy bear, a newspaper reporting on the Queen's coronation and a menu of dishes served on the Orient Express. Quite a variety.

The MU Hour on 21st November was used to fill toiletry bags to go to Grampian Women's Aid (part of an ongoing Diocesan project). Many thanks go to folks outwith the MU who contributed toiletries for this.

Our meeting on Tuesday 1st December, at 1.45pm will be a time of reflection as we focus our thoughts on Advent.

Please note that the MU Diocesan Quiet Day on Saturday 5th December (from 10.30am until 2.30pm) will be in Saint Mary's hall, Ellon, instead of the John Skinner Centre as previously advertised. We shall meet for

coffee at 10.30am in the Saint Andrew room at the back of the hall and then move into the main hall later. Please bring your own snack lunch. The day will be led by either the Revd Andrew Tucker or the Revd Ali Harvey. Please contact Chris Crosley for further information (01358-722 007).

The annual carol service for members of Ellon Resource Centre will as usual be held at Saint Mary's on Tuesday 15th December at 1.45pm, followed by tea in the hall.

Our Branch's final date for this year will be Saturday 19th December, when we have the MU Hour in Saint Mary's hall at 11.15am.

Looking into the New Year: on Tuesday 5th January at 1.45pm we shall have a celebration of the Eucharist in Saint Mary's hall and then our Annual Business Meeting on Saturday 16th January at 11.15am in the hall.

Grampian Women's Aid

Chris Crosley writes:

It was that time of year again on Saturday 21 November when a group of Mothers' Union members and friends got together in Saint Mary's Church Hall to pack toilet bags for Grampian Women's Aid. This year we packed 39 toilet bags which was a tremendous amount. They all looked amazing when piled together on tables.

Yet again a big thank you goes to members and friends who donated so generously to this Mothers' Union project.

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 giving 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!)

Saint Mary's Men's Group

Dick Davis writes:

A group of intrepid volunteer interior decorators led by Colin Frost (aka The Gang Master!) travelled to Aviemore to decorate the 'Santa Train' at the Strathspey Railway (if you want any advice on 'Bling' please contact David Crosley!) The train is run for five weeks between the end of November and Christmas, and also this year the restaurant train, offering fine dining is running for lunches and evening meals - so we also decorated these coaches. It is extremely popular with the public, in fact this year it is 'sold out'.

The train and the platform were decorated over a period of three days, which meant we had to stay overnight and sample the local beverages, as well as some fine dining at the Caledonian Hotel.

The Railway is always looking for volunteers, so if you are interested please contact Colin Frost for further details.



The Men's Group meets once a month, normally at the Tolbooth in Ellon where various discussions take place (not just there for the beer!) and over the year gets involved with various activities, e.g. tidying up the grounds around the Church, organising a church Bar-B-Q, visits to the Strathspey Railway (to help out wherever needed, not just decorating!)

Angels around us.

Sam Coull writes:

The front door opened and there was my little grandchild beaming up at me, "Good morning cherub," I greeted her. A puzzled look, a furrowed brow and she turned to her mother, "Mum, what's a cherub?" she enquired, to be shortly answered "An angel." Wondering about the dictionary definition of a cherub after getting back home, I discovered first a 'winged celestial being (Gen 3:24) then second, 'a winged child portrayed with a rosy, chubby face.'

A recent survey discovered that 38% of British people believed in angels and in the U.S eight out of every ten are convinced of them. Perhaps, because of this, a new exhibition is on show at St. Mungo's Museum in Glasgow, exploring the many ways by which through art, sculpture or photographs, angels are shown as how they appeared to be down through all the years. It includes a film showing people who were helped through dark times by their belief in angels. One woman tells how her sister, desperate to start a family, was told by a stranger she would have a baby and nine months later did. Of course, there is also included a depiction of an angel from the First World War, when retreating British soldiers were said to have had visions of the Angel of Mons that kept them from harm.

Some find unexplained white feathers after losing a loved one and look for some meaning in that happening. However, there are numerous references to angels in scripture and the one I find resonates with me is Hebrews 13:2 "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." I will leave you to look up Gen 3:24 for yourselves.

Rocky Road (*Enjoy this! Calories – millions!*)

Contains:-

125g butter
3 tbsp golden syrup
2 blocks dark cooking chocolate
1 bag mini marshmallows
200g crushed digestive biscuits OR chopped nuts
1 tub glace cherries
Few grams icing sugar

Method

1. Melt butter, chocolate and sugar in large pan.
2. Add all other ingredients and mix well.
3. Pour into a lined, greased baking tray and press down well.
4. Put into fridge for a couple of hours.
5. Dust lightly with icing sugar before serving.

