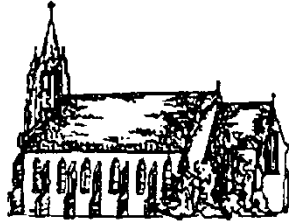


Saint James



Cruden Bay

Saint Mary



Ellon



February 2012

***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. A teenage group meets weekly in the Hall at 9-30am and alternate Sundays at 7.30pm.

There are celebrations of the Eucharist each Wednesday at 10-0am at Saint Mary's and each Thursday at 11-0am at Cantlay Court, Cruden Bay. 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
Pluscarden Abbey
(see article about Parish Visits)**

Rector's Ramblings

The Rector writes:

This is the time we begin to look forward to spring. In the church's year we are approaching the season of Lent, traditionally a time for reflecting on the state of our faith life individually and together and perhaps to ask 'where to now?'

Just as one season moves inexorably into the next, so it is with the seasons of our lives. We do not remain forever the same physically, mentally or spiritually. Flowing water stays fresh.

We must not be deceived by the writer of Ecclesiastes who says wearily that there is nothing new under the sun. God creates each day anew and each day though seeming the same is different. Each day God reaches out to us through the ordinary as well as the extraordinary. Each day brings a new opportunity to grow closer to God and at the same time to one another and to become our true selves. Assuming we want to!

Shrove Tuesday is traditionally a day of preparation for the Season of Lent. The word is linked with 'shrive' which means forgiven. Confessing our 'sins' and receiving God's forgiveness is the foundation of authentic Christian growth. No need for sackcloth and ashes, just a sense of proportion, realism and honesty which is never so proud as to think we don't need it. This is a personal thing but it is also a corporate thing; institutions need repentance, even churches.

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!
- ❖ Mothers' Union
- ❖ The Nativity
- ❖ An Advent Reflection
- ❖ Samaritans Christmas Card Appeal
- ❖ Bible Class (New Series)
- ❖ Parish Visits 2012
- ❖ Lent Course
- ❖ Christian Aid
- ❖ Glasgow Children's Holiday Scheme
- ❖ All our usual features:-
 - The Rector's Ramblings
 - Diary of weekly church services and events
 - Bible Quiz
 - Recent events in both churches

Forgiveness enables a new start. As the hymn says we are new every morning. It's just that we have a problem realising this.

Bible Class

(New series)

We are never too old or young to progress in understanding. For the next few months we are going to work our way through Saint Paul's Letter to the Colossians. All you need is a bible and a willingness to learn and grow in Christian discipleship. And some time to think, reflect and pray. Each reflection will repay several readings.

Paul points his readers to the grace of God fully realised in Christ and works out practical pointers to living from these great principles. Our task is to bring those same principles to our own day and situation.

Read Colossians 1.1-14

'... so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord'
(v.10)

This opening passage of Paul's letter to the Church in Colossae contains two key images. In verses 13-14, the chief metaphor is that of the Exodus. The Greek words for 'rescue' (v.13) and 'redemption' (v. 14) echo early baptismal liturgies and remind us that baptism is an Exodus from the world of darkness into the world of light.

The other metaphor in this passage speaks not of believers being transferred from one external realm to another, but of the gospel being planted within the life of each person. Here, Paul's prayer is that the faithful in Colossae may grow in faith. It is not enough to be transplanted by faith into the kingdom of light; now growth in holiness is expected. The metaphors are organic: believers are to allow themselves to be 'filled' with wisdom (v.9); to 'grow in knowledge of God' (v.10); to be 'made strong' (v.11); and to 'bear fruit' (v.10).

The logic is typical of Paul's thought. He is praying that the Christians in Colossi will become what they are: children of light. In this way Paul holds together being made right with God (justification) and growing in holiness (sanctification). We are transferred from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light simply by trusting in Christ. That, however, is only the beginning of the work that Christ wishes to complete in us. We are now to cooperate with him by allowing his faith and hope and love to expand within and among us.

Samaritans Christmas Card Appeal

Mari Mander writes:

'People ask for all kinds of things at Christmas and it's not always what you expect'.

