Saint James

Cruden Bay

Saint Mary

Ellon

AUGUST
SEPTEMBER
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

Front Cover
Excelsior
Photo by Stephen Warne
(See article about the Tall Ships)

RECTOR'S REFLECTIONS:

Remaining Fruitful for God

Little Johnny asked his grandmother how old she was. She smiled and answered, *"I am thirty-nine and holding."* Johnny, with a sceptical frown forming upon his forehead, looked intently at the many wrinkles lining the face of his grandmother. Then he said to her, *"How old would you be if you let go?"*

When advancing age brings physical infirmities and mental forgetfulness our way, we may be tempted to think that we have outlived our usefulness. For those of us who are 'chronologically gifted' the progression of years might make us wonder how productive we can be, and we may question how much we still can contribute to the life and work of building up God's kingdom here on earth.

There is an old folktale about a woman in Africa who lived in a simple home without electricity or indoor plumbing. Every day she carried water to her house from a nearby river, using two buckets at either end of a long pole to help evenly distribute the weight upon her shoulders. One bucket was shiny new and solid, whilst the other bucket was old and cracked. Each day, when the woman got home, the new bucket still was full of water, but the old bucket was almost empty. The old bucket felt bad about leaking out the precious contents, so he apologised to the woman. In response, she turned and pointed down the dirt pathway along which she walked every day between her house and the river. *"Do you see all those flowers growing on your side of the road?"* she asked the old bucket. *"Every day **you** water them, and my walk to and from the river always is filled with beauty."*

We live in a world that idolises youthfulness. However, throughout the Bible we are told of a righteous beauty that comes into the fullness of fruition even when we grow older and weaker, maybe even cracked and leaky. The Psalmist writes, *"The righteous flourish like the palm tree, and grow like a cedar in Lebanon. In old age, they still produce fruit; they are always green and full of sap, showing that the Lord is upright."* (Psalm 92:12,14)

People of mature years can contribute in myriad ways to the activities, programmes and ministries of the Church in a manner that some of the young cannot because older adults have lived longer, experienced more, had time to put down deep roots, and spent years trusting in God and flourishing in faithfulness. As my mother aged, inevitably some physical and mental limitations set in with the passage of time. Yet right up until her death at age 84, she still was a deeply committed 'prayer warrior' daily conducting an earnest ministry of intercession for her family and many others. Despite the wrinkles upon her face, my Mum continued to bear spiritual fruit for Jesus in her old age. May each one of us also strive to remain fruitful throughout the entirety of our lives!

Credo
Nicaea 1700

"I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ...

Communion & Gathering at

St Mary-on-the-Rock, Ellon

Wednesday 27 August 10 am to 12 noon

The year 2025 marks the 1700th anniversary of the first Ecumenical Council at Nicaea in 325 AD. In the Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney we're having three weeks of activities around the Diocese in May, August and December. We'll be thinking about what we believe and what this means for our Christian lives.

In August we'll be focussing on 'I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ...' the middle third of the Nicene Creed through discussion over refreshments or food. Following Communion (Bishop Anne preaching) we'll gather in the Halls.

What does it mean to our own Christian faith that Jesus Christ is begotten not made? or that the life, death and resurrection of Jesus is according to the scriptures? Join Bishop Anne and Canon Jenny for discussions, refreshments and the next set of Credo reflection cards.

To sign up to attend (not required) this or other Credo Week 2 events:
email Rev Canon Dr Jenny Holden christianlife@aberdeen.anglican.org
visit https://tinyurl.com/CredoWeek2

Did You Know?

Children's Hospices Across Scotland - CHAS

Sue Barrett writes:

In the light of comments made about CHAS and Macmillan at the ABM in March this year, it seemed to me that Saint Mary's historical connections with these two charities are not known by newer members of the congregation.

May I enlighten you?

