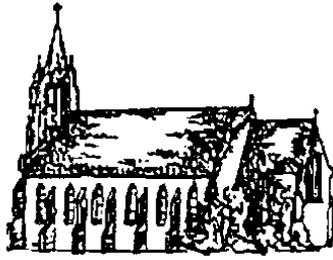


Saint James



Cruden Bay

Saint Mary



Ellon



May 2017

***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 -

8-30am Early Eucharist in Saint Mary's

9-30am The Eucharist in Saint James's

11-0am The Eucharist 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

Saint James's Processional Banner

Photo by Pam Whalley

See article in the magazine

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!

❖ Wall Hangings and Banners in Saint James's

❖ Mothers' Union

❖ May and Marna

❖ Easter

❖ Caption Competition Results

❖ Interim Rector's Letter

❖ All our usual features:-

➤ Diary of weekly church services and events

➤ Bible Quiz

➤ Recent events in both churches

Interim Rector's Letter

Dear Friends

Another month has passed and we have journeyed together through Lent and Holy Week. I would like to thank everyone who helped in so many different ways throughout this very busy time. The joint services with other churches in Ellon through Holy Week were well attended and very meaningful; the singing was wonderful and the home bakes - well they were just magnificent!

On Easter Sunday we celebrated the joy of the risen Lord and God's love for us, which brings us hope in this life and in the life to come. Spring is a beautiful time of the year and we see new life all around us, a time of new beginnings as we wonder at the beauty of God's creation. For Saint Mary's and Saint James's this will be a time of moving forward as both vestries begin the process of finding a new Rector. Please pray for wisdom and discernment that the right person will be found to take you on the next stage of your journey.

As a diocese we are looking for a new Bishop; again much prayer is needed. An Electoral Synod was held on Saturday April 22nd, when a mandate was issued for new election.

The timetable is now:-

- 6th May Electoral Synod and Preparatory Committee meet.
 Adverts will be placed for new nominations.
- 30th May Preparatory committee review nominations.
 Questionnaires will be sent out.
- 22nd June Preparatory Committee review questionnaires.
 Nominees called for interview.
- 13th July Interviews, and Declaration of shortlist drawn up by
 Preparatory Committee sent to Electoral Synod.
- 12th August Meeting of candidates with Electoral Synod.
- 19th August Electoral meeting when new Bishop will be elected.

I hope you find this timetable helpful; if you have any queries please speak to David Crosley, John Palmer or me.

Finally, a thought to leave you with. It is so easy at this very busy time of year to become too busy, with so many things seeming to need our attention. No is a very small word but it can be very difficult to say. Remember that God in His wisdom made us ‘human beings’ not ‘human doings’.

I hope that you will all be blessed by the beauty of God’s creation that surrounds you and that you will find joy and peace in all that you do.

With blessings to you and those you love,

Sylvia

May and Marna

A recollection by Gerald Stranraer-Mull

On Friday, March 7th, two funerals took place three hours apart – that of May Forbes in Saint Mary's in the morning and that of Marna Cruickshank at Saint James's in the afternoon. The two were friends and had much in common and in later years enjoyed holidays together in The Borders or The Highlands. Both May and Marna were a delight to know, filled with knowledge and common sense and it was a privilege, as well as a sorrow, for me to be asked to conduct their funerals.

I had known May for 45 years and she was the very first person that Glynis and I met in Ellon. Bishop Easson (five Bishops of Aberdeen and Orkney ago) brought us to see Saint Mary's and Saint James's, meet some of the people, and see whether or not we might come to the north-east.

May welcomed us into her house in Ythan Place and it was the beginning of a friendship which endured down the years. My Mother and May became good friends too and many Christmas (and other) lunches were shared in The Rectory over the decades.