These were the words of one of the many Samaritan volunteers who give time and energy over the Christmas period and beyond to be a listening ear

192,308 people called over a 2 week period. That's one call every 5 seconds and all they wanted was someone to talk to.

Christmas can be a lonely and difficult time for so many people. Some are hugely overwhelmed with problems in their lives, spending time with family could be equally stressful, some were really alone.

Every call is different but people seem so relieved that there was *someone* they could talk to. The Samaritans really on the generosity of people to keep the service running.

So, a very BIG thank you for all those who supported Saint Mary's Christmas card appeal - £300.00 was raised!

Look out for the appeal next Christmas.

Christian Aid

Judith Legg writes:

If enough volunteers can be found, the Global group are planning a can collection in the Ellon Tesco store for Christian Aid. This will take place on Wed 7th and Thurs 8th March.

In order to make this possible we would like to appeal for volunteers to man the collection. If we have enough people, the plan is to have two collectors working together between 09:30 and 18:00. We would appreciate any time you can give

us, but are looking at a maximum of 2 hours at a stint.

If you can help please add your name, contact details and preferred time of collection to the sheet at the back of the church or contact Judith Legg (01358 789882).

When we have a list of volunteers we will draw up a rota which (hopefully!) covers everyone's preferences and get back to you to let you know your allocated time and make sure that it is suitable for you.

Please could you give your name by Monday 20th February so that we can make arrangements as required.

Many thanks for your help.

Global Group

Save The Date

Tracey Davidson writes:

The NE Youth Event (S1-S6) for the youth of Ellon, Peterhead and Turriff churches, and their friends will be held on Saturday 17th March, 7.00pm at St Peters Church, Peterhead until 9.00pm (ish).

Fun, Food and Faith – ALL WELCOME

Saint James' and Saint Mary's Lent Course 2012

“HANDING ON THE TORCH”

Sacred words for a secular world

Saint Mary's: *Tuesdays at 7.30pm – repeated on
Wednesdays at 3.00pm*

Saint James': *Wednesdays at 7.30pm*

“Christianity is the largest movement the world has ever seen. It continues to grow at an immense pace – especially in Asia (including China), Africa and Latin America. At the same time, Christianity in the West struggles to grow – and perhaps even to survive. In this course we consider some of the reasons for this and what it might mean for individual Christians, for churches and for Western culture, in a world where alternative beliefs are increasingly on offer,”

Week beginning	Topic	Quotes and Questions from the Course
27th February	A Christian Country?	‘The Archbishop of Canterbury said that many government initiatives assumed that faith ‘is a problem .. an eccentricity .. practised by oddities, foreigners and minorities!’

Week beginning	Topic	Quotes and Questions from the Course
5th March	A secular Society?	Pope Benedict urged parents to choose ‘proper’ Christian names for their children. What do you think about this?
12 March	A Beleaguered Church?	Do you know of a local church where attendance is growing? How do they achieve this? Is church growth always good? Are declining churches failing churches?
19th March	Competing Creeds?	The German Chancellor, Angela Merkel, bemoaned the lack of Christianity in modern day Germany: ‘We don’t have too much Islam; we have too little Christianity. We have too few discussions about the Christian view of mankind.’
26th March	Handing on the Torch	Who handed the torch of faith to you? When, and how, did they do this?

Contributors:

	<p>Archbishop Sentamu - the Most Revd. and Rt Hon. Dr John Sentamu is the 97th Archbishop of York, and was previously Bishop of Birmingham. He is an inspiring and popular communicator of direct messages and deep truths.</p>
	<p>Rachel Lampard - has worked for the Methodist Church since 2000, with responsibility for the Church's engagement with political issues. She is Team Leader of the Joint Public Issues Team for the Methodist, Baptist and United Reformed Churches, and is also a Commissioner with the Gambling Commission</p>
	<p>Clifford Longley JP - is an author, broadcaster and journalist specializing in religious affairs. A Roman Catholic, he writes a column in <i>The Tablet</i>, of which he is also Leader Writer and Editorial Consultant, and appears regularly on Radio 4's <i>The Moral Maze</i> and <i>Thought for the Day</i>.</p>
	<p>Bishop Graham Cray - was appointed Archbishops' Missioner and Leader of the Fresh Expressions team in 2009. Before becoming a bishop he was Principal of Ridley Hall Cambridge. His special concerns are the engagement of the Gospel with contemporary culture, youth ministry and the theology of renewal.</p>



Dr David Hope - introduces the course. He was Archbishop of York from 1995 to 2005. On 'retirement' he took up the post of Parish Priest of Saint Margaret's, Ilkley. Now retired, he continues to live in his beloved Yorkshire Dales. In 2005 Fr. David was awarded a life peerage.

