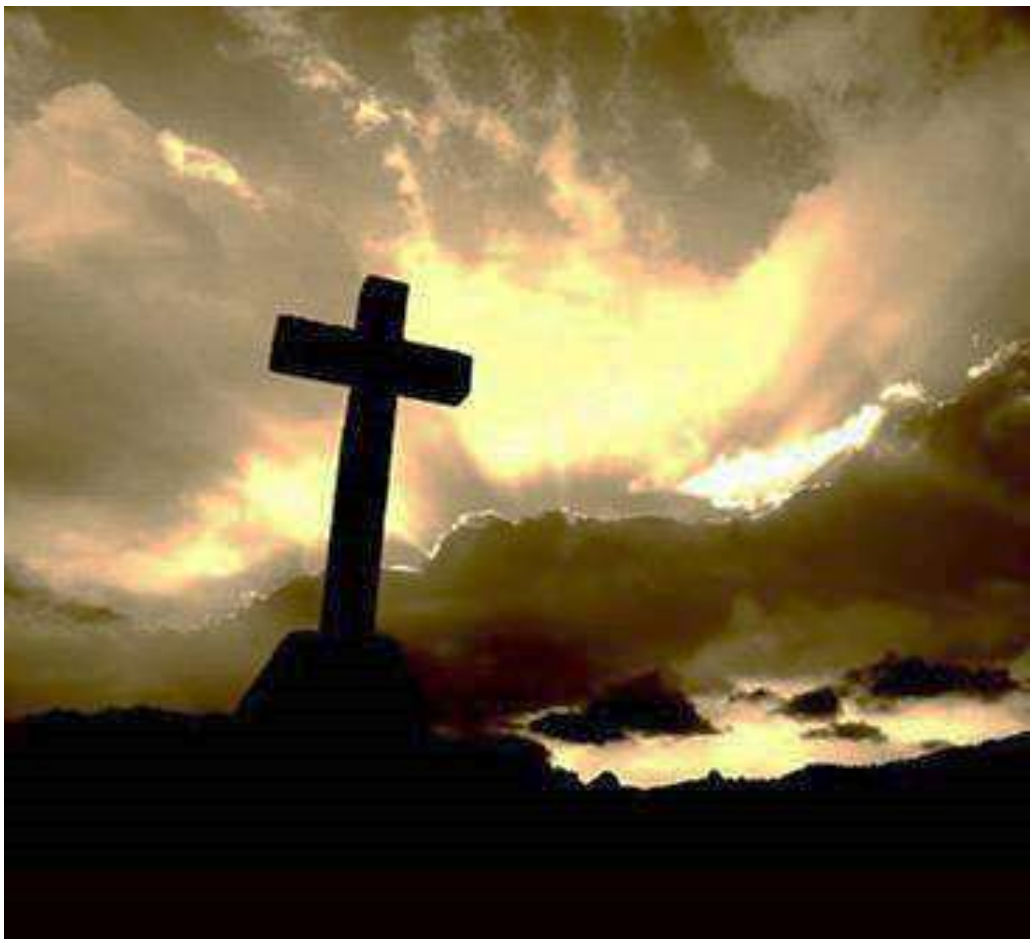
Saint James

Cruden Bay

Saint Mary

Ellon



APRIL
MAY
2025

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.

Our churches are open for communal worship:

The present Sunday worship times are -

9-30am The Eucharist in Saint James's
11-0am The Eucharist in 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

RECTOR'S REFLECTIONS:

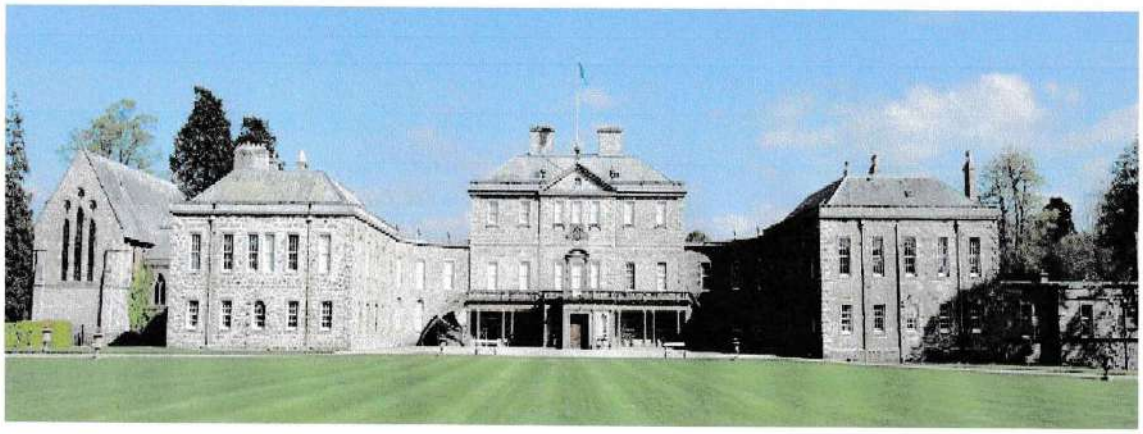
Christ won, so live courageously!

