

INSTANT NEIGHBOUR LENT APPEAL

The appeal on behalf of Instant Neighbour continues throughout Lent, ending on Easter Sunday. The trugs are under the table in the West End to collect food, particularly non perishable items, and for toiletries as well. If you are unable to bring donations in kind, gifts of cash are always welcome, and there is a box, suitably marked, on the table above the trugs, for this purpose. Your generous support is always deeply appreciated.

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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School is ongoing and all children from school age up to about 12 are very welcome. The Sunday School meets in the old session room behind the organ, and the children, accompanied by two adults, leave the service just after the All-Ages Talk. If you have children with you who would like to spend some time with other children, please speak to a Duty Elder, who will be pleased to help. Parents are welcome to bring creche age children too.

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 (on weekly but we'll be off 5th & 12th April due to volunteer holidays)

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

JOURNEY WITH JEREMIAH

Our evening services will be journeying through the Book of Jeremiah this season. Our 6pm services have a more intimate atmosphere than the morning services, following a set liturgy and sharing communion together each week. All are welcome to come to restfully attend to the end of Sunday together and gently prepare for the week ahead.

St Machar's Cathedral

Sunday 17th March 2024

SERVICES

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| Sunday 24th March 2024 | 11am Morning Worship with Rev Sarah Brown 6pm Evening Worship with Rev Sarah Brown |
| Holy Week Services | See separate list attached |
| Sunday 31st March 2024 | 11am Morning Worship with Rev Sarah Brown 6pm No Evening Worship |
| Sunday 7th April 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 ***

ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The University of Aberdeen's Symphony Orchestra, along with Conductor Chris Collins and Soloist Holly Brow, provide an evening of Tchaikovsky, Elgar and Brahms from **7.30pm on Wednesday 20th March** at St Machar's Cathedral

THE ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY CONCERT BAND'S SPRING CONCERT

Thursday 21st March 2024 at 7.30pm - The Aberdeen University Concert Band's Spring Concert, in the Cathedral, is an action-packed two-part concert featuring traditional concert repertoire in the first half, including Vaughan Williams' 'English Folk Song Suite' and Shostakovich's 'Festive Overture', before moving to a vigorous second half featuring more contemporary pieces such as John Miles' 'Music' and some much loved film music including the theme from Mission: Impossible! This programme promises to be exciting with plenty of opportunities for toe tapping.

CONCERT VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

We now have many concerts taking place in the Cathedral, which helps immensely with badly needed income to keep us going. However, to keep these running smoothly, we **do** need volunteers to help, particularly at the Candlelight Concerts, of which there are currently two per month. If you can help at any of these, please get in touch with Shona, on treasurer@stmachar.com, or Carol in the office on office@stmachar.com. The bonus is you get to hear the concert as well!!

CAKEFEST

The Friends of Seaton Park invite you to their 8th CakeFest, to be held on **Saturday, 23 March**, at The Mission, St. Machar Drive, **10am-12 noon**. It is part coffee morning, part Bake-off. Tickets £4 (£2:50 for under 12s) for a drink and three pieces of cake. For details of how to enter a cake, contact chairoffosp@gmail.com or m.sleeman@abdn.ac.uk

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The Outreach Committee are planning to undertake a community audit of our parish. This will allow us to get to know what groups, organisations and businesses are in our parish, as well as discover more about the life of those who live and work here. You can be involved by going out and about, researching online, or helping with ideas - whatever your ability and interest might be. If you would be interested in a short-term project to help out the Outreach Committee, please speak to the minister, Shona Buxton or Katherine Williams.

RETIRAL OF DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

As you know, our Director of Music Dr Roger Williams, MBE, will shortly be stepping down. His successor, Stuart Muir, takes over in April. Roger's last service will be Easter Sunday, 31st March, and it will be quite a day for him and for us all. In the meantime, the Congregation are invited to attend a Reception in the Cathedral at 2.30pm on Saturday 23rd March, when there will be an opportunity to express our gratitude to Roger for his years of service and for the outstanding quality of music we have enjoyed throughout his time with us. There will be refreshments and music provided and we hope that there will be a large turnout from the congregation. If you wish to contribute to Roger's presentation but have not been able to do so, it is not too late but please speak to the Minister or the Session Clerk very soon.

LENT GROUP

During the 6 weeks of Lent, we will be hosting a Lent Lectio on Life group. Using a bible passage, we will reflect on where we see God present in our daily lives. Lectio on Life extends the practice of Lectio Divina, into discovering where we notice God present or absent and how we can expand our knowledge of God in our lives. We will meet in the Mitchell Chapel each Sunday of Lent at 4.30pm for an hour, beginning on 18th February. All are welcome for some or all of the meetings.

TILLY FLAT

The Tilly Flat is a community resource in Hayton Road, Tillydrone, right in the heart of our parish. Like other similar facilities in other communities in the City, it is an ordinary flat, converted from residential use to provide support and resources to its community. It provides, for example, access to laundry facilities, free use of IT equipment and rooms which can be used for small meetings or educational classes. It also runs a small foodbank for local residents.

It is running short of money to keep its foodbank going and has made a public appeal for support. The Old Aberdeen Parish Grouping of churches, of which we are part, have agreed that we will all have a retiring collection for the Tilly Flat at morning worship on Palm Sunday, 24th March.

