

PRAYERS FOR PEACE

We continue to meet for 20 minutes of collective silent prayer in the Mitchel Chapel every Friday at 12 noon. In these times of conflict and anxiety across the world, we are reminded peace lives within us and is for sharing with all.

Parish Grouping – What's On:

ST MARY'S, KING STREET

Sunday 8th December at 2.30pm

An Afternoon of Christmas Music with the Northern Lights Singers

Soloist: Kenneth Petrie
Musical director: Harry Williamson
Guest Conductor: Euan Wilson

Entry £5 (to include refreshments afterwards)

ST STEPHENS

Mondays - new dance class for 55+, 10.30-11.30 - £20.00 per month

Wednesdays- Chatterbox - drop in cafe 10am-12noon

OLDMACHAR

Fridays - Community Cafe 10am-12noon. Adults £4.00 Children £2.00 which includes unlimited tea, coffee and snacks.

1st Saturday of every month - Ladies breakfast 9-10.30am - a relaxed friendly breakfast with a guest speaker chatting for a short while.

St Machar's Cathedral

Sunday 1st December 2024

SERVICES

Sunday 8th December 2024	11am Morning Worship with Rev Sarah Brown 6pm Service of Advent Carols with Rev Sarah Brown
Sunday 15th December 2024	11am Morning Worship with Rev Sarah Brown 6pm Blue Christmas Service with Rev Sarah Brown
Sunday 22nd December 2024	11am Morning Worship with Rev Sarah Brown 6pm Evening Worship with Rev Sarah Brown

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 – a.bryce.grant47@gmail.com

*** CATHEDRAL EVENTS and CONCERTS ***

IONA TRIP 2025

We are hoping to take a church group to Iona **23rd-29th August**. The cost of the trip is £792 (bed and full board) and transport is additional, with the possibility of using public transport for those who are eligible for free transport.

The Iona Community provide "community" accommodation, with shared bedrooms and communal bathroom facilities. The rhythm of the day includes shared meals, worship at 9am and 9pm in the Abbey Church, a morning of programmed activities and some free time in the afternoons. As part of community life, we take a share in household chores, of light cleaning or meal preparation.

A week on Iona provides opportunity to energise your own faith, to meet new people and to experience a different way of life and worship. Please speak to Sarah or Stuart, if you would like to know more or would like to sign up to come. If finances are a restriction, there are options to support paying in instalments or a bursary.

If you want to confirm a place, please contact Carol in the office before
Wednesday 4th December 2024.

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN CAROL SERVICE

The University of Aberdeen Carol Service is on **Wednesday 4th December at 7.30pm**

CATHEDRAL SHOP



Have a look at the Cathedral Shop after the service – we have a new series of cards depicting the pulpit falls made by Ruth Lough. We have copies of the Friends of St Machar’s book – A Living History.

We also have Christmas Cards, ornaments, chocolates, jewellery, scarves, 2025 calendars and various other gift ideas.

SCOTTISH ENSEMBLE

Concerts by Candlelight – Saturday 7th December at 7pm – in the depths of winter, warm your soul and explore a rich selection of music in some of Scotland’s most atmospheric settings. Enjoy melodies that weave between past and present, combining seamlessly to create a beautiful sonic tapestry.

Scottish Ensemble are a pioneering collective of musicians who champion music for strings. Their annual Concerts by Candlelight tour offers moments of stillness, contemplation and a captivating musical adventure.

A 75 minute performance including...

- Pēteris Vasks – *Musica Adventus*, Movements 1 & 4
- Caroline Shaw – *Stem* from *The Evergreen*
- Kaija Saariaho – *Sept Papillons*, Movement 4
- Arvo Pärt – *O Weisheit* from *Seven Magnificat-Antiphons*
- Johann Sebastian Bach – *Gott, durch deine Güte* and Movement 1 from Violin concerto in E major
- Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart – *Adagio* from *Gran Partita*
- Hannah Kendall – *And at pains to temper the light* (World Premiere)

Wednesday 11th December at 7.30pm

The UoA Symphony Orchestra, with Chris Collins as Conductor, return to St Machar's Cathedral for another wonderful night of music, including:

- Chaminade:** Callirhoë Suite
- Dukas:** The Sorcerer's Apprentice
- Mendelssohn:** A Midsummer Night's Dream Overture
- Ravel:** Ma Mère l'Oye
- Suk:** Scherzo Fantastique

Tickets available via link - [Music | University of Aberdeen](#)

THE ABERDEEN ACADEMY OF THEOLOGY

The next series of Aberdeen Academy of Theology workshops will be led by Dr Sara Mannen, the McDonald-Agape Research Fellow in Systematic Theology at the University of Aberdeen, and will be on the theme of God's power.