May was born near Stonehaven but moved to Ellon with her parents when still a young child. For more than ninety of her ninety-four years she lived in the village, and saw it grow into a town, and for all those years she was a member of Saint Mary's. She was the Vestry Secretary for 50 years and a member of the Choir for even longer. In fact, when I became Rector in 1972 she was the Choir, the sole member of it. She had a wonderful voice, one that could fill a church with music.

May loved her Church and would do anything she could for it. It was not, of course, her only interest – there was her work, first in the offices of Neil Ross in Bridge Street and then in Aberdeen in those of Aberdeenshire County Council and later Grampian Regional Council. Her work in local government involved the provision of school meals over a vast area and many kitchens. I have always assumed that the

great improvement in the quality of meals from those of my own schooldays was entirely due to May.

She was involved with many organisations, from Scottish country dancing, to Secretary of the House of Gordon and a member and office bearer of Ellon Ladies Luncheon Club. In that capacity she sometimes invited me to speak to the ladies. One occasion is etched on my mind. A courteous phone call from May invited me to speak on a subject of my choice. I said I would be pleased to do so and on enquiring when this would be, May replied “Actually, it’s in about an hour. I’ve just heard that our scheduled speaker can’t come and so I thought of you.” It was hard to refuse May anything and so I went – I have not the slightest recollection of what I said.

In recent years May took her vast knowledge of Ellon to the reminiscence group in the Library and also was one of those who recorded the news from local papers for those whose sight made it difficult to read. She was extremely grateful to all those who visited her at home and those who brought her to church. One of her last visits was to the annual business meeting, chaired by the Interim Bishop, and she was very pleased to be with so many friends. Her funeral took place on the day before her 95th birthday and she was buried in the place she had chosen for herself – in Saint Mary’s Churchyard, close to the baptistery window.

An early meeting with Marna Cruickshank stays in my memory. She came to (what is now) The Old Rectory - more than 40 years ago - to say that she would like to become an Episcopalian, a church with which her family had been much associated in previous generations. And so Saint James’s gained someone who was rarely absent in all the years which followed. She served on the Vestry and was also an Elder. She was born in Ivan Cottage in Cruden Bay and moved back there, from a house 50 yards away, in later years.

Marna taught Latin at Peterhead Academy, the school she had herself attended, and when Latin ended as part of the curriculum at Peterhead,

she moved to Saint Margaret's School in Aberdeen, where Latin was continuing.

Marna came on an early parish pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and on many other pilgrimages there (and elsewhere) since, and her ability to translate the Latin inscriptions in many churches was much appreciated by her fellow pilgrims (and also by this parish priest whose knowledge of the language declined after the O Level exam).

Some years ago Marna was involved in a serious road accident on the A90 in Angus and spent many weeks in Stracathro Hospital. She was eventually able to return to teach in Saint Margaret's School, while accepting her injuries with the natural courage she also showed on many subsequent visits to Aberdeen Royal Infirmary. She loved the large garden at Ivan Cottage and when its work became too much for her she was grateful to a fellow member of Saint James's, a professional gardener, for all that he did. She was also grateful to other members of Saint James's for their help to her in the house.

Since her retirement from teaching, Marna's skills as a historian came to the fore (they were, of course, known to all at Saint James's for the history of the congregation she co-wrote with two other members of the congregation in 1993 to mark the 150th anniversary of the building of the present church.). Marna was consulted by many on the history and story of Cruden Bay and was happy to help everyone. Her writing skills extended to the Millennium Passion play staged in Saint James's in 2000. She co-wrote it with other members of the congregation and, the play - described by some, in a nod to that older play, as "Crudenammergau" - it had a considerable cast of actors, singers, musicians, stagehands, costume makers and caterers. The play attracted a full house each night and was a considerable success.

Marna had not been able to play golf for some years but retained her membership of Cruden Bay Golf Club. She liked the panoramic view from the club house and most of her entertaining took place over excellent meals in that magnificent setting. In recent years she had become an archivist at Saint James's and at the time of her death had

been helping the Diocesan Archivist with the digitalization of archives – proving that she was equally at home with ancient Latin inscriptions and the most modern technology. He speaks warmly of her work, and also of the lunches.

