

St Machar's Cathedral

Sunday 21st April 2024

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.

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.

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 (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.

SERVICES

Sunday 28th April 2024

11am Morning Worship with Rev Sarah Brown
6pm Evening Worship with Rev Sarah Brown

Sunday 5th April 2024

11am Morning Worship with Rev Sarah Brown
6pm Evening Worship with Rev Sarah Brown

Sunday 12th May 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 *****

WOMEN'S GROUP COFFEE MORNING

It has been a very wet winter here in Aberdeen with record levels of rainfall. However, the garden is growing, the Daffodils are flowering, and hopefully the miserable wet days are behind us.

The next Women's Group coffee morning is on ***Wednesday 24th April***.

We meet in the West Gatehouse between ***10.30am and 12 noon***.

If you need help to attend, please contact Anne or Elspeth or the Cathedral Office. Hope to see you then.

CONCERT – TODAY!!

Con Anima Chamber Choir and Brass Band - Sunday 21st April 2024 – 3pm

Explore centuries of sacred music! Join us for a concert showcasing the rich beauty of choral and brass works.

Enjoy Vaughan Williams' triumphant adaptation of 'King's Lynn', transformed into a celebratory anthem.

Be captivated by Holst's evocative 'Six Choral Folk Songs', inspired by English countryside traditions.

Experience the grandeur of Venetian composer Gabrieli, renowned for his antiphonal brass and vocal works.

Immerse yourself in Praetorius' charming carol and Bruckner's moving motets and trombone 'aequales'.

This event promises a diverse and moving journey through sacred music history.

Con Anima Chamber Choir

Conductor: Tara Leiper

Organist: Professor David Smith

Granite City Brass Ensemble

Trumpet - Alan Haggart, Gerry Dawson, Allan Wilson.

Trombone - Bruce Wallace, Kenny Hamilton.

Tuba - Andy Patterson.

SOCIAL AFTERNOON - POSTPONED

The Social Afternoon planned for Saturday 27th April, to raise money for our two nominated charities, Big Noise Torry and Médecins Sans Frontières has sadly had to be postponed. There were just too many conflicting events planned for that day, so we thought the wisest thing was to delay until a more suitable date. We are actively considering other dates in the early Summer. We will publicise this as soon as we can. We are sorry for the unplanned changes and grateful for the work put in to prepare for this event. We hope that this work will not be wasted.

Alan Grant
On behalf of the Charities Fund Raising Group

THE RETIREMENT OF JUDITH NORTON

Our splendid Cathedral Manager Judith Norton is going to retire at the end of this month after eighteen years of extraordinary and voluntary commitment. She oversees the staffing of the Cathedral and the work of the beadles; she attends to the preparation of the Cathedral for services, negotiates with concert organisers, and provides them with the facilities they need, without allowing them to exceed our rules. She makes sure that the building is kept clean and tidy. She has also done everything she oversees on countless occasions. She has attended every wedding and every funeral during her period as Manager, and an extraordinary number of concerts and other activities. It is impossible to overpraise her, or to overstate what we owe to her.

There will be a presentation through which we can say thank you to Judith after the morning service on 28 April. If you would like to contribute, please put your gift into an envelope marked 'for Judith's presentation' and give it to our Session Clerk Alan Grant, or just leave it on the collection plate. If it is more convenient for you, a Bank Transfer is perfectly acceptable:

St Machar's Cathedral
Account Number 00241964
Sort Code 80 05 16

CATHEDRAL MANAGER WANTED

We need a new Cathedral Manager. The responsibilities are being rethought and restructured so that it becomes more of a managerial responsibility. No one will be expected to be another Judith! It is currently a voluntary role. If you are in any way interested, please tell Alan Grant, or Shona Mutch, or David Hewitt, or even the Minister as you leave the Cathedral at the end of a service.

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.

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.

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

CATHEDRAL SHOP



St Peter’s new Doric book – Unicorn’s Guide tae Aul Aiberdeen– is available for £10.00.

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

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CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 12th - 19th May

Once again Christian Aid Week is almost upon us. As usual St Machar's will be making efforts to respond. There are a number of activities planned to raise funds and to get people involved.

House to House Envelope Distribution

We can't cover the whole Parish, but we will be distributing Christian Aid envelopes to a limited number of streets in the Old Aberdeen area, seeking contributions. It will only involve distribution, not collection, as recipients will be invited to drop off any envelopes filled with cash directly to the Cathedral. This will be done early in Christian Aid Week, from, say, the 12th to the 14th of May.

So, if you have an hour or so to spare, and are interested in helping, please speak to the Session Clerk, Alan Grant, or the Convener of Outreach, Shona Buxton.

Bread and Cheese Lunch

After worship on Sunday 19th May, Alexis Darg and her team will be providing the traditional basic Bread and Cheese Lunch. You are warmly invited to attend. There is no fixed charge, but contributions are welcome, and all money received will boost our total Christian Aid Week target.

7 Steps or 70k – A Sponsorship Opportunity

Throughout the month of May, Christian Aid nationally is encouraging people to fund raise through sponsorship by walking, running or cycling up to 70 k to raise money for Christian Aid Week. St Machar's is holding its own variant of this idea. You are invited to walk run or cycle for as much or as little as you feel able to do, at any time throughout the month of May. Sponsorship forms are available, but if you do not feel able to attract sponsorship there is no pressure: just tell us how much you have done, and we will add it to our total. If you are not able to take part yourself but want to help, you can either sponsor an individual, or you can make a donation to the Cathedral total.

The general principle is that people can do this at their own pace and at times of their choosing. But many of us enjoy communal activity, doing things with others. So, to help you get moving, there will be a series of short walks around the parish, leaving from the Cathedral at 12.45 each Sunday. The planned programme is:

5th May: Tillydrone and Hayton;

12th May: Old Aberdeen'

19th May: Hillhead Halls and Seaton Park.

Christian Aid Plant Exchange and Sale

In a few weeks' time, on Sunday the 30th of June, we will be holding our annual Plant Exchange and Sale, under the expert eye of Peter Stephen. We are immensely grateful to Peter for his enthusiasm and expertise in this always popular event. So, whether you are a keen gardener, anxious to contribute your own plants, or someone for whom this is the only occasion throughout the year when you buy plants, there will be something here for you. Peter will be setting up the tables outside the church before morning service and they will be there afterwards, so there will be plenty of opportunity for you to browse and buy. All proceeds will be, of course, in support of Christian Aid.

So, as you can see, there will be lots of ways for you to help Christian Aid, and not just on the one week. We hope there is something there for you.