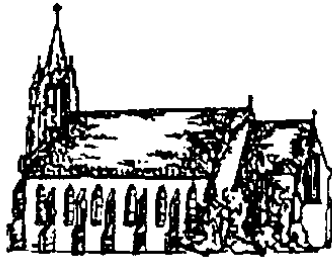


Saint James



Cruden Bay

Saint Mary



Ellon



**February 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  
Flooding in Ellon  
See Rector's Letter**

## **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 Whizzkids

❖ Mothers' Union

❖ Aberdeen Cyrenians

❖ Oh Dear!

❖ Editor's Note

❖ Lent Course at Saint Mary's

❖ Saint Mary's Shrove Tuesday Party

❖ All our usual features:-

➤ Diary of weekly church services and events

➤ Bible Quiz

➤ Recent events in both churches

## The Rector's Letter

We never know what a day will hold, and neither do we know what the coming year will bring. Who could have foreseen at the end of last year the floods that were so soon to bring such devastation and trauma to the people of Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire? It was astonishing to see pictures of roads that had become rivers, such as Canal Road in Inverurie, to watch Abergeldie Castle teetering on the edge of collapse as sixty feet of land was swept away by the raging river, and then to see footage of a whole section of the A93 between Ballater and Braemar simply disappear, taken out by the swollen torrent of the River Dee. Then came the flooding in Ellon itself, as the river rose to heights unseen in living memory, and over 100 people were evacuated in the early hours from their homes. We give thanks to all those who were involved in the rescue operation, many of whom had travelled a good distance to help, as residents were assisted to safety in the early hours of the morning. Many thanks also go to the Academy for opening their doors to those in need of shelter, and for the Buchan Hotel who gave rooms to those with nowhere to stay.

Whilst we would wish such suffering on no-one, and hope that such flooding will not return, it is always at times like these that the strength of community spirit is seen in places like Ellon, Inverurie, Kintore, the Dee Valley, Aberdeen, and all those places that were affected by the flooding. It is with thanks that we acknowledge those who have shown such love and support for those worst affected.

Our prayers are now with those whose homes and businesses have been worst affected that they might soon be restored.

Yours sincerely

Andrew

## **Lent Course at Saint Mary's**

*The Rector writes:*

For our Lent Course this year, which starts on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February, we will be using the book 'Before the Throne of God' by Bishop David Mulready (retired bishop of North West Diocese, Australia). It is a Lenten Bible Study that explores prayers of the Bible. In these we find enriching and inspiring words from the Bible's heroes, the greatest being Jesus Himself who taught us how to pray. David approaches these prayers one by one, yielding deeply encouraging lessons from those who approached God with faith, 'holy boldness', adoration, and conviction, in times of strength and weakness.

Please join us as we grow in our understanding and appreciation of prayer and all its many benefits.

## **Aberdeen Cyrenians**

*David Crosley writes:*

A very big 'THANK YOU' for all the donations that have been given for Aberdeen Cyrenians over the last few months. Not only food, but many items of clothing and bedding have been very gratefully received. In addition, the giving for the church Christmas card in St Mary's amounted to £204 which helps keep the organisation alive.

I am well aware that at this moment we have a large number of residents of Ellon and the surrounding area who are facing immediate hardship due to flooding, but we must be very thankful that (in the majority of cases) the long term needs will be met through insurance pay-outs. Unfortunately, the long term needs of those whom the Cyrenians help ALL of the time will not disappear as quickly and in the light of the continuing fall in the fortunes of the oil industry and related businesses, I do not see the needs of food banks etc. declining. I am therefore asking that you continue to support our efforts to deliver as much food / clothing to the Cyrenians each week as possible for as long as we can.

Please do keep donating – It really is most appreciated.

# **Transcript of a letter received from Aberdeen Cyrenians**

*Scott Baxter writes:*

Dear Congregation,

## **THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION**

We would like to thank you for your generous donation of food and £204 towards the work of Aberdeen Cyrenians and our Christmas and Beyond appeal. Your donation went towards enhancing what we could provide for our Service Users at a time of the year they can find very challenging.

The festive season can be the most challenging time of year for our service users; and with donations such as yours, we are able to continue providing our necessary services to vulnerable, homeless people within our community, throughout this period.

Homelessness is one of the most degrading and destructive experiences any human can go through and without your support our work would simply not be possible.

All donations are gratefully received and can make a great difference in a person's life and situation.

Wishing you well for 2016.

Scott Baxter  
Depute Chief Executive

# Saint Mary's Whizzkids

*Henna Cundell writes:*

We currently have 12 regular Whizzkids, 5 of whom are under the age of 5. You see them all being shepherded out of the main service on a Sunday morning, and scampering back in during communion, but how much do you know about what happens in between?

As the children arrive in the hall, we sit down together in a circle, and the children take turns to share about how their week has been and what they have been up to since we were last together. After a short prayer, we then divide up into crèche and Whizzkids to start our morning's activities.

