

PASTORAL VISITING

Rev Sarah Brown is available for pastoral visits and can be reached on the manse telephone on 01224 539630 or leave a note at the cathedral office with your name and telephone number. If you have any concerns regarding covid, Sarah is happy to wear a mask, or test before visiting, please just let her know. Please note Monday is usually Sarah's day off.

Sarah is happy to visit members who cannot come to church for Home Communion. Elders should arrange a time with the minister to make these visits together. A member can make a request either directly with the cathedral office or their elder.

PASTORAL CARE GROUP

We are developing a pastoral care group who will undertake visiting those of our membership who might not be able to come to church any longer, along with others who might enjoy more regular visits throughout the year. If you are interested in joining the visiting team, please talk to Sarah or send her an email.

UKRAINE

We are continuing to collect for the Disasters Emergency Committee to relieve immediate suffering in Ukraine itself and among refugees fleeing the warzone. The collecting box is on the desk beneath the Archive Room on the South Aisle. Since we started collecting, this congregation has raised over £1000 by this means alone.

And of course, the city and the shire, like the rest of the country, continues to welcome refugees. There is no longer a need for domestic goods to assist their arrival, but the Presbytery are collecting names of volunteers who are prepared to help prepare flats for new arrivals. And of course, money is always needed. The Lord Provost's Charitable Fund is accepting donations. If you wish to know more of how to help in either of these ways, please speak to Alan Grant, Session Clerk or any elder.

FLOWER LIST

The flower list is now available for 2023 at the West End table. If you would like to remember or celebrate a particular event by donating flowers to the church, please write your name against the chosen date together with your telephone number so that the duty flower person can contact you. If you do not wish your telephone number to be displayed here, then please leave your details with the Cathedral Secretary. This is a lovely way to mark an event and to add to the beauty of the Cathedral.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

If you have children of school age who might be interested in joining the Sunday School please contact the office on office@stmachar.com for details of how and when to join, or just turn up on a Sunday morning

St Machar's Cathedral

Sunday 19th March 2023

SERVICES

Sunday 26th March 2023

11am Morning Worship with Rev Sarah Brown
6pm Evening Worship with Rev Sarah Brown

Sunday 2nd April 2023

11am Morning Worship with Rev Sarah Brown
6pm Evening Worship with Rev Sarah Brown

Sunday 9th April 2023

11am Morning Worship with Rev Sarah Brown
No Evening Service

OUR CONTACT DETAILS

Office (Mon, Wed, Thur, Fri am): 01224 485988 - office@stmachar.com

Minister: Rev Sarah Brown - sarah.brown@churchofscotland.org.uk

Session Clerk: Alan Grant – (temporary) a.bryce.grant47@gmail.com

*** CATHEDRAL EVENTS ***

THREE SPRING CONCERTS

Sunday 19th March – 4.15pm

Katherine Williams (Soprano) and Ben Marsden (Piano)

Animal Verses by R.B.Williams, and Music by Debussy, Faure and Poulenc.

Admission will be free, but a retiring collection will go to the two Nominated Charities.

CONCERTS

Aberdeen Choral Society are holding a concert on **Thursday 30th March at 7.30pm**

Aberdeen Choral Society under the direction of Paul Mealor, internationally acclaimed Composer, perform Rossini's Petite Messe Solennelle.

This delightful setting of a Mass is neither small nor solemn but is composed with a light and operatic flair and perhaps a little "tongue in cheek".

A team of distinguished soloists accompany the choir along with two acclaimed pianists John Frederick Hudson and Cyrill Ibrahim and organist Ed Jones.

Enjoy an evening experiencing Rossini's last serious work in the atmospheric setting of St. Machar's Cathedral!

The University of Aberdeen Concert Band are holding a concert on **Saturday 1st April 2023 at 2.00pm.**

The University of Aberdeen Symphony Orchestra are holding a concert on **Saturday 1st April 2023 at 7.30pm**

THE LEPROSY MISSION

The Leprosy Mission are holding a Spring Coffee Morning on **Saturday 1st April 2023, from 10am-12pm.** Admission by donation and there are various stalls and a raffle

PALM SUNDAY WALK 2nd APRIL – 2PM

The Donside Christian Partnership (of which St Machar's is joyfully a part of sharing Christian witness with our neighbours) will be sharing together on Palm Sunday, a walk starting at St Machar's at 2pm then walk along to the Cruickshank Botanic Gardens on the Chanonry (for those not so able to walk – meet us there). A short service of worship follows and quiet time in the gardens, including the opportunity to walk the labyrinth – then walk onto St. Ninian's Episcopalian Church on King Street for refreshments. All are welcome to come along for all or part of the time of fellowship, praise and prayer with our neighbours.

CHRISTIAN AID DROP-IN 30th MARCH - 10.30AM

Come and meet us for a coffee! We're thrilled to be able to get back out and about meeting churches and supporters in person. Please join Christian Aid staff any time between 10:30 and 12:30 at the Rubislaw Church Centre on Thursday 30 March for a cuppa and a chat. This is an informal time to meet other local Christian Aid supporters, ask questions of staff, and share ideas ahead of Christian Aid Week. Anyone is welcome so please do share this invitation. No RSVP is required, but if you are planning to come along, dropping us an email at edinburgh@christian-aid.org will help us plan the catering.

