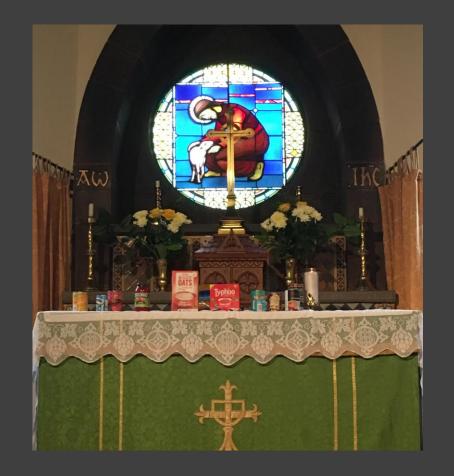
DOORS OPEN DAYS 18TH & 19TH SEPT 2021

ST TERNAN'S SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH MUCHALLS

AB39 3PP



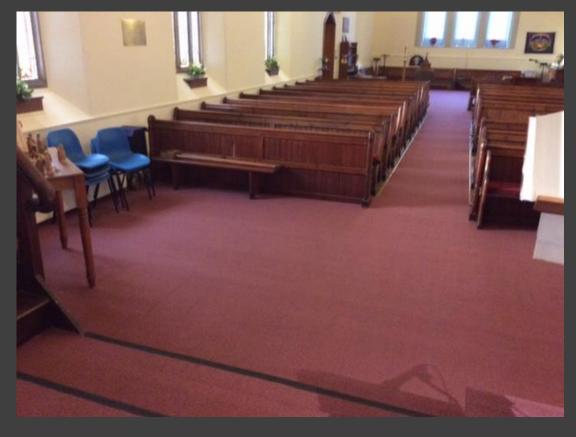




ALTAR AND STAINED-GLASS WINDOW AS JESUS THE GOOD SHEPHERD

• INTERNAL VIEW OF CHURCH LOOKING EAST





BACK OF CHURCH

AREA IN FRONT OF CHANCEL

The Episcopal congregation at Muchalls, one of the oldest country congregations in Scotland, has a continuous history from the Middle Ages onwards. The congregation was originally partly composed of the descendants of those who worshipped at St Mary's Cowie, and those who worshipped at St Ternan's Findon.

They joined together and worshipped at Muchalls Castle in the chapel of the castle about 1624. John Mylne is the first Priest of Muchalls on record, from 1662 to 1703. Episcopacy became disestablished in Scotland in favour of Presbyterianism about 1688 but it was not until 1709 that Fetteresso Parish church called a Presbyterian Minister a Mr. David Burn, who took over from Mr Gideon Guthrie the Episcopal Priest, favoured by the Earl Marshal. This Mr Gideon Guthrie also officiated at Muchalls from 1703 – 1709 and during his period of office the congregation at Muchalls was enlarged by Episcopalians who had originally worshiped at the Parish Church of Fetteresso. (St Kieran's).

Note that "Muchalls refers to Muchalls estate /castle not the village which only became Muchalls in the 1950's and was previously known as "Stranather"

In the year 1746 before the Jacobite defeat at Culloden, Cumberland on his way North burned down all the Episcopal Chapels. Muchalls suffered the same fate along with all the church records. Two years later, in the winter of 1748-1749 their Priest the Rev. John Troup, along with the priests of Stonehaven and Drumlithie were imprisoned in the Tollbooth Stonehaven, for a period of six months. This event was recorded in George Washington Brownlow painting "Baptism from Stonehaven Jail" where he used as his models, members of Muchalls congregation most of whom lived in Skateraw (now Newtonhill). Two of the present congregation of St Ternan's are direct descendants of models that George Washington Brownlow used in his painting. The original has been conserved and now hangs in the Cathedral in Dundee.

The congregation built a temporary chapel in the field next to Muchalls Castle then more substantial replacements in 1748 and 1770. In 1829 -1831 they abandoned the chapel beside Muchalls Castle, and a new one, (the centre section of the existing church) built on the present site. The Chancel was designed by Alexander Ellis (1865) and the knave extended (1875). With these extensions there was seating available for over 200 people in the church.