The crèche group rush to the cupboard to select which toys they would like for the morning. A particular favourite is the large plastic slide! And, of course, PJ wants the train...

Meanwhile, the older children sit round a table to read the Bible passage, and then have a time of games, teaching, and sometimes a craft to help them reflect on the topic of the day.

As both Whizzkids and crèche are in the hall, the pre-schoolers tend to dip in and out of the Whizzkids session depending on what activities the older children are doing. This leads to a certain amount of chaos, but also to a lovely family atmosphere in the hall on a Sunday morning, as the older children help take care of the younger children, guided by the Whizzkids leader and helper.



Towards the end of the session, the whole group comes together again to review what we have learned and say the Whizzkids Eucharistic Prayer. This is a special prayer with lots of actions and a song, which helps us prepare for coming back into Church for communion.

At some point one of the stewards appears at the door to tell us that it is nearly time to rejoin the main service. Then follows a scramble to get tidied up, get the hall ready for coffee time, and get coats on ready to cross back to Church.

It's a special time of friendship and fellowship, where the children model what it is to 'be Church' by being together, learning together, tolerating and helping each other, despite a huge span of ages (1-17!) so that ultimately we may fulfill the call to 'present everyone mature in Christ.' (Col. 1:28)

We urgently need more adults to join the Whizzkids family, particularly to help take care of the crèche group. We have been 'getting by' for a long time now, often with only two adults in the hall, but on a week when all 12 children are there this really isn't enough to stay safe and have a happy time.

I once heard a minister in another Church make a request for more children's work helpers from the pulpit. He said: "This is such an important part of the Churches ministry, God simply **MUST** be calling someone here to it! Take a moment to reflect prayerfully, and then tell me if the person He is calling is you." I feel I can do no better than repeat those words. So take a moment, right now, and search your heart. Then pick up the phone and let me know if it is you He is calling... (Henna: 01358 268423)

## **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Evening**

Come and enjoy pancakes and games on Shrove Tuesday, 9th February at 7pm, in Saint Mary's hall.



## **Mothers' Union**

*Carole Fox writes:*

Our Branch's 2015 activities concluded in December with a carol service at Saint Mary's for the members of Ellon Resource Centre. Andrew, our Rector, led the worship and, as usual, it was a wonderfully joyful occasion. We also had a great time of fellowship in the hall afterwards, and thanks go to all who helped in organising the tea.

At the M.U. Hour on 19th December we shared memories of Christmases past, as well as having our usual time of prayer.

The New Year began with a celebration of the Eucharist for Epiphany and, despite decidedly wild weather, fifteen members attended. We then had our Annual Business meeting on Saturday, 16th January. It was decided that we should maintain our pattern of having an afternoon meeting on the first Tuesday of each month and the M.U. Hour on the third Saturday morning. However, it was hoped that there would be more sharing in organising and leading meetings. I look forward to seeing as many members as possible at our meeting on 2nd February at 1.45 p.m. in the hall, so that we can make plans for this year.

## **Oh dear, dear!**

*Sam Coull writes:*

Country Life wanted some photographs of the carol service held at the romantic church of St Thomas a Becket in Kent. Very good said the church but only if you send a Christian. A strange request thought the magazine but decided to meet what had been asked. The cameraman duly arrived and was asked for his name "Christian," he said, "they told me you insisted."

# **Where citing a text can land you in jail!**

*Sam Coull writes:*

The Rev. Patrick Mugadza from the Remnant Church of Kariba in Zimbabwe spent what little money he had on bus and train fares to get to the Victoria Falls resort where President Mugabe's Zanu PF party were holding their conference.

As the delegate crowd gathered, Patrick stood there, a lonely figure holding up a placard which said, "Mr President the people are suffering Proverbs 21.13." The Old Testament reference which says "Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard." An ever vigilant police force spotted him and he was arrested and charged with creating a criminal nuisance.

Although granted bail of \$500, a penniless Mr Mugadza stays banged up because this is a huge sum for ordinary Zimbabweans. Mr Mugadza is now on hunger strike while the country suffers one of the worst droughts in its history.

One might think that a Christian democracy like ours would be quick to tell President Mugabe that his aid package from Britain will be reduced by \$500 for each day that Mr Mugadza spends in jail pending other sanctions.

## **Editor's Note**

Due to a family wedding at the end of March, which means we wouldn't be able to publish the magazine for April until the second week in April, we have decided to make the next magazine, published at the end of February, a two month (March/April) edition.

All articles will be gratefully received before the 20<sup>th</sup> February, thank you.

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

**CALENDAR OF SERVICES AND EVENTS:**

**FEBRUARY 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](http://www.stmarystjames.org.uk)
- OR Contact the Parish Office on 01358 720366

**IN ADDITION:**

**Tuesday, 2nd FEBRUARY**

- 9.00am Meeting of Ecumenical Ministers in Saint Mary's Hall.  
1.45pm Mothers' Union Forward Planning Meeting in Saint Mary's Hall.  
7.00pm Prayer Meeting at Saint Mary's.