In the seventies the Reverend Gerald Stranraer-Mull, Rector at that time, encouraged his congregation to support Martin House, a children's hospice in England. And we did! In the nineties when it became known that a children's hospice was to be built in Scotland our allegiance changed to CHAS. Not only did the church actively support this new venture but in 1997 certain members of the congregation decided to form a 'Friends' group - hence the current *Gordon District Friends of CHAS*. Norman Davidson, Moira Stott, Chris and David Crosley as well as Hayden and I were some of the founder members. Soon, others from the congregation joined - Beryl and Harry Mason, Blanche and Jimmy Beattie among them. The group is still thriving today, raising well-needed funds in order to run valuable services to children and their families across Scotland. In Aberdeen we now have a **CHAS At Home** team operating in and out of the children's ward, plus two hospices - Rachel House in Kinross and the other Robyn House in Balloch.

Macmillan Cancer Support

Sue Barrett writes:

The story behind Saint Mary's support for Macmillan.

In Ellon there was a local group who raised funds for two charities. One was Action Research for the Crippled Child (now Action Research)and the other Cancer Relief (now Macmillan Cancer Support). For one of their projects it was decided to hold a Flower Festival in Ellon Parish Church. Discovering there were no windowsills in Ellon Parish Church, Reverend Gerald Stranraer-Mull, our Rector at the time, was approached, and it was agreed that the Flower Festival would be part of the Patronal Festival at Saint Mary- on-the-Rock. As the only member of that committee who attended Saint Mary's I was tasked with the organisation of this event, latterly sharing the responsibility with Margaret Kaye. Last year we celebrated the 40 years of support for Macmillan Cancer Support from Saint Mary-on-the-Rock.

Quote from a current member of the congregation:-

"Saint Mary's congregation has always been so proud to support these two charities in their work to help those in life-threatening situations."

A Festive Feast for an Anniversary

On Saint Alban's Day, the Rector reached a chronological 'milestone' when he attained his 60th birthday. Not wanting to spend his 'natal anniversary' alone, he issued an invitation for everyone at Saint James and Saint Mary-on-the-Rock to join him on 22nd June at a *Bring and Share Luncheon*.

How wonderful it was for him to be surrounded by his Church family, and he was overwhelmed by the outpouring of affection and the cards and gifts bestowed upon him that day. People from both of our charges in

Ellon and Cruden Bay came, and the tremendous attendance literally filled the Hall with people – providing the largest birthday party that the Rector has ever had during his sixty years.

A festive birthday environment was created in the Hall by some volunteers whose spent many hours organising, decorating and preparing for this party. Their labours made the place look great and ensured that everything ran smoothly that day. The centre of the main room in the Hall featured a long table that was laden with an abundant array of savoury food items contributed by parishioners, and as the photograph shows it really was a feast fit for a king.

With so many mouth-watering mains from which to choose, it is amazing that anyone had room for cake. Yet these too proved popular, and a separate table offered a choice of several varieties from which people could select the one that appealed to their sweet tooth.

With about 80 people occupying several rooms in Saint Mary's Hall, there definitely was a buzz of excitement in the air and everyone seemed to enjoy the festive atmosphere and the friendly fellowship. Something that caught the Rector by surprise were the gifts that suddenly appeared and were presented to him.

Previously having collected monies amongst themselves, a card was given to Dennis, and he was (momentarily) left speechless at the generosity of everyone when he saw the amount. As he said in his thank you speech, all he had wanted was the opportunity have his beloved Church family with him for a celebration of his 'natal anniversary', and the monetary and other gifts were *"icing on the cake, and you know how much I like an iced cake!"* The Rector conveys his heartfelt gratitude to everyone. It was a smashing party, and he had a brilliant time. Hopefully everyone else enjoyed the celebration too.

Moira's Strawberry Teas

As a founder member it was Moira Stott's idea to have Strawberry Teas to raise funds for CHAS, a charity which was dear to her heart, as were all children! Over the years she and her daughter Alison together with family and committee members organised this special event, albeit latterly from her armchair! Sadly she passed away last December, so this year's Strawberry Teas seemed a fitting time to commemorate her life and work for CHAS.

She would have been delighted with both the weather on Saturday 12th July - a beautiful hot sunny day - and with the number of folks who came, 15 tables were filled and several had a second sitting! The atmosphere was most convivial and of course the cakes were delicious! To top it all £810.50 was raised for Moira's favourite charity - the largest amount ever!

Thank you to everyone who supported this event in any way, Moira would be proud!