Turning on either the television or a computer today inevitably bombards us with a multitude of troubling and distressing news as one headline after another graphically illustrates to us some sort of disaster. This abundance of bad news seems to be part of 21st century life as now in this digitally connected age of instant information we can hear immediately about every catastrophe the moment that it occurs, and we can watch the trauma or the tragedy unfolding live before our eyes. Although broadcasting and computer technology has enhanced both the speed and the visual drama of any newsworthy incident when it appears on our screens, this situation is not exclusively a phenomenon of our life in this year 2025.

Two millennia ago, Jesus' disciples also experienced the fear of bad things happening. Even though their divine teacher, Jesus, had endeavoured to prepare them and to reassure them in the days and weeks before he died, they still were terrified. When Christ was arrested in the garden, his disciples fled in panic. Peter thrice denied even knowing Jesus, and the whole group went into hiding. Overwhelmed with the bad news descending upon them and their beloved Lord, they were filled with fear throughout the events of Jesus' arrest, trail and crucifixion. Terrified of persecution, they abandoned their Master and took cover behind locked doors. Jesus had said to them, *"In this world you will have trouble. But take heart. I have overcome the world."* (John 16:33) Despite those words of assurance, fear led the disciples to act contrary to their Lord's command to *"take heart."* Instead, they lost heart and lost their confidence.

When blow after blow of bad news comes your way, what is your response to life's difficulties, sufferings and trials? Are you able to *"take heart"* and live courageously? In Saint John's Gospel, Jesus said *"I have overcome the world."* He made that bold statement even though he knew that death awaited him. Yet by his resurrection, he proved most definitively his authority and power over death. This world tried to snuff out and permanently extinguish the divine Light by crucifying Jesus on Calvary's cross, but three days later the world witnessed how Christ wins. The ultimate victory over sin and death became his when our Saviour rose triumphant in Easter's great festival of the resurrection.

Jesus' presence is with us right now, just as it was with his first disciples. May God's gracious promise that he is in control strengthen your hearts to trust in him and to be courageous no matter what troubling or upsetting news comes your way. *"Take heart"* and rest calmly and confidently in the divine authority and awesome power of our wise and loving God. Two millennia ago, the news that the disciples received looked hopelessly bad, but like them we can go on to live courageously because our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ has won the ultimate victory. So rejoice, for therein is our salvation.

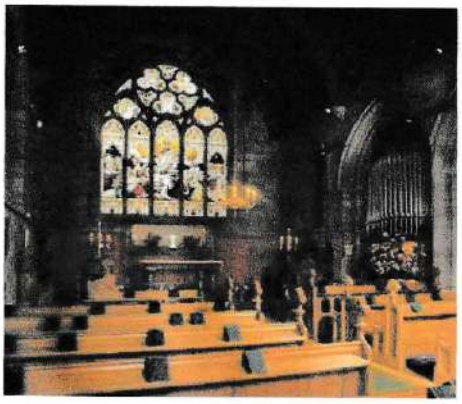


80th ANNIVERSARY OF V.E. DAY WEEKEND

EVENING PRAYER SERVICE

at

Haddo House Chapel



6.00pm on Sunday, 4th May

with tea in Haddo House Library from 5.00pm

Officiant: The Revd Dr Dennis Berk

Assisted by members from
Saint Mary-on-the-Rock in Ellon
and Saint James the Less in Cruden Bay

HOLY WEEK IN ELLON

13th April | PALM SUNDAY | Celebration of the Eucharist, with Blessing of Palms at 11.00am in Saint Mary's.