Canon Simon Stanley - Co founder of York Courses interviews the participants. He is Vicar of St Chad's, a Canon of York Minster and former BBC producer / presenter.

A Course Booklet with questions for discussion will be available, as will transcripts of the recorded conversations between the presenters.

This is a 'York Course', written by Canon John Young.

Parish Visits 2012

Fenella Lewthwaite writes:

We have two visits planned for this year, please do make a note of the dates in your calendar! If you think you might like to consider either visit, but have some questions about it, please don't hesitate to have a word with me.

Pluscarden Abbey, Elgin: May 11th – 13th

Thanks to the kind invitation of the guestmaster we are booked into Saint Scholastica's guesthouse for the above weekend. Accommodation is all on the ground floor, with single bedrooms and shared bathrooms.

There is a lovely communal sitting room and ample kitchen space. We will centre our visit around the services at the Abbey, with opportunities for walking or reading (or just sitting!) in between. Men would be welcome to stay at the Abbey and join us at Saint Scholastica's during the day.

Saint Drostan's Lodge, Tarfside September 21st – 23rd

We have been fortunate to secure a booking for Saint Drostan's lodge this year. If we're lucky it will be warm enough to have a barbeque! Set deep in a truly wild landscape this converted schoolhouse is a comfortable base for walks in the hills, and then sitting round the open fire resting aching muscles. Our prayer times in the morning and evening allow sufficient time for those who want to bag a Munro to do so.

Accommodation at Saint Drostan's, all on the ground floor, includes some twin rooms. Bathrooms are mostly shared, with a few en-suite. In addition to the sitting room there is a large craft/activity room. Young people who like the outdoors might enjoy this visit (although remember there is no TV and mobile phone signal is variable!).

Cost: Will be confirmed nearer the time but likely to be around £60 per person for accommodation and meals inclusive.

*Please phone **01358 761744** if you have any queries or e-mail me on fenella.lew@btinternet.com*

News from Saint James'

Peter Whalley writes:

Saint James's New Year Party was held on 7th January. Those who were able to come, enjoyed games led by an excellent games master in Peter Mander. The game winners were given the honour of being first in the refreshments queue. After the games the refreshments, which as is usual, were more than sufficient and were enjoyed by everyone. Altogether a very happy and relaxed start to the New Year.



A reminder that anyone is welcome to join the small group who meet on Thursday afternoons tea and a chat. We are supposedly a Stitch Group and most people do bring knitting, embroidery or sewing, but it is not obligatory. The group meet at 128 Braehead Drive Cruden Bay – the home of Pam Whalley from 1 – 4 pm Tel. 01779 812511.

The group have also bought two kneeler kits suitable for weddings and confirmations etc. One has now had the stitching completed and the other is three quarter finished. The work has been done by around a dozen members of Saint James's congregation.

Mothers' Union

Carole Fox writes:

Our Mothers' Union Branch began the New Year with an Epiphany Eucharist attended by twenty-five members and friends. We then had our annual business meeting on 21st January, and looked back over our activities in 2011. One of the highlights had been celebrating our 30th anniversary in March.

During the year we had enjoyed hearing a variety of speakers, we again hosted services for members of Ellon's Resource Centre and sheltered housing residents, and we exceeded the previous year's number of toiletry bags and gifts for Grampian Women's Aid. Thanks go to everyone involved, and also to those who continue helping with the Parent and Toddler Group on Friday mornings in school term-time.

