

PRAYERS FOR PEACE

We continue to meet for 20 minutes of collective silent prayer in the Mitchell Chapel every peace lives within us and is for sharing with all.

Parish Grouping – What's On:

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 29th December 2024

SERVICES

Sunday 5th January 2025 11am Morning Worship with Rev Sarah Brown
6pm Evening Worship with Rev Sarah Brown

Sunday 12th January 2025 11am Morning Worship with Rev Sarah Brown
6pm Evening Worship with Rev Sarah Brown

Sunday 19th January 2025 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* ***

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 ornaments, chocolates, jewellery, scarves, 2025 calendars and various other first footing 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

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.



USED STAMPS



Now that Christmas is over, a gentle reminder to bring in your stamps so that money can be raised in aid of smaller charities supported by the Church of Scotland.

There is a basket in the west end of the Cathedral for your contributions.

ADVENT FOODBANK COLLECTION

Our Advent foodbank collection has started and will continue until **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 are now in place in the West End, 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.

If you wish to make a cash donation instead, there will be a box on the table above the trugs. You can also donate money via our contactless payment machine.

Thank you as always for your support.

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.

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!

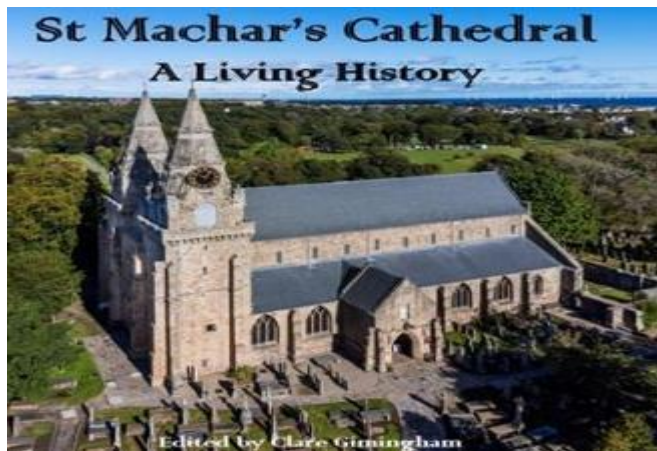
FLOWER FUND/CALENDAR 2025

The flowers in the Cathedral, fresh on Sundays, are often commissioned by members of the congregation to commemorate an anniversary. If you would like to do that, consult the Flower Calendar (at the back, near the Beadle's chair) and enter your name. Nearer the time, Patricia Keith will contact you about your wishes. You may wish to do your flowers yourself: Pat will be delighted!

You may like the flowers in the church but not have an occasion to mark. Contributions to the Flower Fund are very welcome. The fund covers the 'blank' Sundays and the more lavish decoration for Easter, Christmas, and Harvest. To donate, speak to the Session Clerk, Patricia, or the Beadle

FRIENDS OF ST MACHAR'S CATHEDRAL: "ST MACHAR'S – A LIVING HISTORY"

Stuck for ideas for a first footing gift? Copies of the Friends' recently published book "St Machar's Cathedral – A Living History" are available in the shop at the cost of £17.99, with a discounted price of £15.99 for members of the Friends of St Machar's Cathedral. A must read for all those who, for whatever reason, hold this special place in their hearts.



New CD for sale in the shop
'Songs of Life' is a new CD recorded in the Cathedral last year by singer Katherine Williams – the Cathedral's Education Officer – with Dr Ben Marsden on Piano. The CD comprises repertoire from the French school of chanson by Fauré, Debussy and Poulenc, and the first recording of a song cycle written for Katherine – Animal Voices – by the former Director of Music Roger B. Williams.

The album can be streamed on major platforms such as Spotify however shop purchases of the CD will help to support the Cathedral. A CD launch concert is planned for January.

Songs of Life

Katherine Williams soprano
Ben Marsden piano

