

St Ternan's Scottish Episcopal Church Muchalls
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St Ternan's Scottish Episcopal Church Muchalls Kincardineshire Scotland has produced a CD-ROM which 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
The church register presently in use at St Ternan's starts where the old one finished in 1881.

The register is 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 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.

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 1871 and the burial of the Captain with some of his crew

Page 191 Loss of Life Dramatic detail of loss of fishing boat

190 Death of Scaterow man crossing railway line

Page 175 capsized fishing boat -recovered body by probing along the pier in Scaterow

The register and the index 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.

Cost of the CD is £15 plus £1 for postage/packing. All proceeds to St Ternan's Church funds

For further details about the register contact George Masson Tel 01224 733583

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Saint Ternan and St Ternan's Church.

The Saint to whom this church is dedicated was born in the Mearns and was baptized as a child by St Palladius. He retained his Christian faith as he grew up and in the course of time became a priest and then Bishop (in 431 AD). He was thus roughly contemporary with St Patrick; but, unlike the latter, St Ternan did not leave his native land. He seems to have been based for most of his episcopacy in Abernethy, where he died. He was buried in Banchory-Ternan.

Ternan was canonised and continuously venerated for hundreds of years in the North and North East of Scotland. Numerous religious sites are named after him. It is suggested that, thanks to the strong foundations he laid here, there may have been a continuous Christian community in the North East of Scotland since the saint's own times.

The congregation of Muchalls represents the Episcopalians of Fetteresso Parish Church who were driven out in 1705. A meeting house was established at the Chapel at Muchalls Castle about 1708. An additional meetinghouse was established at Portlethen in 1738

The first chapel in Muchalls itself was built about 1624 as an adjunct to the castle. Hanoverian forces destroyed this first chapel as they proceeded to Culloden in 1746. As was the chapel at Portlethen. Simple, temporary chapels to serve the needs of Episcopalians were built in a field above the castle in 1748 and 1770. A more substantial building was put up in 1795 by which time the Episcopal Church was enjoying greater toleration from the establishment.

In 1828-1831 the old chapel was abandoned and a new one (the centre section of the existing church) built on the present site. Additions to this building allowed it to accommodate larger numbers. These additions included a gallery (since removed) and a lengthening of the main section.

The last major change came in 1865 with the building of the chancel. It was at this time that the "Episcopal Chapel at Muchalls", as it had always been known, adopted a new constitution and became St Ternan's Church.

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.

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 center 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.