Now a look into February : Charles Fox will be giving an illustrated talk on "Churches across America" in Saint Mary's hall on Tuesday the 7th at 1.45pm. Then on Saturday, 18th February, at 11.15am, three new members will be enrolled at a service in the hall. If anyone else is thinking of joining, do please have a word with me as soon as possible.

The Mothers' Union is a wonderful organisation which does so much for Christian family life throughout the world. Our branch is just a very small part of it. Please remember that membership is open to men as well as women, and everyone is welcome at our meetings (whether or not you have been enrolled) so do come along!

The Nativity

Sue Willing writes:

In the first week of January we were busy putting away the Christmas decorations for another year. Last on the list was packing up our Nativity figures. They were a present from my parents and I love to have them out, although, when the children were smaller I was always a little worried they might get broken, as they enjoyed acting out the events of the nativity with the china figures. As I was packing them up carefully in tissue paper and putting them in their cardboard box ready to go in the cupboard for another twelve months, I was thinking that it is a pity they have to be hidden away for such a large part of the year.

In reality the Nativity is not something we as Christians put away for another special occasion. The whole message behind it is that God gave us His Son to live on this earth with people from all walks of life, sharing in their everyday experiences, joys, sorrows and anxieties and helping them along the way. Jesus' eventual death and resurrection shows us that God is present in the world today and always, sharing in our lives, and those of the people around us. All we have to do is to ask Him in and open our lives to Him. The message of the nativity is that while it is precious and important, it is not something to be packed up in a cardboard box, relevant only for a couple of weeks a year, but is a message for every day of our lives.

Glasgow Children's Holiday Scheme

Pat Brennan writes:

After a few year's break due to family reasons, we decided to offer a break to a child through the above scheme. Children stay for a week during school summer holidays with a host family and share ordinary family life with them.

As we no longer have school-age children in our immediate family we were asked to take two girls who knew each other through a young carers group. Some of you may have met Caitlin and Celeste in church. We had a great time with them. The weather was good so we spent a day in Fraserburgh and visited the Lighthouse Museum and had a fun afternoon at the beach. Haddo House was very popular with the girls and Oliver, our dog, who was taken for so many walks he was exhausted by the end of their visit! MacDuff Aquarium was our other day out and we all enjoyed fish and chips on the beach at Gardenstown.

The girls enjoyed collecting our eggs every morning, preparing vegetables for dinner, baking cakes and making lemon curd. While these are everyday things for most people some families don't have time for this if some of their family need extra care.

We enjoyed a BBQ with our neighbours and the girls made dinner for Russell and me on their last day. When they boarded their train home laden with cakes and lemon curd and scones that they had

made for their families we knew they had enjoyed their break.

As a family we thoroughly enjoy having these children with us as we visit local places and see them with fresh eyes. The board games come out and are played with much hilarity and we appreciate the little things again that are so easy to forget in our busy lives.

We send cards, photos and letters throughout the year to several of the children we have met and although not all are able to return we hope this holiday has given them some very happy memories to recall.

For more information contact Glasgow Children's Holiday Scheme at 0141 248 7255 or email gchs@talktalkbusiness.net Feel free to mention our name.

SAINT MARY-ON-THE-ROCK - ELLON

AND

SAINT JAMES's - CRUDEN BAY

CALENDAR OF SERVICES AND EVENTS:

FEBRUARY 2012

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 and every Thursday at 11-0am at Sunnybank Nursing Home – Cruden Bay

Dramatize meets at 6-0pm every Thursday during term time in Saint Mary's Hall and

Saint Mary's Choir meets at 7-30pm every Thursday during term time in Saint Mary's Hall also

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 may 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:

Wednesday 1st February

Usual service plus

7.00pm Saint James' Annual Business Meeting in Church

Thursday 2nd February

Usual service

Friday 3rd February

10.00am Parent & Toddler Group in Saint Mary's Hall

11.00am Service at Slater Court - Ellon

Sunday 5th February – Epiphany 5

Usual services plus

6.0pm – A service of Christian Meditation in Saint Mary's Hall

Tuesday 7th February

1.45pm Charlie Fox gives a talk on Norman Rockwell (Part 2) on behalf of the Mothers' Union in Saint Mary's Hall