The last time I spoke to Marna was on the phone a few days before she died. She sounded very frail but wanted to make sure that I knew about the death of her friend May, which had greatly saddened her. Less than a week later Marna was buried with her parents in the family grave in the churchyard of Cruden Parish Church.

The funerals brought many to Saint Mary's and Saint James's. The churches were full and both May and Marna will be greatly missed – they both lovingly cared for their widowed mothers and both loved their churches. And, of course, May and Marna exhibited the marvellous qualities of the north-east of Scotland – kindness, courtesy and just the right degree of thrawn-ness. May they rest in peace, and rise in glory to enjoy life in a yet closer walk with God.

Mothers' Union

Carole Fox writes:

Last month, our MU members (along with many other people) mourned the deaths of May Forbes and Marna Cruikshank, who had both contributed so much to the life of our churches and indeed to the local communities. They will be greatly missed.

At our afternoon meeting on 4th April Sheila George gave an illustrated talk about a holiday which she and Beryl Mason had spent in Iceland a few years ago. Sheila's photos of the local scenery were excellent and I am quite sure we all felt 'transported'. Doreen Baillie gave the vote of thanks.

Our next gathering will be on Tuesday 2nd May, where the members of Ellon's Resource Centre will be coming to join us for a service in Saint Mary's at 1.45pm, followed by tea in the hall. All are welcome.

The next MU Hour will be at 11.15am on Saturday 20th May.

Wall Hangings and Banners in Saint James

Pam Whalley writes:

I have often been asked about the wall hangings in Saint James', - the Evangelists. They came about in the 1980s, just after major renovation work and re-decorating, when Gerald Stranraer-Mull - Rector at the time – commented that the walls looked cold and bare and it would be nice to have wall hangings.

I already had an illustrated book about the book of Kells and I loved the pictures. The Book of Kells itself is in the library at Dublin University and is one of many illustrated manuscripts produced in the middle ages in Latin. It was not meant for daily use, but sets out a lot of background to the spread of Christianity, and in particular the establishment of the monasteries who were major places for copying books and texts to preserve them on parchment.

The mystic symbols for the Evangelists appear in many manuscripts such as Lindisfarne and Lichfield. They also appear in churches as wood carvings and stonework. The references come from Ezekiel Chapter 1 and are generally referred to as living creatures; also Saint John had a similar vision written in Revelation 4 v7-9

From the first idea to finally hanging them on the walls as part of the 150th anniversary of Saint James in 1993 took 3 years. A lot of the time was taken in drawing up the designs to size and sourcing the materials. As usual preparation took time!





Saint James's Processional Banner came after a request for a banner to parade in the annual Walsingham pilgrimage in Norfolk in 1979. Graham and Rosemary Lund and family and another Saint James's family at the time, the Parry's, intended taking part and thought it would be nice for Saint James's to be represented.



The design was drawn up by Gerald Hill – a Lay Reader in Saint James's at the time. The saw with silver blade and gold handle is the symbol for Saint James the Less that refers to the tradition that he was cast down from a pinnacle of the temple in Jerusalem, stoned and sawn asunder by the Jews. Sometimes this is represented by a club, as some references say he was stoned and clubbed to death. The palm leaf and red background are both symbols of martyrdom.

The other banner in the porch for Saint Olave was made in 2012 as part of the Flower Festival when all the churches in the parish celebrated 1000 years of Christianity in the area. After the battle between the Scots and the Danes in 1012 at Cruden Bay, a church was built by King Malcolm II to honour the treaty after the battle and was dedicated to Saint Olave, patron saint of Norway and Denmark.



The tapestry of The Father and The Son hanging at the back of the church I have no information about. All I know is that it was given to Gerald sometime in the 1980/90s, but I don't know by whom.