Macmillan Cancer Relief

THEME:

"MEMORIES"

FLOWER FESTIVAL

AND

AFTERNOON TEA

Sat. 6th September

10am – 4pm

in

St Mary on the Rock Ellon

Refreshments at Flower Festival

The church will be open for the Flower Festival all day but there is a slight change in refreshments.

This year we are doing **Afternoon Tea only from 2-4pm,** no morning coffee or lunch.

Offers of help and/or baking for teas or for the stall will be most welcome. It could be traybakes, small cakes or maybe something for the stall. Please contact Val Griffin-Walker on 07795463030.

Tall Ships

Stephen Warne writes

A big thank you to all who supported Darragh Fiddes, our grandson. He has completed the Tall Ships Race from Dunkirk to Aberdeen. He was on watch from midnight to 4am each day and midday to 4pm. He had a great time handling sails, steering and being lookout. He enjoyed scrubbing the decks. His captain spoke highly of his determination and resilience. The picture here shows Darragh and the front page shows the boat he was on, Excelsior.

ECUMENICAL OUTDOOR SERVICE

of Marian Prayers

at *Our Lady of Ellon*

11.00am on Friday, 15th August

in Saint Mary's Churchyard

St Mary on the Rock Ellon

FREE Refreshments to follow in the Hall

Guest Preacher: The Very Revd Dr Emsley Nimmo

Dean Emeritus of Aberdeen & Orkney

Open Garden Afternoon

Kim and Andy Leonard write:

On the afternoon of the 12th July we opened our garden for charity under the Scotland's Garden Scheme. The haar just about stayed away and we had a mainly warm and sunny afternoon.

The roses were a little bit past their best but still giving a good show. The herbaceous borders, wildflower beds and ponds were all looking good. The visitors enjoyed a garden tour and most of them had tea and cake in the garden, chatted with us and with their friends and had a look through photographs that traced the development of the garden.

We had a wonderful variety of cakes to offer our visitors, thanks to the efforts of all who kindly baked for us, and the members of the Men's Shed had bird boxes, planters and other hand-made wooden products for sale. In addition, there was a plant stall offering plants that came from the garden.

The following day there were cake selection boxes available in St Mary's for a donation and thanks go to all who contributed to this.

Some folks who couldn't manage to get to the open afternoon very kindly gave a donation and we are very grateful for their kindness and generosity.

Huge thanks go to members of St Mary's, members of Ellon Men's Shed, and friends who variously baked, helped with preparation and helped over the weekend. We could not have opened the garden without you.

The sum raised totalled nearly £750. Scotland's Gardens take 40% to support Perennial (supporting people in horticulture), QNIS (Queen's Nursing Institute Scotland) and Maggie's Cancer Care. The remaining 60% goes to charities nominated by Andy and Kim: Saint Mary-on-the-Rock Church, Ellon Men's Shed and Alzheimer's Scotland.

Very many thanks to all who visited and helped.

Garden hints for Autumn-ish

by Capability Kaye

As soon as the flowers are over on your buddleia, it's time for the chop. You can be brutal and cut back by half. You won't kill it!

Your roses can also be pruned once flowering is over.

Harvest blackberries as soon as they ripen, before the birds do the job for you! MAYBE make jam. Apples and King Edward potatoes should also be ready for harvesting.

If you have a mind to keep perennials healthy, they can be divided. There's nothing like having free plants to use or share!

If you have any energy after all this chopping, give your fences/sheds a paint overcoat to protect them this winter.

Don't forget it's not too late for autumn planting. Get your bulbs in the ground soon, ready for a grand spring display.

Also, hardy vegetables: spinach, mizuna salad leaves and lambs lettuce can all go in. Hardy broad beans and peas can be planted and get established ready for a head start when the spring weather arrives.

Finished – time for a cuppa!

Ed: *Gardening hints are very welcome for this page.*

AUTUMN FILM NIGHTS

on

- **TUESDAY 30th SEPTEMBER**
- **TUESDAY 28th OCTOBER**
- **TUESDAY 25th NOVEMBER**

at

7pm in Saint Mary's Hall, Ellon

All are welcome!

Refreshments served at the interval!

POLICE SCOTLAND

Keeping people safe

The North East Crime Reduction Team
is coming to speak about frauds and scams.