7.30pm Saint Mary's Mission & Hospitality Group meets in the Hall

Wednesday 8th February

Usual service plus

7.30pm Saint Mary's Vestry meets in the Hall

Thursday 9th February

Usual service

Friday 10th February

10.00am Parent & Toddler Group in Saint Mary's Hall

11.00am Service at Modley House – Ellon

2.15pm Service at Sunnybank – Cruden Bay

Sunday 12th February – Epiphany 6

Usual services

Monday 13th February

11.00am **Julian Meeting** in the Chapel of Saint Mary's Hall

Tuesday 14th February

2.30pm – Holy Communion at Ythanvale – Ellon
7.00pm – Saint Mary's Film Club in the Hall

Wednesday 15th February

Usual service plus

7.30pm Saint James' Ministry Team meets in Church

Thursday 16th February

Usual service

Friday 17th February

10.00am Parent & Toddler Group in Saint Mary's
10.30am Service at Bonnyton House - Ellon

Saturday 18th February

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

Sunday 19th February – Sunday before Lent

Usual services

Tuesday 21st February – Shrove Tuesday

12noon Ellon Fraternal meeting in Saint Mary's Hall
7.00pm Shrove Tuesday Party in Saint Mary's Hall

Wednesday 22nd February – ASH WEDNESDAY

Usual service plus

6.00pm Communion for Ash Wednesday in Saint James'

Thursday 23rd February

Usual service

Friday 24th February

10.00am Parent & Toddler Group in Saint Mary's
11.30am Service in Ythanvale – Ellon
2.15pm Service at Sunnybank – Cruden Bay

Sunday 26th February – LENT 1

Usual services

Tuesday 28th February

7.30pm Lent Course: "Handing on the Torch" -
Session 1 "A Christian Country?" in Saint Mary's Hall

Wednesday 29th February

Usual service plus

3.00pm Lent Course: "Handing on the Torch" –
Session 1 "A Christian Country?" in Saint Mary's Hall
7.30pm Lent Course: "Handing on the Torch" –
Session 1 "A Christian Country?" in Saint James'

Answers to “The Birth of Jesus” Bible Quiz

Bertha Dawson writes:

- 1 The angel Gabriel foretold Jesus’ birth
- 2 Mary was the mother of Jesus
- 3 Jesus was born in Bethlehem
- 4 Jesus’ first cradle was a manger
- 5 Shepherds were Jesus’ first visitors
- 6 Jesus means “Saviour”
- 7 The wise men were guided to Jesus by a bright star
- 8 They presented gold, frankincense and myrrh to Jesus
- 9 King Herod sought to kill Jesus
- 10 Jesus, Mary and Joseph found refuge in Egypt

“General” Bible Quiz

- 1 Who betrayed Samson?
- 2 Who was the wife of Moses?
- 3 Jesus prayed in this garden
- 4 Who was the father of Methuselah?
- 5 Jesus wept over this city
- 6 Name a shepherd boy who became king
- 7 Who judged Israel for forty years?
- 8 Name a king who visited the witch of En-dor
- 9 How old was Jesus when He was baptised?
- 10 Who was Joshua’s father?

Answers in next month’s magazine

PARISH DIRECTORY

Rector

Revd Canon Peter Mander
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)

Lay Readers:

Mari Mander Margaret Murray

Saint James Assistant Ministry Team (Elders)

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

Saint Mary’s Assistant Ministry Team (Elders)

Hayden Barrett, Blanche Beattie, Alison Cowe,
David Cowe, Norman Davidson, Mandy Davis,
Charles Fox, Sarah Goodyear,
Kim Leonard, Fenella Lewthwaite

The Vestry Secretary of Saint Mary’s is Hayden Barrett (01358 789703) and the Treasurer is Colin Frost (01358 721249). The Stewardship Promoter is Martin Robertson (01358 724031) and the Director of Music is Alison Stephen (01358 789613). The Child Protection Officer is Sue 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 Rhona Pittendrigh (01779 812252).

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

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

E-mail: melric@btinternet.com

Contributions for Saint James should be given to Norma Bowman

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Deadline for articles for the March magazine: 20th February