It was during this era of expansion that the church was renamed and rededicated "St Ternan's Muchalls", rather than "Episcopal Chapel at Muchalls", its name for the past two hundred years. The church is built on a prominent ridge of land and was used as a guiding mark by fisherman returning to Skateraw from the fishing grounds. The present church bell was dredged from the sea by fisherman in 1847, it was recast then rehung 15 years ago, in 2006.

In 2009 a Bio mass heating system with a wood pellet boiler, automatic controls of the boiler and heating system to church, extension and Rectory, and buffer hot water storage vessels were installed in an out-house next to the Rectory, supplying the hot water to heat the church, Extension, and the Rectory. The church is maintained at a temperature of 10degC through the week, and raised to 18degC for Sunday worship, or for any other time the church is in use.

In 2010 an extension was added to the North side of church with a kitchen, toilets, including one for people with disabilities, and a community room that can seat 30 people. The extension is heated from the same system that supplies the church. The money required to fund both the Extension and the Heating System was raised by applying for grants or from St Ternan's own resources.

The Rectory was rebuilt in 1878. It has two public rooms, toilet, and kitchen on the ground floor and a bathroom and four bedrooms on the1st floor. There is also an extension on the North side of the building containing a utility room, and a Parish room that was used for church meetings before the Extension was built on the North side of the church. Off the Parish room there is a further room where church records etc are stored.

The Rectory is supplied with hot water for central heating from the same system that supplies the church. A large garage is accessed from the main carpark.

The Rectory is at present rented out.

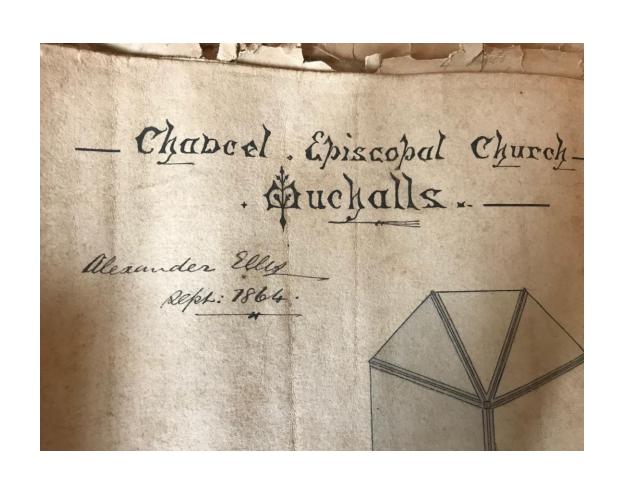
During the late 19th and early 20th century changes in the fishing industry resulted in population shifts from the small coastal villages into the larger towns and cities. By the 1930's the congregation had declined seriously. Despite this, the small congregations kept the church open and were served by clergy from St Peter's Torry until 1946. Since then, St Ternan's has been an independent charge with full-time and part-time priests-in-charge. During the several interregnums Lay Readers, Lay Eucharistic Ministers and Deacons have ensured a continuity of worship and celebration here.

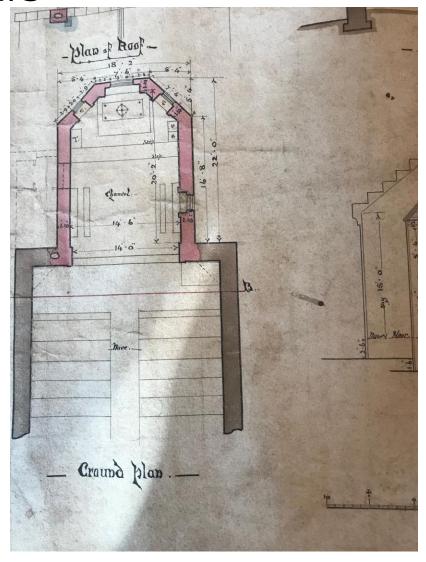
As the new millennium progresses the villages are repopulated and St Ternan's has, once again, become a vigorous centre for the propagation of the Christian message, along with the appointment of full time priest in charge and transitional minister from Nov 2021.

