

PRAYERS FOR PEACE

We continue to meet for 20 minutes of collective silent prayer in the Mitchell 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 8th December 2024

SERVICES

- 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
- Tuesday 24th December 2024** 6pm Christingle
- Tuesday 24th December 2024** 11pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols
- Wednesday 25th December 2024** 11am Morning 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 *****

You are invited to stay for coffee/tea which will be served in the side aisle after the service.

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FORTHCOMING SERVICES IN THE CATHEDRAL

6.00 pm this evening – Evening Service with Holy Communion

12.00 on Friday – Midday Prayers

11.00 am and 6.00 pm next Sunday – services led by the Rev Sarah Brown

ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

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](#)

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.

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

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

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

ADVENT FOODBANK COLLECTION

A number of people have been asking what is happening with the Advent Foodbank Collection. Many of you will remember that it has been our custom to have a collection over Advent for one of our Foodbank partners, recently Instant Neighbour.

In recent years, the collection started on the first Sunday of Advent, run through Christmas and end in mid-January. That, on reflection, we feel is a long time for a collection to continue, particularly at a time when there are so many other calls made on the generosity of the congregation, and we feel that the Foodbank collection did not get the focus it deserves. So, this year we are trying a shorter period, beginning on the **Sunday before Christmas (the 22nd)** and continuing to **Sunday 19th January**. We remain convinced that the period after Christmas, when all available cash has been spent, is a particularly bleak period for those who are struggling with money.

The usual trugs will make their appearance at the West End on 22nd December, and we will be looking for, as usual, tins of meat, soup, vegetables and breakfast food. In addition, toiletries of all kinds would be appreciated. Once again, it will be in support of Instant Neighbour, and once again, we can look forward to your generous support.

LONG AGO, PROPHETS KNEW

Long ago, prophets knew
Christ would come, born a Jew,
come to make all things new;
bear all people's burden,
freely love and pardon.

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes, when he comes,
who will make him welcome?

God in time, God in man,
this is God's timeless plan:
God will come, as a man,
born himself of woman,
God divinely human.

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!...

Mary hail! Though afraid,
she believed, she obeyed.
in her womb, God is laid:
till the time expected,
nurtured and protected,

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!...

Journey ends! Where afar
Beth'lem shines, like a star,
stable door stands ajar.
Unborn Son of Mary,
Saviour, do not tarry!

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
Jesus comes! Jesus comes!
We will make him welcome!

text: Fred Pratt Green; © 1971, Stainer & Bell (tune: Personet hodie)

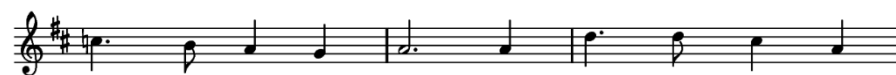
BLESSED BE THE GOD OF ISRAEL (Steven Janco)



1. Blest be the God of Is - ra - el who sets all peo - ple
2. God's prom - ised mer - cy will be shown and cov - e - nant re -
3. My child, as proph - et of the Lord, you will prepare his



free and rais - es up new hope for us: a
called, the oath once sworn to Ab - ra - ham: from
way, to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from



branch from Da - vid's tree. So have the proph - ets
foes to free us all, that we might serve God
sin's e - ter - nal sway. Then shall God's mer - cy



long de - clared that with a might - y arm God
with - out fear and ev - er sing God's praise in
from on high shine forth and nev - er cease to



would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.
ho - li - ness and right - eous - nes be - fore God all our days.
drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

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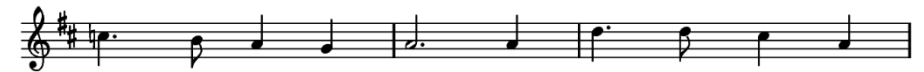
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