Topics Covered:

Spotting Frauds and Scams
Strong Passwords
Keeping Your Device Safe
Banking Online Safely
Wi-Fi Security
Social Media Safety

Venue:

Saint Mary's Church Hall

at 2.00pm

on

Tuesday, 30th September, 2025

Silent Auction

Mandy Davis writes

You know how it is – you're getting something down from the loft - a suitcase for a holiday, the Christmas decorations … and you think, "It's high time I did something about sorting out this loft!" Well, NOW is the time! We need you to have a sort out before autumn!

Do you have items in good condition which others would find useful? Would you be willing to donate them for others to buy? In the autumn it is planned to hold a **Silent Auction**. It works like this – you donate items (in **good** condition, which you would be prepared to pay for), others make a bid on a sheet nearby for the amount they would be prepared to pay to acquire those items. Then the fun starts – others may come and decide they'd be willing to pay a little more for such a desirable item and make a counter-bid. All proceeds go to Church Funds.

Suggested suitable items might be: unwanted gifts, pictures/paintings, **small** items of furniture, household items, NEW electrical items, toys or games in good condition, jewellery.

Sorry – no clothes, shoes or used electrical items, thank you.

Or you may feel able to offer a service or promise, such as an hour or two of gardening, an item of cooking/baking, dog walking, a voucher for a local shop/café/restaurant, computer help or a man with a van!

More details nearer the time - any questions to me at melric@btinternet.com or 01358 721197 / 07733603454.

So, get sorting out those items – you know you want to! Thank you!

From the Parish Library

Touching The Void, by Joe Simpson

Try, Try, and Try Again

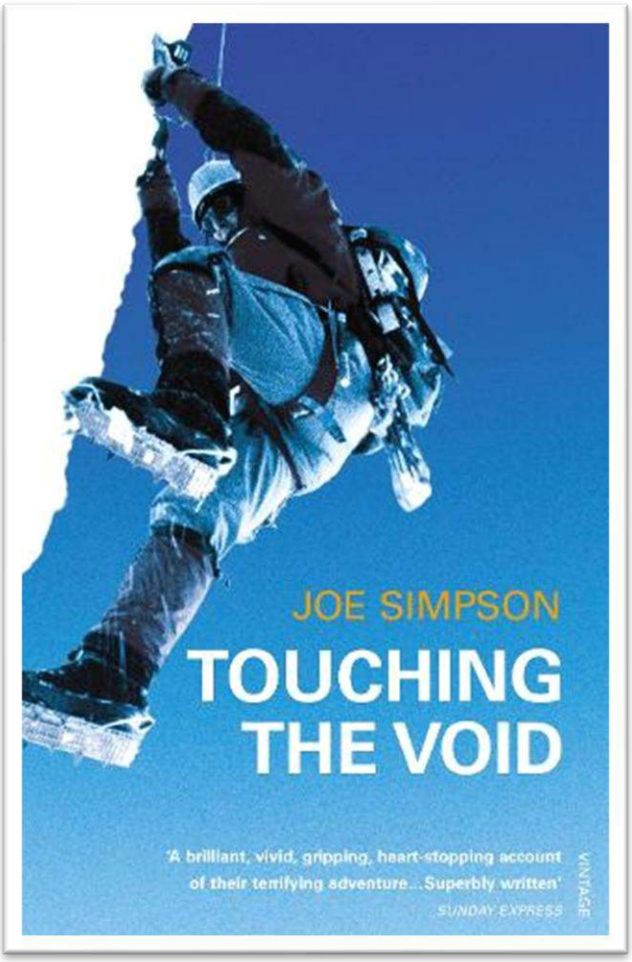
In June 1985, two British mountaineers Joe Simpson and Simon Yates made the first-ever climb of the West Face of the 21,000-foot snow-covered Siula Grande mountain in Peru. It was an exceptionally tough assault - but nothing compared with what was to come. Early in the descent, Simpson fell and smashed his right knee. Yates could have abandoned him but managed to find a way of lowering him down the mountain in a series of difficult drops blinded by snow and cold. Then Simpson fell into a crevasse and Yates eventually had no choice but to cut the rope, utterly convinced that his friend was now dead.