At the recent Christianity Explored course at Saint Mary's, the evenings began by sharing a meal. A rota of volunteers provided these delicious meals, and all of them ended with cake. (We were very spoiled!) This is the recipe for one of those cakes, provided by Margaret Kaye, along with a recipe card at each table. Thanks Margaret! It was delicious. Thanks too, go to Beryl Mason for coordinating the rota and setting up the hall, and for all the people who provided the meals from week to week.

SAINT MARY-ON-THE-ROCK - ELLON AND SAINT JAMES's - CRUDEN BAY

CALENDAR OF SERVICES AND EVENTS:

**DECEMBER 2015
JANUARY 2016**

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:

DECEMBER 2015

Tuesday, 1st DECEMBER

- 1.45pm **Thoughts for Advent**, Mothers' Union meeting in Saint Mary's Hall.
- 7.00pm Prayer Meeting at Saint Mary's.

Wednesday, 2nd DECEMBER – Nicholas Ferrar, Deacon

Usual service plus

- 1.00-3.30pm **CREATE!** in Saint Mary's Hall.
- 7.00pm Session 9: **Alpha Course** in Saint James'.

Thursday, 3rd DECEMBER

- 6.30pm Saint Mary's Worship Meeting in the hall.
- 7.30pm Music & Praise in Saint Mary's Hall.

Friday, 4th DECEMBER

- 10.00-11.15am Mainly Music in Saint Mary's Hall.
- 11.00am Service at Slater Court – Ellon.
- 7.30pm Saint James' Worship Group in church.

Saturday, 5th DECEMBER

- 7.30am Men's Breakfast in Saint Mary's Hall.
- 10.30am-3.00pm – Mothers' Union **Diocesan Quiet Day** in Saint Mary's Hall.

Sunday, 6th DECEMBER – ADVENT 2

Usual services plus

6.0pm – A Service of **Healing & Wholeness** in Saint Mary's.

Monday, 7th DECEMBER

7.30-9.30pm Ythan Singers rehearse in Saint Mary's.

Tuesday, 8th DECEMBER

2.30pm Saint Mary's Visiting Team in the hall.

7.00pm Film Night at Saint Mary's in the hall.

Wednesday, 9th DECEMBER – Ember Day

Usual service plus

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

7.0pm Session 10: **Alpha Course** concludes in Saint James'.

Thursday, 10th DECEMBER

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

Friday, 11th DECEMBER

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

11.00am Service at Modley House – Ellon.

7.30pm Ythan Singers Christmas Concert in Saint Mary's.

Saturday, 12th DECEMBER

2.00-4.00pm Velvet Mather's Groups' Christmas Party in Saint Mary's Hall.

Sunday, 13th DECEMBER – ADVENT 3

Usual services plus

Christingle Service at 4.0pm in Saint Mary's.

Monday, 14th DECEMBER

11.00am Julian Meeting in Saint Mary's Hall.

Tuesday, 15th DECEMBER

1.45pm Mothers' Union host a Carol Service with the Resource Centre in Saint Mary's.

Wednesday, 16th DECEMBER

Usual service plus:

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

Thursday, 17th DECEMBER

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

Friday, 18th DECEMBER

10.30am Service at Bonnyton House – Ellon.

Saturday, 19th DECEMBER

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

Sunday, 20th DECEMBER – ADVENT 4

Usual services plus

4.00pm *Carols by the Crib at Saint James'*

6.30pm *Carols by Candlelight at Saint Mary's.*

Monday, 21st DECEMBER

9.30am Slains Primary School Christmas Service.

2.00pm Ellon Primary School Christmas Service.

Tuesday, 22nd DECEMBER

10.00am Meiklemill Primary Christmas Service in Saint Mary's.

1.30pm Port Errol School Christmas Service.

1.30pm Ellon Academy Christmas Assembly in Saint Mary's.

Wednesday, 23rd DECEMBER

Usual service

Thursday, 24th DECEMBER ~ Christmas Eve

4.00pm Crib Service at Saint Mary's.

10.00pm First Communion of Christmas at Saint James'

11.30pm Midnight Mass at Saint Mary's.

Friday, 25th DECEMBER

10.00am A short Family Communion service.

11.00am A short Family Communion service.

Sunday, 27th DECEMBER – FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

Usual services

Revd Richard O'Sullivan will be celebrant & preacher at Saint James' and

Revd David Thompson will be guest celebrant & preacher at Saint Mary's.

Wednesday, 30th DECEMBER

Usual service

JANUARY 2016

Sunday, 3rd JANUARY – THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Usual services

Tuesday, 5th JANUARY

1.45pm Mothers' Union Epiphany Eucharist in Saint Mary's.