A Prayer of Thanks

Heavenly Father we thank you for the devotion shown by our predecessors in this place. Help us, who are custodians of what they put in place, to be good stewards of our inheritance, that St Ternan's Church can continue as a haven of peace for meditation, a well-ordered temple for the celebration of the sacraments, a radiant centre for joyful worship, praise and thanksgiving, a place of inspired teaching of the lessons of the scriptures, a welcome home to friends and strangers alike, a beacon to broadcast the good news brought to us by your Son, a place to confess, to forgive and to be forgiven.

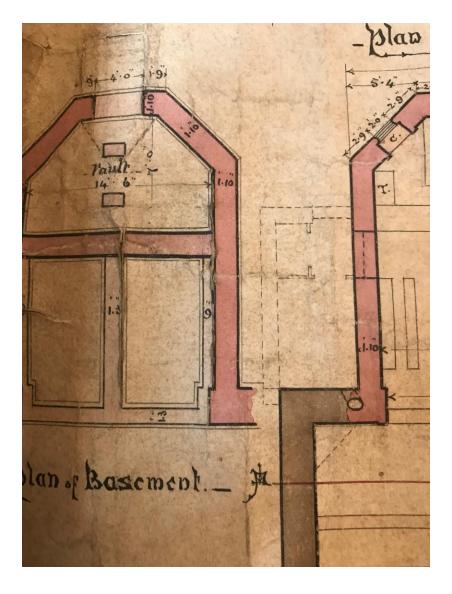
DRAWINGS OF CHANCEL DESIGNED BY ALEXANDER ELLIS





CHANCEL DRAWINGS





CHANCEL DRAWINGS

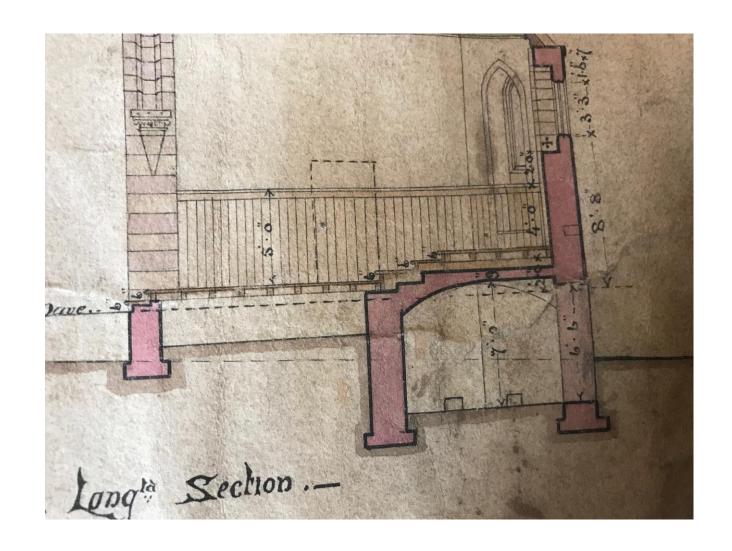
Ellis's design of the Chancel has a crypt built under the altar with the entrance at the East end of the Chancel. It has been blocked off as far as we can ascertain since the Chancel was added to the original building.

The original constitution for the church stated that a Priest who dies in service at St Ternan's had the right to be entombed in the crypt. When the constitution was last updated this right was removed.



Chancel drawings

The crypt is 14wide 7ft long and 7ft high quite a substantial space. They must have thought they were going to inter more than a few Priests!



FONT

The font has an unusual history.

Traditionally the font was said to have been discovered by Bishop Alexander Forbes (Diocese of Brechin) 1847-1875 serving as a water trough on a farm beside an ancient church not far from Inverbervie.

- To be used as a trough it is in remarkable good condition?
- Could it have belonged to a Roman Catholic Church?
- Is it normal to have panels as depicted on a baptismal font
- How did Bishop Forbes hear of it?
- Any way of finding out it's age?
- The supporting plinth is a late addition
- Any further ideas of the panel depictions?



