

## 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.

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### 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 9<sup>th</sup> February 2025

#### SERVICES

<b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2025</b>	11 am Morning Worship with Rev Professor Philip G. Ziegler 6pm Evening Worship with Rev Mark Rodgers
<b>Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2025</b>	11 am Morning Worship with Rev Sarah Brown 6pm Evening Worship with Rev Sarah Brown
<b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2025</b>	11 am 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](mailto:office@stmachar.com)

Minister: Rev Sarah Brown – [sarah.brown@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:sarah.brown@churchofscotland.org.uk)

Session Clerk: Alan Grant – [a.bryce.grant47@gmail.com](mailto:a.bryce.grant47@gmail.com)

### \*\*\* *CATHEDRAL EVENTS and CONCERTS* \*\*\*

#### CONCERT

**Aberdeen City Orchestra**

***Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2025 – 7.30pm***

Please join us for our third concert of the 24/25 season where we welcome back Chris Gray as our conductor. We are also delighted to be joined by renowned soprano Judith Howarth, who will be singing Richard Strauss' Four Last Songs with us. This will be followed by a performance of Berlioz's triumphant Symphony Fantastique. We are excited to be playing in St Machar again, having not played there since 2019.

## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

### VISIT BY MODERATOR OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

On **Friday 14th February**, the Moderator of the General Assembly, the Rt Rev Dr Shaw Paterson, will carry out his annual visit to the Presbytery of the North East and Northern Isles. During the day, he will, among other duties, preach at the University Founder's Day Service, and in the evening, at **7pm**, he will lead worship at the Presbytery Service in the West Church Inverurie. During the service, he will present Long Service Certificates to elders and others, including two from our own Session. All are invited to attend.

### FOUNDERS' DAY SERVICE - University of Aberdeen

All are most warmly invited to attend the annual **Founders' Day Service** in King's College Chapel at the University of Aberdeen this coming **Friday (14th February) at 11.00 am**. The preacher will be the Rt Rev Shaw Paterson, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. Music at the service will include anthems by Paul Mealor, James MacMillan and Maurice Duruflé sung by the Chapel Choir (which includes some of our own cathedral choral scholars). Coffee and tea will be served in the James MacKay Hall at which the Moderator will also be in attendance.

### BIBLE STUDY 2025

We have started new bible study on the 2nd Sunday of the month in 2025, the first one was held 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:

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

Our local ecumenical service is being held in St Joseph's RC Church on **Friday 7th March at 2:00pm** - an earlier time than usual. The service has been written by Christian women in the Cook Islands and is based on psalm 139 with the theme "I made you wonderful".

All are invited to the service. We are also looking for people to take part as readers - there will be a rehearsal the previous Friday, 28th February, at 2pm in St Joseph's. Please contact Pat Staphenurst - [patstaphenurst@gmail.com](mailto:patstaphenurst@gmail.com) - if you would like to help.

### 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.*

### 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!

### 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.