ST MACHAR COMMUNITY BIODIVERSITY PROJECT

#SAVE THE HEDGEHOGS
COMMUNITY
LITTERPICK

AND
COMMUNITY
GARDENING SESSION

JOIN US
SATURDAY 23RD MARCH
10.30-12.00
AT
ST MACHAR CATHEDRAL





MORE INFORMATION
EDUCATION@STMACHAR.COM
MEET AT GATEHOUSE - GLOVES AND TOOLS PROVIDED



SCOTTISH REGISTERED CHARITY SC008167

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MUSIC TODAY

The Introit is a setting of verse 12 from the Book of Lamentations composed by Giovanni Croce. He was a sixteenth century musician, composer and priest, Choirmaster at St Mark's Venice from 1593. This piece is a short but intense, motet of great beauty. Maurice Greene was a most distinguished musician. A boy chorister at St.Pauls Cathedral, and subsequently organist there at the age of 22. Among his pupils were Stanley and Boyce. He was Organist and Composer to the Chapel Royal and Professor of Music at Cambridge, and Master of the King's Musick. His volume of *Forty Select Anthems*, published in 1743, contains this wonderful example of a setting of verses from Psalm 39. The music is cast into three overall sections, with the central part a duet for two treble voices. From the outset of this motet, with its continuous 'walking bass' in the left hand of the organ, to the final hushed final cadence, this is a composition of the highest order, expressive, cultured and intensely moving.

The art of improvisation is an old and distinguished craft of a traditional organist. Professor Smith is an experienced exponent of the art which will be shown in the music before the Service and at the Music for Contemplation. The Recessional Fantasia in c minor is one of Bach's most extraordinary works. Entirely based on the one opening theme, it shows influence from both South German and French traditions. The opening texture, with an imitated theme over an extended pedal, enables the four (later, five) parts to be clearly heard. The pedal eventually joins in the musical discussion between its various pedal points which underpin the tonality. The final extended coda section brings the piece to a richly harmonic conclusion, with the tension of a diminished seventh finally resolving into the extended pedal C. (RBW 7.3.2024)

IS GOD CALLING YOU?

We are planning to have a new members class on Sundays after morning worship at 12.30pm soon. On 28th April, 5th and 12th May we wish to explore theology (what we understand of God), worship (what are we doing and why?) and governance (how does the Church of Scotland work?). All are welcome if you would like to explore making a commitment to God as part of our congregation and you are also welcome if you would like to refresh your understanding of these beliefs and practices. We would hope new members might make their commitment on Pentecost Sunday 19th May, other dates will be possible! Please speak to the minister or Daniel Pedersen if you are interested.

EASTER SERVICES

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| Sunday 24th March – | Palm Sunday – Morning Worship 11am Please note there will be a retiring offering throughout the Parish Grouping for the Tilly Flat. |
| | Palm Sunday Walk – 2pm, leaving from The Mission on St Machar's Drive |
| | Palm Sunday - Evening Worship 6pm |
| Monday 25th March – | Evening Worship 7.30pm |
| Tuesday 26th March – | Evening Worship 7.30pm |
| Wednesday 27th March – | Evening Worship 7.30pm |
| Thursday 28th March – | Evening Worship 7.30pm |
| Friday 29th March – | Lunchtime Worship 12pm Evening Worship 7.30pm |
| Saturday 30th March – | Evening Worship 7.30pm |
| Sunday 31st March - | Easter Sunday - Morning Worship 11am Please note there will be no evening service. |

CATHEDRAL SHOP



Easter cards now on sale, along with some chocolate and Easter gifts.
Home-made marmalade also available.
St Peter's new Doric book – Unicorn's Guide tae Aul Aiberdeen– is also available for £10.00

Please do come and see what we have after the service!

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED TO GREET VISITORS

The cruise liners will soon be arriving, and we would love to have some more help with greeting the visitors from all parts of the world.

Last year we have over 42,000 visitors to the Cathedral, this year it is looking like we may have even more!

If you could volunteer for perhaps half a day, or even just a couple of hours, weekly, monthly, or whatever you can manage, this makes such a difference.

We have been getting lots of positive feedback on Tripadvisor and other platforms, the main comment being how friendly everyone is. Please do join our team! 😊

Please contact Carol in the office, office@stmachar.com



EASTER SERVICE POSTERS – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We have prepared sets of posters highlighting the times and days of the services at St Machar's from Palm Sunday throughout Holy Week. We would like to distribute them to shops, cafes, halls and other publicly accessible buildings, but it has to be done this week. Do you have half an hour to spare to call in at the shops in your street, or in a street near you? If you can, the posters are on the table at the West End. Please help yourself to the number you might need, and it would help if you put your name, and the street(s) you intend to cover, on the sheet beside the posters.

Many Thanks

ECO-CONGREGATION

Are you passionate about fairtrade, recycling, climate justice and environmental concerns? We are looking for someone to keep our focus on the work of being an Eco-congregation. As a member of Eco-congregation Scotland, we have committed to this as a congregation, with the expectation of our church and homes and live speaking of this commitment. It does require a prompting person (a prophet?), someone who can remind us from time to time that we can improve our witness in this area. Some tasks come more naturally to some than others and so having opportunity to share this passion in regular weekly news items, a feature in St Machar's News, reminding our minister to make it visible in worship, and our members in their choices at home and at work is vital. If you think this might be you, or you could be part of a group that takes on this voice please send an email to Carol in the office on office@stmachars.com