Font panel 1&2

 The images, relating to the cross, are images of what Rome did to Jesus- scourge him, nail him to the cross

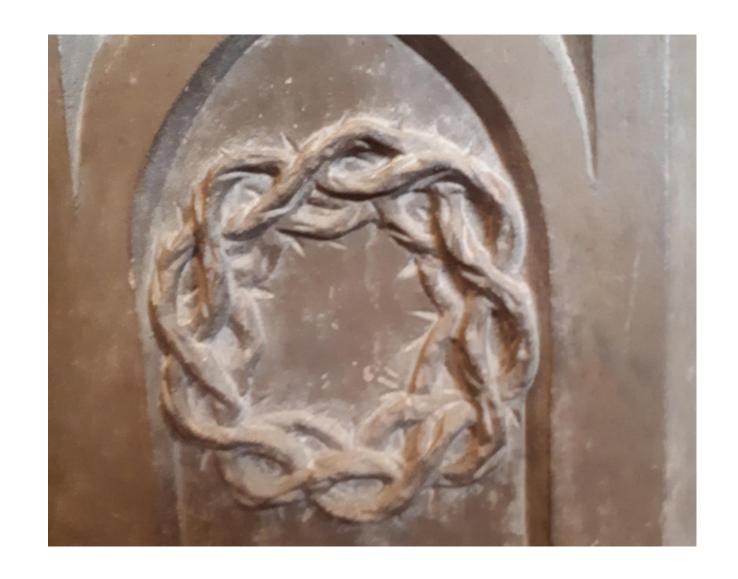




Font panel 3

The Crown of Thorns

Relating to the cross – The crown of Thorns.



Font panel 4

- The images of Pentecost and of the ichthus (fish) are images that early Christians used to identify themselves under Roman persecution.
- What does the letters under the fish signify?





Font panel 5 & 6

• The Chi Rho sign (XP) sign, and the soldier's items are reminders of the conversion of Constantine as the basis for the empire becoming Christian.





Font panel 7 & 8

- The star of David with the cross in its midst is the precursor to the idea of the Christian State.
- Any idea what the cross and the anchor depict?
- Links to the sea?





St Ternan's organ

- The piped organ was made by Wadsworth installed in 1875 and is still fully functional and played at services.
- St Ternan's was bequeathed a Yamaha electronic organ (CRP 440R) from Bill Stanley's estate, Bill was a member of the congregation and also a reserve organist at St Ternan's.



THE BISHOP'S CHAIR

This chair was donated to the Vestry of "The Episcopal Chapel at Muchalls" now St Ternan's by Mrs Officer of Stonehaven in 1839. It is of 17th Century manufacture.

It is used by the Bishop when they officiate at services at St Ternan's.

In 1864 a document containing an inventory of the church's furnishings and ornaments lists it as "one ancient chair, probably the oldest and most valuable article belonging to the church" This document also states that the chair at that time "was in a state of extreme dilapidation" The document was compiled by the hand of the RevW.H.B.Proby in 1864.

It was still in a dilapidated state until recently when, thanks to a generous donation, it was expertly restored.



GEORGE WASHINGTON BROWNLOW "BAPTISM FROM STONEHAVEN JAIL" (TOLBOOTH)



The artist models are believed to be the following. Holding the basket containing the child for the baptism was Robert Masson son of James Masson and Janet Masson born in Sketraw and baptised on the 14th July 1794 (They may have been members of William Walker's congregation). Robert was confirmed on the 19th August 1816. He married Jean Masson on 30th October 1824 and after her death he married Isobel Masson on 20th Nov 1836. Robert died at 15 Sketraw on the 4th November 1874 and was buried in Cowie Churchyard.

The woman holding the basket was Isobel, Robert's daughter to his second wife who was born in Sketraw on the 10th November 1842 and baptised on the 13th November 1842. She was confirmed on the 8th June 1856 and died of consumption on 24th February 1865 at 15 Sketraw and buried in Cowie Churchyard.

Behind Masson stood Andrew Christie holding the book son of Andrew Christie and Mary McLeod who was born in Stranathro on the 23rd June 1832 and baptised on 1st July 1832. He was confirmed on the 3rd Sunday after Easter 1844 and was married to Janet Masson on 2nd November 1861. He was lost at sea during the storm of 21st April 1880 along with three of his brothers and his son Andrew.