## **Wednesday, 3rd FEBRUARY – Anskar, Archbishop of Hamburg**

*Usual service plus*

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

7.00pm Bible Study at Saint James'.

## **Thursday, 4th FEBRUARY**

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

## **Friday, 5th FEBRUARY**

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

11.00am Service at Slater Court – Ellon.

7.30pm Saint James' Ministry Team in church.

## **Saturday, 6th FEBRUARY**

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

10.00-3.00pm Pre-Lent Retreat Day at Saint Devenicks, led by John Walker & Paul Watson.

## **Sunday, 7th FEBRUARY – THE TRANSFIGURATION**

*Usual services plus*

6.0pm – A Service of Evening Prayer & Meditation in Saint Mary's Hall.

## **Monday, 8th FEBRUARY**

11.00am Julian Meeting in Saint Mary's Hall.

## **Tuesday, 9th FEBRUARY**

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

7.00pm **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper** in Saint Mary's Hall.

## **Wednesday, 10th FEBRUARY**

*Usual service plus*

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

7.00pm Bible Study at Saint James'.

**Thursday, 11th FEBRUARY**

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

**Friday, 12th FEBRUARY**

11.00am Service at Modley House – Ellon.

**Saturday, 13th FEBRUARY**

2.00pm – 4.00pm Messy Church in Saint Mary's Hall.

**Sunday, 14th FEBRUARY – FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

*Usual services*

**Tuesday, 16th FEBRUARY**

7.30pm Lent Bible Study in Saint Mary's Hall.

**Wednesday, 17th FEBRUARY**

*Usual service plus:*

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

7.00pm Bible Study at Saint James'.

**Thursday, 18th FEBRUARY**

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

7.30pm Annual Business Meeting at Saint James'.

**Friday, 19th FEBRUARY**

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

10.30am Service at Bonnyton House – Ellon.

**Saturday, 20th FEBRUARY**

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

**Sunday, 21st FEBRUARY – LENT 2**

*Usual services plus*

6.00pm A Service of **Healing & Wholeness** in Saint Mary's.

**Tuesday, 23rd FEBRUARY**

7.30pm Lent Bible Study in Saint Mary's Hall.

**Wednesday, 24th FEBRUARY**

*Usual service plus*

7.00pm Bible Study at Saint James'.

**Thursday, 25th FEBRUARY**

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

**Friday, 26th FEBRUARY**

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

11.30am Service at Ythanvale – Ellon.

**Sunday, 28th FEBRUARY – LENT 3**

*Usual services*



Cartoon by Henna Cundill

# Answers to “Luke’s Story of Jesus” Bible Quiz

*Bertha Dawson writes:*

- 1 The **angel Gabriel** told Mary she would give birth to a son to be called Jesus (Ch.1. v 26-31)
- 2 **Caesar Augustus** was Roman Emperor when Jesus was born (Ch. 2. V 1-7)
- 3 Jesus’ most distant ancestor, according to Luke, was **Adam** (Ch. 3 v 23-37)
- 4 Jesus was born in **Bethlehem** (Ch. 2 v 4-7)
- 5 **An angel of the Lord** told the shepherds of Jesus’ birth (Ch. 2 v 8-14)
- 6 The shepherds **hurried to Bethlehem** to see Jesus (Ch. 2 v 15-16)
- 7 When Jesus was 12 he went to **Jerusalem** (Ch.2 v 41-42)
- 8 Jesus talked with the **teachers** in the temple (Ch. 2 v 46)
- 9 After Jesus’ baptism **the Holy Spirit descended on him** (Ch. 3 v 21-22)
- 10 Jesus was **30** when he began his public ministry (Ch. 3 v 23)

## “Women of the Old Testament” Bible Quiz

- 1 This queen came to visit king Solomon
- 2 Name the only witch mentioned in the Bible
- 3 This prophetess was Moses’ sister
- 4 This mother brought her son “a little coat every year”
- 5 Who was “the mother of all living”?
- 6 This woman deceived her husband to help one of her twin sons
- 7 Who called herself “a mother in Israel”?
- 8 Give the name of Jacob’s daughter
- 9 This Moabite woman came to live in Bethlehem
- 10 Name the eldest of three daughters born to Job after his tribulation

*Answers in next month’s magazine*

# PARISH DIRECTORY

## Rector

The Reverend Andrew Tucker  
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(07804 926522)

## 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)

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Marna Cruickshank, Brenda McRobbie, John Palmer,  
June Riddle, Peter Robinson.

## Saint Mary's Assistant Ministry Team

Hayden Barrett, Blanche Beattie, Alison Cowe, David Cowe, Chris Crosley, 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)*

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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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*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)*

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**Deadline for articles for the March/April magazine: 20<sup>th</sup> February**