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17th April | MAUNDY THURSDAY | Celebration of our Lord's Last Supper, followed by the Stripping of the Altar, at 7.00pm in Saint Mary's.

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18th April | GOOD FRIDAY | Ecumenical "*Walk of Witness*" with the Ellon Churches, beginning at 10.00am at Saint Mary's.

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19th April | HOLY SATURDAY | Service on Easter Eve, anticipating Christ's victory over death, at 7.00pm in Saint Mary's.

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20th April | EASTER DAY | Early Ecumenical service with the Ellon Churches at 7.00am on the Auld Brig.

Celebration of the Eucharist of the Resurrection at 11.00am in Saint Mary's.

HOLY WEEK IN CRUDEN BAY

13th April | PALM SUNDAY | Celebration of the Eucharist, with Blessing of Palms at 9.30am in Saint James.

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14th, 15th & 16th April | COMPLINE | on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings at 7.00pm in Saint James.

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17th April | MAUNDY THURSDAY | Celebration of our Lord's Supper, followed by the Stripping of the Altar at 2.00pm in Saint James.

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18th April | GOOD FRIDAY | Prayer service in Cruden Parish Church at 7.00pm.

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20th April | EASTER DAY | Celebration of the Eucharist of the Resurrection at 9.30am in Saint James.

150th Anniversary of the Consecration of Saint Mary-on-the-Rock

Five months of anniversary events!

❖ Sunday, 25th May

Commencing our anniversary with a traditional *Book of Common Prayer* liturgy like what was used for worship back in 1875.

Guest Celebrant and Preacher: **Bishop Anne Dyer.**

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❖ Sunday, 22nd June

A personal anniversary celebration with the Rector.

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❖ Saturday, 26th July

Coach tour to Saint Andrews, Fife, with its ancient ruins of Saint Mary-on-the-Rock. Also calling at Dundee's waterfront and Dunfermline Abbey.

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❖ Friday, 15th August

Service of Marian Prayers at the statue of Our Lady of Ellon.

Guest Preacher: **Emsley Nimmo.**

***

❖ Saturday, 6th September = *Flower Festival*

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❖ Sunday, 7th September = *Patronal Feast*

The grand conclusion of our five-month "season" of anniversary celebrations!

Diocesan Synod 2025

By David Crosley

Having been the Lay Representative for our church St Mary-on-the-Rock for many years, I realise that many of our readers (if you did not hear my report in church on the Sunday after Synod) will not be aware of why and what happens at Synod. I hope to explain a little here.

The Synod of our diocese, as with all dioceses in the Scottish Episcopal Church, is held either at end of February or beginning of March each year. Synod consists of the Bishop, all instituted, licensed and commissioned Clergy of the diocese, the Diocesan officials, and the Lay Representatives from each parish of the Diocese.

So, what you may ask is Synod? In short, it is the annual business meeting of the Diocese, including the appointment of officials for the coming year / 3 or 4 years. Members also receive and vote to accept reports from all the various boards and committees that handle the ongoing work of the diocese. This includes the annual accounts. Bringing it closer to home, our Annual Business meetings in both Ellon and Cruden Bay are similar, but in a much smaller way.

Our Diocesan Synod is normally held and completed in one day on a Saturday. It is specified in the Code of Canons (the church rules) that we start with a Eucharist before moving onto the day's business. Larger dioceses may hold their synods over two (or even possibly three) days.

Relating to this year's Synod we started with the Eucharist celebrated in the historic and beautiful King's College Chapel of the University of Aberdeen; on completion, we moved to the University's Elphinstone Halls for coffee and business.

In general, the morning is given up to the business part of the day. After a welcome address, including the introduction of guests (this year from General Synod House in Edinburgh), there is a time of remembrance for members of the diocese who have died, and approval of the minutes of the previous year's Synod. A report from the Diocesan Treasurer of the financial state of the diocese and reports from the Diocesan Secretary. In accordance with the Canons of the Church, we then elect (or re-elect) both Treasurer and Secretary.

This year we said farewell to Dr Lorraine Paisey who had been the Treasurer of the Diocese for more than 20 years. Regrettably there were no nominations for the role, but as the diocese has an Assistant Treasurer (a salaried person) there will not be a problem in maintaining the day to day running of the accounts, and there are discussions being held with known persons who may be asked to fulfil the position of Treasurer. Other elections required to maintain the requisite bodies within the diocese, are representatives from the diocese to the General Synod and Provincial Administration Board among others, and in our Diocese, the Standing Committee, Finance Board, and Buildings committees.