The woman in the "mutch" and red shawl was Robert Masson's second wife Isobel Masson, she was born in Cowie about 1811 and died on the 20th March 1893 and was buried in Cowie Kirkyard.

BAPTISM FROM STONEHAVEN JAIL - cont

The woman in the "mutch" and red shawl was Robert Masson's second wife Isobel Masson, she was born in Cowie about 1811 and died on the 20th March 1893 and was buried in Cowie Kirkyard.

The little girl on the corner was Jane Christie known after the manner of the times as Jane "Jo" and further described as "Souter Wullie's wife's sister. The boy with the broad bonnet was William Masson, father of William Masson, who was formally a cabinetmaker in Beachgate, Stonehaven, and latterly resided in Aberdeen.



The woman next to Mrs Robert Masson can be identified only as "Cowie Kirsty", while the minister in the picture was a Mr Skinner, a clergyman on holiday from Essex.

The girl in the tartan shawl is Ann Christie daughter of Robert Christie and Janet Masson who was born in Sketraw on 15th June 1854 and baptised on the 1st July 1854. She was confirmed on the 25th May 1869 at Muchalls. She married William Lees from Sketraw on the 13th April 1874 and later moved to Stonehaven with her family. She died at 1 Albert Lane Stonehaven on 26th February 1930 and was buried at Cowie. According to her, she and the more distant figure were merely intended by the artist to be passing spectators of the scene and Mr Brownlow afterwards gave her the shawl as a gift.

Some confusion arises over the identity of the woman bending over a newly baptised child. According to one source it was Isabella mentioned above, while another holds that it was her sister Elisabeth Masson. Much of this information was given many years ago by another daughter of Robert and Mrs Masson, Mrs Alexander Christie, mother of the late Mr James Christie, Castle Street Stonehaven, and was corroborated by Mrs Lees mentioned above.

The names of the relations of the various artist models and their dates of birth etc were supplied by Bob Mathewson of St Ternan's Scottish Episcopal Church Copies of this painting can be obtained from George Masson of St Ternan's Muchalls. At a cost of £7.50 for A4: £10.00 for A3: £50 for A1 plus postage

For more details contact George on 01569739283. Or Email: georgemasson@btinternet.com

BAPTISM FROM STONEHAVEN JAIL- context



- At the time of the persecutions 1746-50 when these parties were brought to punishment who had not taken the oath of allegiance etc to the King, hence called non-jurors and who continued to pray for the Prince (Bonnie Prince Charlie) and not for HM King George which by act of Parliament was declared penal. The Episcopal Chapel of Muchalls, which stood to the West of Muchalls Castle, was by order of the Duke of Cumberland raised to the ground. The minister Mr Troup was obliged to resort to places where he could find accommodation in to preach to his followers. One Saturday night he sent word around the villages of Skateraw and the Seatoun of Muchalls that he would on the following morning conduct a service at a place called Goudie. This is a large rock situated a little to the North of the Seatoun of Muchalls; the men from Skateraw (now Newtonhill) came round in their boats. The service had scarcely commenced when the watchman who had been placed on top of the cliff to give warning of danger came and told Mr. Troup that Cumberland's redcoats were coming. Someone having informed the redcoats that a service was to be held at that place. The seatoun villagers hurriedly made tracks for their houses while the Skateraw men went home in their boats.
- In 1748-49 Mr Troup minister of the Episcopal Chapel of Muchalls, (now St Ternan) Alexander Greig, Stonehaven, and John Petrie Drumlithie were jailed in the Tolbooth of Stonehaven for conducting services which were contrary to the laws forbidding worship with more than 4 people present. Even though they were jailed they still ministered to their flocks. The fisherfolk from Skateraw and other villages bringing their children to be baptised through the bars of the jail window
- George Washington Brownlow captured this scene in his painting "A baptism from a Stonehaven jail" The original of which belongs to the Bishop of Brechin.
- Mr Troup is at the jail window baptising a child brought by their parents from Skateraw or one of the other villages. Brownlow used local people as his models in the painting. Masson, Christie and Lees all can be identified. Today the descendants of these models take great pride that their ancestors are in the painting.