It is the only one I didn't make!!

This information is as accurate as I believe it to be.

Easter

Jan Brooks writes:

It is now Good Friday and I felt I wanted to share with others what Easter means to me. I know by the time this goes to print we will be well past the Easter weekend but hopefully still in the run up to Pentecost.

When I was a child I went to Sunday School and learned about Jesus. I didn't or couldn't understand it all but I loved to hear the Bible stories of Him healing the sick and showing love and forgiveness. Even at a young age I knew what it meant to be sorry for doing or saying something I regretted and the need to be forgiven. I loved the hymn 'Oh Jesus I Have Promised' and looked on Jesus as someone who would love me and be my friend wherever I was and whatever happened.

At Easter time we would have new white sandals and fresh cotton socks and it was always warm enough to go out with just a cardigan on. And then there were the Easter Eggs – yummy!

As I grew up I veered away from the Church, not for any particular reason, rather that I had other things to do on a Sunday, and so it was many years before I went back. But I never forgot the Easter story and my friend Jesus who never forgot me. It took me a long time to understand why Good Friday was called such when such an awful thing happened. Then I started to experience death – friends, or friends of friends then distant relatives and then close relatives and beloved pets. The story of Easter gave me strength and hope during those times that, although gone from this earth, my loved ones were safe with God/Jesus and their spirit lived/lives on. That is the blessing of Easter.

And so it was, after my dear mum died, that Jesus, seeing and feeling my pain, brought me back into the fold once more. That was in 2003. In fact the 14th anniversary of her death fell on Easter Sunday, 16th April. As I rejoice in the strength, hope and faith that Jesus has given me I know that as He is with me in spirit, so is my dear mum.

Jesus said “I am the resurrection and the life, those who believe in me will live, even though they die, and all those who live and believe in me will never die.” (John 11:25).

Wishing you all many Easter Blessings.

Results of the ‘Caption Competition’

There was only one reply to this competition, which came from Charles Coulson:

“The grandchildren came to call.”



I therefore have great pleasure in Awarding Charles the First (and only) prize of a year’s subscription to this magazine!

TUESDAY AT TWO

OPEN HOUSE

EVERY TUESDAY

2 – 3PM

10 SOUTH ROAD

EVERYONE WELCOME

TEA, COFFEE AND CAKES



BRING NOTHING BUT YOURSELF!

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

CALENDAR OF SERVICES AND EVENTS:

MAY 2017

Usual Sunday services are:

8.30am 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:

Tuesday, 2nd MAY

1.45pm Mothers' Union hosts an Easter Praise service for the Resource Centre in Saint Mary's.

Wednesday, 3rd MAY

Usual service plus

11.15am Wednesday Fellowship Group in Saint Mary's Hall.

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

Thursday, 4th MAY

2.00pm Prayer Meeting in Saint Mary's Hall.

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

Friday, 5th MAY

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

11.00am Service at Slater Court – Ellon.

Saturday, 6th MAY

7.30am Saint Mary's Men's Breakfast in the hall.

Sunday, 7th MAY – EASTER 4

Usual services plus a baptism takes place during the 11am Eucharist.

6.00pm Evening Prayer & Meditation in Saint Mary's Hall.

Wednesday, 10th MAY

Usual service plus

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

Thursday, 11th MAY

2.00pm Prayer Meeting in Saint Mary's Hall.

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

Friday, 12th MAY

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

Sunday, 14th MAY – EASTER 5

Usual services

Wednesday, 17th MAY

Usual service plus

11.15am Wednesday Fellowship Group in Saint Mary's Hall.

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

Thursday, 18th MAY

2.00pm Prayer Meeting in Saint Mary's Hall.

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

Friday, 19th MAY

10-11.15am Mainly Music in Saint Mary's Hall.

10.30am Service at Bonnyton House – Ellon.