As with any diverse group (if that is how we can call the group of churches that make up our diocese) there are many organisations that are active, and they normally file written reports of their activities which are published in advance of the Synod. Normally these are 'taken as read', but there are opportunities to comment and ask questions on them if required.

Like all organisations there many notes of guidance or rules and this year we are asked to approve a change to Canon 22. So, what is Canon 22? The headline gives this description: -

Of Divine Worship and Administration of the Sacraments and other Rites and Ceremonies of the church.

To briefly explain: as we move on in time and general usage of language changes, some of the books detailing services that we use become difficult to understand in modern society. So, they have to be updated, but rather than just making the changes without consultation, the proposed alterations are published to members of the Diocesan Synods for approval and then sent back to General Synod in Edinburgh for either final approval or not. In this case, we here in Aberdeen and Orkney have given consent to the changes. What the other Diocese in the Province decided is not yet known.

The rest of the day is taken up with a general group activity. This year it was a display designed to show what the different parishes are doing that involves the community in their area. Ellon showed that we have an Ecumenical Men's Breakfast on the first Saturday of the month as well as the annual Flower Festival in September. Cruden Bay's illustration told of a very successful Folk Night that attracted over fifty people.

We were also introduced to a new member of the Provincial office in Edinburgh as well as a new project that will feature later this year, entitled Credo Nicaea 1700, a celebration of 1700 years of introduction of the Nicaean Creed that we use in our services. Finally, we were told of the subject for the Bishop's Lent appeal for this year, **'Days for Girls'.** Further details of the appeal will be made available in our churches in the next few days.

Business completed, the Synod was officially closed just after 3.30pm.

Continuing in God's redeeming grace.

It is no secret that our Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney has experienced some very stormy weather during the past few years as quite a number of scandalous and shocking headlines about the troubled situation here have made national news. Amidst such difficult and contentious circumstances, some of you have questioned whether there is any point in being a member of what clearly has been an embattled and besieged institution. Admittedly, it can be quite a challenge to commend with positive enthusiasm the Scottish Episcopal Church to people who have just read some more bad news about this diocese. But I still believe that it is very good and important for us to participate actively and prayerfully in the Church – both as it gathers locally within our two charges in Cruden Bay and Ellon, and on the wider diocesan, provincial and international spheres in which the Church is found. Not long ago, in the 7th February edition of *The Church Times* newspaper, Frances Ward wrote these wise words which sum up the vital nourishment for our souls that is found when we come together as the Body of Christ.

> "The Church has the redeeming grace of God at its heart: grace received through Word and Sacrament, every time we gather with other sinful folk, to worship God. Then we enter a graceful, spacious landscape, where each of us finds a place to be and to flourish as we turn towards the light of Christ. Whatever we've done, or failed to do, or had done to us, we are in it together."

Fair trade article 2025

Joy Hardy writes:

How many hands does it take to make a cup of tea?

When we boil the kettle in the morning, we don't tend to think of how many hands were involved in the cuppa we're about to enjoy, but countless people have worked to bring us our morning brew. Many of them are tea workers toiling in difficult conditions for low wages, but this does not have to be the case. Tea should be a force for good. Around the world, making someone a cup of tea (or coffee) is more than that simple act; it's a way of welcoming someone, showing care for them, and inviting conversation. Nothing brings a community together like a good cuppa, and there is no reason why it shouldn't be a fair one.

Amidst the global uncertainty we all face, one thing is for sure; the only way to effect change is by taking action together. Mid Formartine Fair Trade Group has been active for 17 years and in that time has managed to maintain a high profile for the Fairtrade label by encouraging support from local businesses, shops, schools, community groups and churches. On a national level, the group has encouraged our parliamentary representatives to support the Fairtrade movement, meeting with our new Westminster MP to encourage her support for the establishment of a Fashion Watchdog and lobbying our MSP before the parliamentary debate "Scotland - a Fair Trade Nation" which took place recently. Being part of this wider network has enabled St Mary's to continue playing a small, but active part supporting those hands at the far distant other end of the food chain.