DISTRIBUTION OF EASTER CARDS

We could still do with a few more volunteers to help distributing cards around the parish. So if you are able, and have an hour or so to spare, please speak to Alan Grant, our Session Clerk, or any elder. We promise- no multi storeys!
It would be helpful if all cards could be distributed by the end of the week commencing 27th March.



School visit helpers needed



We have several primary school classes booked to visit us in March. Some are coming for a tour and ceiling quiz which lasts an hour. Others come for a tour followed by a craft workshop in Dunbar Hall which lasts for 2 hours. Helpers are needed to support these activities. If you could help, please be in touch by the end of February with Katherine on education@stmachar.com

LENT APPEAL

As you may know, we conduct appeals for food and sundries at various times of the year, in support of different partners. Throughout Lent we shall be collecting on behalf of Instant Neighbour, our local partners. Trugs can be found in the West End as usual, for the collection of donated items of food, toiletries etc. They will remain there until Easter Sunday. Please note that if you wish to help but find that taking food items to church is difficult, cash is always welcome, and a collecting box will be available on the table.

TEAS AND COFFEES

We are pleased to say that as from the beginning of March we will be increasing the frequency of serving refreshments after morning worship. We would still find it difficult to serve teas and coffees when there is a Communion service on, so in practice we will be doing it three Sundays out of four in the month. We are very appreciative of the work done by Kate Mason and her team of volunteers, and we know how much people like to enjoy each other's company after a service. We hope you will join us.

TURKEY/SYRIA EARTHQUAKE

This edition of the Weekly News is just another illustration of the number of desperate issues humankind faces and the number of causes which we would all want to support. And now we have the disaster of the Turkey North Syria Earthquake, with the horrifying level of casualties and devastation of buildings and communities. Our immediate response is to encourage those who are able to do so to make donations by visiting the Disasters Emergency Committee website (www.dec.org) where there is much information on ways to donate, rather than set up specific arrangements for donations to be made through the Cathedral. But we shall give that further thought. In the meantime, if you want guidance on how to donate, or wish to make further suggestions, please talk to the Minister or the Session Clerk, Alan Grant.

CATHEDRAL SHOP

We have had a new delivery of Fairtrade goods - chocolate bars, mini eggs, millionaires shortbread, Just 5 Bars and Divine chocolate.

Easter items now in stock. We have items hand crafted by our talented members and friends including sheep and flower covers for creme eggs plus felted bunnies and chicks. St Machar's Education Officer Katherine has put together an activity book which can be purchased along with our colouring pencils. A great alternative Easter gift for those who don't eat chocolate.

We have a new book in the shop 'Bygone Old Aberdeen and King Street' written by one of our members Pat Newman.

Have you had a look at our St Machar's Cathedral Tote Bags and Mugs on sale in the shop? The illustration is by Marra Evans who trained as a medical artist. Marra worshipped with us at St Machar's and is now engaged to Henry Eves who was one of our choral scholars. The tote bags are great inexpensive gifts.

INSPECTION OF ACCOUNTS

The Cathedral Bell Ringers, who are a separate charity, are looking for someone with appropriate experience and qualifications, to inspect their Annual Accounts. Their previous Inspector who gave them many years of support can no longer do this for them. So if you have a finance or accountancy background and have some time to spare, would you be able to carry out an inspection of what are a very straightforward set of accounts? The inspection of the accounts is a "light touch" form of audit and is a requirement from the Scottish Charities Regulator. For further information, please speak to Simon Lucas, or any bell ringer.

STUDY GROUP

The first sessions of the Book Study Group, reading "Being Interrupted", have been held. The next sessions are below:

Chapters 5&6 Wednesday 19th April 1-2pm and Thursday 20th April 7-8pm

Chapters 7&8 Wednesday 3rd May 1-2pm and Thursday 11th May 7-8pm

Chapters 9, 10 & 11 Wednesday 31st May 1-2pm and Thursday 1st June 7-8pm

Act 3 & Chapter 12, Act 4 & Chapter 12 Wednesday 14th June 1-2pm and Thursday 15th June 7-8pm

These will all be held in the West Gatehouse. We will check in with the pace of the book and set dates accordingly for the final chapters accommodating summer availability.

Copies of the book are still available at £10.00. Please do not let the cost of the book be a barrier. If there are other barriers that we can remove so you can attend, please speak to Sarah.

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED TO WELCOME VISITORS TO THE CATHEDRAL

In 2022 we welcomed 30,000 visitors to St Machar's or highest total yet. We are anticipating that this figure will be exceeded this year, we have more schools booking visits and cruise liners are due to arrive in the city from April.

Could you help us by being the friendly face who welcomes visitors to the Cathedral? All you need to join our team is some free time, a willingness to chat to lots of visitors and a welcoming smile.

You can sign up for a weekly, fortnightly or monthly commitment. The other option is to add your name to the volunteers calendar as and when you are available.

Our visitor leaflets and interactive display gives you the basic information to pass on to tourists and we can team you up with a more experienced volunteer until you find your feet.

If you would like more information, please contact Shona Mutch treasurer@stmachar.com or speak to one of our elders or volunteers.

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