7.00pm Prayer Meeting at Saint Mary's.

Wednesday, 6th JANUARY

Usual service

Thursday, 7th JANUARY

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

Friday, 8th JANUARY

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

11.00am Service at Slater Court – Ellon.

Saturday, 9th JANUARY

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

Sunday, 10th JANUARY – THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

Usual services

Monday, 11th JANUARY

11.00am Julian Meeting in Saint Mary's Hall.

Tuesday, 12th JANUARY

7.00pm Saint Mary's Film Night.

Wednesday, 13th JANUARY – Kentigern or Mungo, Deacon

Usual service plus

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

Thursday, 14th JANUARY

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

7.30pm Saint James' Vestry in church.

Friday, 15th JANUARY

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

10.30am Service at Bonnyton House – Ellon.

Saturday, 16th JANUARY

11.15am Mothers' Union Hour

Sunday, 17th JANUARY – EPIPHANY 2

Usual services plus

6.0pm at Saint James' – Evening Prayer & Meditation

Wednesday, 20th JANUARY - Richard Rolle of Hampole, Spiritual Writer

Usual service

Thursday, 21st JANUARY

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

Friday, 22nd JANUARY

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

Sunday, 24th JANUARY – EPIPHANY 3

Usual services

Tuesday, 26th JANUARY

7.30pm Saint Mary's Vestry in the hall.

Wednesday, 27th JANUARY

Usual service

Thursday, 28th JANUARY

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

Friday, 29th JANUARY

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

11.30am Service at Ythanvale – Ellon.

Sunday, 31st JANUARY – EPIPHANY 4

Usual services

Answers to “Bible Os” Quiz

Bertha Dawson writes:

- 1 **Orpah** was Naomi’s daughter-in-law (Ruth 1.4)
- 2 The dove returned to the ark with an **olive** leaf (Genesis 8.11)
- 3 **Onesimus** brought a letter from Paul to Philemon (Philemon v.10-12)
- 4 Gold was brought from **Ophir** for the building of Solomon’s Temple (2 Chronicles 8.16-18)
- 5 An Old Testament book – **Obadiah**
- 6 **Obed** was the son of Ruth and Boaz (Ruth 4. 13-17)
- 7 Paul commends **Onesiphorus** to Timothy for his care and support (2 Timothy 1.16-18)
- 8 **Omri** was Ahab’s father (1 Kings 16.29)
- 9 The disciples of Jesus returned to Jerusalem from Mount **Olivet** after His resurrection (Acts 1. 6-12)
- 10 **Othniel** was the judge who freed Israel from the king of Aram (Mesopotamia) (Judges 3.8-11)

“Luke’s Story of Jesus” Bible Quiz

- 1 Who told Mary that she would give birth to a son to be called Jesus?
- 2 Who was Roman Emperor when Jesus was born?
- 3 Who, according to Luke, was Jesus’ most distant ancestor?
- 4 In what town was Jesus born?
- 5 How did the shepherds learn of Jesus’ birth?
- 6 How did the shepherds respond to the news they received?
- 7 What city did Jesus visit when he was 12?
- 8 With whom did Jesus talk in the temple during that visit?
- 9 What happened to Jesus after his baptism in the river Jordan?
- 10 How old was Jesus when he began his public ministry?

Answers in next magazine

PARISH DIRECTORY

Rector

The Reverend Andrew Tucker
(01358 720366)

Clergy:

The Reverend Carole Fox (01358 789693)
The Reverend Robert Spencer (01358 723193)
The Reverend Sylvia Spencer (01358 723193)
The Reverend Peter Whalley (01779 812511)

Saint James Assistant Ministry Team

Marna Cruickshank, Brenda McRobbie, John Palmer,
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

The Vestry Secretary of Saint Mary's is Mandy Davis (01358 721197) and the Treasurer is Colin Frost (01358 721249). The Stewardship Promoter is Jim Pittendrigh (01651 842739) and the Director of Music is Alison Stephen (01358 789613). The Child Protection Officer is Hayden Barrett (01358 789703)

The Vestry Secretary of Saint James's is Tricia Robinson (01358 751343) and the Treasurer is Irene Dooley (01779812661). The Stewardship Promoter is Peter Robinson (01358 751343). The Child Protection Officer is Brenda McRobbie (01779 473634).

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.

Email – parish@stmarystjames.org.uk

Web address: <http://www.stmarystjames.org.uk>

The magazine is produced and printed "in house".

*Contributions for Saint Mary's should be given to Mandy and Dick Davis
(01358 721197)*

E-mail: melric@btinternet.com

Deadline for articles for the February magazine: 20th January