Saturday, 20th MAY

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

2.00-5.00pm Mary Mckinnell – Diocesan Communications Officer
hosts a meeting in Saint Mary's Hall.

Sunday, 21st MAY – EASTER 6

Usual services except service at Saint James is a joint one with Cruden Parish Church in Saint James.

Wednesday, 24th MAY – John & Charles Wesley 1791 + 1788

Usual service plus

11.15am Wednesday Fellowship Group in Saint Mary's Hall.

1.00-3.00pm Craft Group in Saint Mary's Hall.

Thursday, 25th MAY

2.00pm Prayer Meeting in Saint Mary's Hall.

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

Friday, 26th MAY

10-11.15am Mainly Music in Saint Mary's Hall.

11.30am Service at Ythanvale – Ellon

Sunday, 28th MAY – EASTER 7

Usual services except no service at Saint James, a joint service will be held at Cruden Parish Church at 10am.

A "Stall in the Hall" follows the 11am service at Saint Mary's.

Wednesday, 31st MAY – THE VISITATION

Usual service plus

11.15am Wednesday Fellowship Group in Saint Mary's Hall.

1.00-3.00pm Craft Group in Saint Mary's Hall.

Answers to “General” Bible Quiz

Bertha Dawson writes:

- 1 **Frogs** was the second plague on the Egyptians *Exodus 8. 5-6*
- 2 **Aaron** made a golden calf to please the rebellious tribes of Israel
Exodus 32. 22-24
- 3 John ate **locusts** as well as honey *Matthew 3. 4*
- 4 On the island of Malta a snake attached itself to Paul’s hand *Acts 28. 3*
- 5 A **dove** brought back an olive leaf to Noah when the waters receded
Genesis 8. 11
- 6 **Lot** escaped from Sodom and Gomorrah with his daughters
Genesis 19. 16, 23-26
- 7 The **tower of Babel** was designed to reach the heavens *Genesis 11. 4, 9*
- 8 When Jesus died the temple curtain was **torn from top to bottom**
Matthew 27. 51
- 9 **Joshua** led the Israelites after the death of Moses *Joshua 1. 1-2*
- 10 **Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego** refused to worship a golden statue set up by King Nebuchadnezzar *Daniel 3*

“Who is Jesus?” Bible Quiz

- 1 Isaiah prophesied that “the virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him “Immanuel”. What does the name mean?
- 2 Who called Jesus “the Lamb of God”?
- 3 Which disciple first recognised that Jesus was “the Christ, the son of the living God”?
- 4 Jesus said “I am the ----- of life. He who comes to me will never -- -----, and he who ----- in me will never -- -----
- 5 When Jesus taught in the synagogue how did the people react?
- 6 Jesus said “For even the Son of Man did not come to be ----- but to -----, and to give his ---- as a ----- for many”
- 7 What did Jesus promise He would give to those who came to Him wearied and burdened?
- 8 Jesus said “I am the ----- of the world”
- 9 What did Jesus use to explain His teachings?
- 10 Jesus said “the Son of Man has come to ---- --- ---- what was lost

Answers in next month’s magazine

PARISH DIRECTORY

Saint Mary's Interim Priest-in-Charge

The Reverend Sylvia Spencer

(01358 723193)

Saint James's Interim Priest-in-Charge

The Reverend Richard O'Sullivan

(01779 472217)

(E mail: richardosullivan01@talktalk.net)

Clergy:

The Reverend Carole Fox (01358 789693)

The Reverend Robert Spencer (01358 723193)

The Reverend Peter Whalley (01779 812511)

Saint James Assistant Ministry Team

John Palmer, Peter Robinson.

Saint Mary's Assistant Ministry Team

Hayden Barrett, Blanche Beattie, Alison Cowe, David Cowe,

David Crosley, 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 (07808 823976) 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 Mary Ferguson (01779 812556).

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 June magazine: 20th May