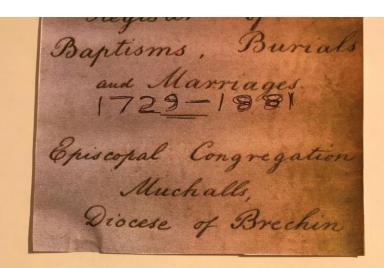
St Ternan's Scottish Episcopal Church Muchalls registers

St Ternan's Scottish Episcopal Church Muchalls Kincardineshire Scotland has produced two CD-ROM's. The first contains a direct copy of the register containing the Baptisms/Birth, Confirmation, Marriage, and Burial/Deaths of the congregation from 1729-1881 in JPG form as digitally copied from the original register by Dundee University Archives Department. An index of the register entries in alphabetical and date order is included using Microsoft Word. The index was compiled by a group of volunteers from the congregation and contains 2000 plus entries.

- The original register, which has been conserved at considerable cost to the congregation, is held in the Archive Department of Dundee University
- A second register dating from 1882-2007 has also been digitally copied and is available to purchase.

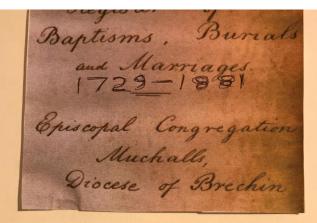
The registers are a fascinating record about the congregation of "The Episcopal Chapel at Muchalls" or as it is now known St Ternan's Muchalls. It is a testament to the hardiness, determination, and strong spirit of the people who laboured in the fishing villages and Farm Toons in this northern part of Kincardineshire.

On page 24 of the 1729 register is the record of John Troup minister at "The Episcopal Chapel at Muchalls" his marriage and the birth of his children. John Troup was one of the ministers who were imprisoned for his faith along with ministers from Stonehaven, and Drumlithie in the Tollbooth at Stonehaven.





St Ternan's Scottish Episcopal Church Muchalls registers





- On page 203 is the record of the loss of the Scaterow boat "Brothers" 15 miles from land with the loss of 5 of a crew. The crew all had the surname Christie.
- Page 195-196 the number of infants who died over such a short period of time.
 Some all from the same family. No MMR vaccine in these days!
- Page 194 Record of the shipwreck of the Brig Scotia of Grinastdt, Norway wrecked off Muchalls 1871and the burial of the Captain with some of his crew
- o Page 191 Loss of Life Dramatic detail of the loss of a fishing boat
- o 190 Death of Scaterow man crossing the railway line
- Page 175 capsized fishing boat -recovered body by probing along the pier in Scaterow

The registers and the indexes will be of particular interest to anyone that has links to the area stretching from Fetteresso, to the river Dee separating Kincardine from Aberdeen in the North, and West to Maryculter, Blairs etc. and who would like to trace their ancestors. As The Episcopal Chapel at Muchalls was not the Established Church Births Deaths and Marriages would not have been registered in the Church of Scotland Parish register so it is a source for those who cannot find the record they are looking for in these Parish registers.

PEWTER

- 9-3/4 Dia Pewter plate with 5 figured scalloped edges HIS inscribed in centre
- Mark: John Carpenter London circa 1714-1777
- Pewter Lidded Flagon: Height 9-1/2" in 6"dia base. Mark: James Wright: Edinburgh Freeman. Circa 1775-1800
- This pewterware would have most likely have been in use during the Penal Laws
- Prior to moving from the chapels in the grounds of Muchall Castle to the church's present position.





PEWTER

12 DIA Pewter Circular Alms Dish. circa 1800-1830 No Mark



Holy Sacrament Vessels

- The large chalice, silvered outside and gilded inside. This enormous vessel holds almost a litre.
- First likely used when the chapel was first built in it's present location1829/31
- Height 8" 3-3/4" Chalice and Paten Sterling Silver presented to St Ternan's by the family of Rev David Green in his memory.
- Ciborium height 5-1/2"
 Hamilton Inches Edinburgh 1911