In his subsequent book on the climb entitled "Touching The Void", Joe Simpson wrote:

"As I gazed at the distant moraines, I knew that I must at least try. I would probably die out there amid those boulders. The thought didn't alarm me. It seemed reasonable, matter of fact. That was how it was. I could aim for something. If I died, well, that wasn't so surprising, but I wouldn't have just waited for it to happen. The horror of dying no longer affected me as it had in the crevasse. I now had the chance to confront it and struggle against it. It wasn't a bleak dark terror anymore, just fact, like my broken leg and frostbitten fingers, and I couldn't be afraid of things like that. My leg would hurt when I fell and when I couldn't get up, I would die."

The survival of Yates himself was extraordinary. Simpson somehow found a way of climbing out of the crevasse after 12 hours and then literally crawled and dragged himself six miles back to camp, going three days and nights without food or drink, losing three stone, and contracting ketoacidosis in the process. This would be the stuff of heroic fiction if it were not completely true.

Indeed, six operations and two years later, he was even back climbing. All because, against incredible odds, he persevered.

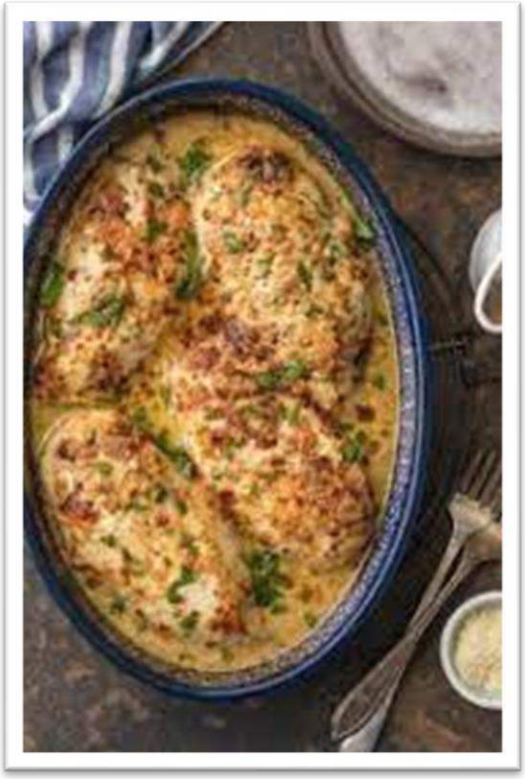


The editor of this magazine highly recommends this book! Reading it again recently after many years, I found it totally absorbing and compulsive! It's fluent and well written, with just enough mountaineering terms to make the reader want to look them up to understand better what they were enduring. It is an extraordinary, compelling read – a moving, desperate, harrowing epic of survival through unimaginable trauma. The realisation that each of them relied so utterly on each other was a testament to the strong bond of friendship the two men shared. It can be found in the Church Library in Saint Mary's Hall.

Creamy Chicken

Many of you will remember Joyce and Eddie Ellington, much loved members of Saint Mary's for many years. This quick, easy and tasty recipe came originally from Joyce several years ago. Thanks go to Beryl Mason for sharing it here.

Ingredients



4 chicken fillets
1 tin condensed chicken soup
1 level tsp curry powder
1 small tin sweetcorn
4 tbsp mayonnaise
4 tbsp double cream
1 tbsp apricot jam
1 tbsp lemon juice
2 slices crumbled bread
2 oz /56g butter/ margarine
4oz/115g grated cheese

Method

Empty sweetcorn into pie dish and place chicken on top. Mix soup with curry powder, mayonnaise, lemon juice, double cream and jam, and pour over the chicken. Melt the butter or margarine and mix with the breadcrumbs and grated cheese, then sprinkle on top.

Bake for 30-40 minutes at 190° C/ Gas Mark 5.

Your favourite recipes are welcomed for this spot in the magazine!

Saint Mary's organist, Erin Findlay, will be performing at this year's Edinburgh Festival Fringe, and invites you to come and see her perform as one half of the duo *Finova.*

She'd love you to come and cheer her on!

PARISH DIRECTORY

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Saint James' Worship Leader
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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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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 October/November magazine: 20th September