Saint Mary-on-the-Rock

invites you to a

DAY AWAY COACH TRIP

Saturday, 26th July 2025

Departure – 8.30am from Saint Mary's carpark in Ellon

Visit the Dundee Waterfront

Followed by historic Saint Andrews in Fife

Short service in the ancient ruins of Saint Mary-on-the-Rock,
then free time for sightseeing and eating lunch.

Afternoon visit to medieval Dunfermline Abbey

Arrival – 6.00pm at Saint Mary's carpark in Ellon

Some moderate walking is necessary on this tour.

Total Cost - £35.00/person

(Payment by cash, cheque or bank transfer at time of booking.)

Great value for a daylong excursion!

Only 33 seats on the coach – book whilst seats are available.

To join this *Away Day* please contact the Office by email (parish@stmarystjames.org.uk) or telephone (01358 720366).

Book soon to ensure your place aboard the Watermill coach!

SPRING FILM NIGHTS

on

TUESDAY 29th APRIL

and

TUESDAY 27th MAY

at

7pm in Saint Mary's Hall, Ellon

All are welcome!

Refreshments served at the interval.

AUCHMACOY HOUSE

Daffodil Day

Sunday 6th April, 2025

1pm to 4pm

Buchan Pipe Band

In aid of Royal National Lifeboat Institution

Homemade Teas Entry £5 NO Dogs

Auchmacoy House, Ellon AB41 8RB

Digging Deep for Hidden Treasures

It’s mole season. Moles get active in springtime, especially during March and April, when they have young to feed. Moles are mostly out of sight, but they are very important members of God’s creation. They are often disliked because of the effect they can have on a lawn or plant roots in their search for food, but they have great ecological benefits, and the fertile soil mounds can be harvested for use by savvy gardeners, who make use of it in pots and beds.

The mole excavates its burrow by backward strokes and lateral thrusts of the front feet. Loose earth is moved and pushed to the surface by thrusts of the front feet. In excavating shallow runs, the mole merely pushes up the earth to form a ridge, again by lateral thrusts of the front feet while the mole is turned partly on its side. This enables better soil aeration, helps to dry it out and enables organic matter to travel deeper into the soil, thereby playing a beneficial role in the management of soil and the control of undesirable grubs and insects. They’re truly first-class ecosystem engineers.

Moles are insectivorous mammals related to shrews, and play a beneficial role in the management of soil and the control of undesirable grubs and insects. Their diet consists mainly of grubs, beetles, beetle larvae and worms. Moles eat from 70-100% of their weight each day, and the energy expended in ploughing through soil requires a large amount of food! In doing so, they serve the subterranean near-surface soil ecosystem.

Moles do not hibernate but are active most of the year. Because of their food requirements, moles have to cover a larger area than most animals which live underground. Three to five moles per acre would be considered a high population for most areas.

Who taught the humble mole to do such underground digging and taught them to do it so successfully that moles live over much of the world? Who equipped the mole with the anatomy it needs to do this subterranean work?

Digging underground is an art and a science. Those who design or operate oil-drilling equipment can appreciate the digging powers of moles! Innovative petroleum engineers deserve to be appreciated for their underground earth-burrowing technology. So, if you think serious underground digging is simple, try drilling for oil, or mine minerals from the earth!

But oil-drilling equipment cannot reproduce itself into generation-after-generation families of their kind, which do so much good. Yet moles reproduce successfully, and we don't notice or appreciate it. God, however, deserves praise for equipping the humble mole for its down-to-earth (or rather, down-under-the-earth) station in life.

Ready to be harvested!

PARISH DIRECTORY

Rector
The Reverend Dr Dennis Berk
(01358 720366)

Clergy:
The Reverend Robert Spencer (01358 723193)
The Reverend Sylvia Spencer (01358 723193)

Saint James' Worship Leader
John Palmer

Saint Mary's

Vestry Secretary of Saint Mary's is Mandy Davis (01358 721197).

Treasurer of Saint Mary's is Jim Pittendrigh (07925 785224).
email: treasurerstmary@stmarystjames.org.uk

Stewardship Promoter: Vacancy.

PVG Officer is Lesley Paterson (07774 938549)

Saint James'

Vestry Secretary of Saint James' is Mary Ferguson (01779 812556)

Treasurer of Saint James' is Steve Rainey (01358 751372).

Stewardship Promoter: Vacancy.

PVG 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 and Saint James' Magazine should be given to Mandy and Dick Davis (01358 721197) e-mail: melric@btinternet.com

Deadline for articles for the June/July magazine: 20th May