The sessions will be held on 18 January, 15 February, and 15 March from 9:30am-12:30pm at the Fountainhall Church Centre in Aberdeen. It would be great to see many of you there! If you know in advance that you're coming it would be great to have an RSVP so I can arrange catering accordingly. There's a charge of £10 (conc) / £15 for each workshop to cover hall rental and food.

Here's a brief summary of the themes that will be addressed:

We live in a world plagued with questions of power and its abuses. As we read the news and reckon with our reality, we often ask: Who has power? Who doesn't have power? How do we properly address and prevent the misuse of power? However, the most basic question is rarely addressed and answered: What is power? This series seeks to answer this question by theologically reflecting on and exploring the biblical text and the Christian tradition's understanding of God as the All-Powerful or Omnipotent One so that we can better engage the issue of power in the church and world.

November /December Education Officer News

Primary school visits are booked for December with the Advent theme of preparation for Christ's birth. Younger children will be making stars with a stained-glass look using tissue paper and sweetie wrappers, whilst older primary students will make a festive wreath with advent candles from coloured paper and felt decorations.

Secondary School During November we welcomed History students from St Machar's Academy to view the poppy display, commonwealth graves and discover how we remember others in our church. Their Eco Group came to learn about promoting biodiversity in the kirkyard and pupils sowed yellow rattle seeds along the path to the cathedral. This plant feeds off the nutrients in the roots of grasses allowing wildflowers more space to spread, as well as having attractive yellow flowers and rattling seed-heads. Harlaw Academy photographers from S5 and S6 are visiting and we are hoping to display some of their images early next year.

School challenge A Follow that Star design challenge has gone out to all schools in the city and shire to create and decorate stars for display over the Christmas and Epiphany period.

Family activities There will be a Christmas themed trail in the Cathedral of clay characters and images from the Nativity for young people to hunt throughout December and early January. A school holiday session is planned for Thursday 2nd January 11.30-14.00 so do bring your families along for tours, crafts and trails.

Cathedral Crafters – We had a convivial meeting on Monday 25th November preparing the prayer corner for Christmas. This will be added to during December – thanks to all who are taking part.

Kirkyard Thanks to our hardy gardeners, crocus and muscari bulbs have been planted – luckily before the snow came. We have had an offer of gardening tools from the City Council but if anyone has spares, they will be gratefully received.

Katherine Williams education@stmachar.com

BIBLE STUDY 2025

We are beginning a new bible study on the 2nd Sunday of the month in 2025, beginning in January. This will hopefully be an opportunity to deepen your faith by exploring scripture together. It will be chance to stretch our imaginations and build friendships.

Dates for your diary will be:

12th January; 9th February; 9th March; (no April meeting); 11th May; 8th June; (no meetings in July and August); 14th September; 12th October; 9th November and 14th December.

The group will meet in the Mitchel Chapel at 12.30pm for an hour. All are welcome to attend.

If you have suggestions of topics/texts you would like to explore or would like to assist in leading one of the weeks please let me know.

Rev Sarah Brown

CROSS REACH INITIATIVE

The woman's group are appealing for donations of any unwanted wool and buttons to enable us to knit Twiddle Muffs. These are for use with some patients in local care homes. Wool can be left at the shop The knitting pattern is available in the cathedral if any knitters would like to help.





WEDNESDAY WORSHIP AT KING'S COLLEGE CHAPEL

All are invited to join in the services of Wednesday Worship at 5.15 pm each week in term time in the University Chapel.

Do come along and enjoy this time of spiritual nourishment, which is followed by tea/coffee and biscuits - sustenance for the body as well as the soul!

CHRISTMAS CARD DELIVERY

As is our custom we will shortly be delivering Christmas Greetings around our parish and inviting all who are interested to join us at our services over the Christmas period. So, we are looking for volunteers who can spare an hour or two to deliver greetings cards door to door in the parish, or who can arrange for them to be available in shops, libraries or community centres. If you are willing and able to help in this way, please speak to Alan Grant, Session Clerk, or Shona Buxton, Convener of Outreach.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SERVICE TIMETABLE

As we enter Advent, you may wish to note the following special services:

Sunday 8th December 6pm: Service of Advent Carols a special service of music, to begin the approach to Christmas.

Sunday 15th December 6pm: Blue Christmas Service

Christmas can be a struggle some years because of all kinds of things. Sometimes a change or a challenge, a bereavement or a break-up can make Christmas feel full on cheer, when that's not where you are at. For others, it's taking time to remember a loved one who is absent at Christmas for whatever reason and having space to acknowledge the empty chair.

Please come along if you would like a more gentle space to welcome the season of Christmas, do come if you would like to be there to support others who are having a hard time this year.

Christmas Eve 6pm Christingle Service The usual popular family service, with lots of activities and participation for children.

Christmas Eve 11pm: Watchnight Service The traditional service of readings and carols as we await the coming of Christmas.

Christmas Day 11am Communion Service