

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.

WEDNESDAY WORSHIP AT KING'S COLLEGE CHAPEL

Couldn't get to church on Sunday?... or would just like a time of reflection in the middle of your week?...

Why not come along to the university chapel on a Wednesday evening?...

Compline by candlelight – 8.00 pm on Wednesday 23rd, 30th April & 7th May

Come and unwind after a busy day as the chapel choir sing the beautifully reflective service of Compline... the melodies of the ancient chants of this service are timeless and give you space to reflect and relax as they ring round our beautiful candlelit chapel.

All are most welcome – and for some extra sustenance, hot chocolate will be served after each service!

Festival Choral Evensong – 5.30 pm on Wednesday 14th May

Come and enjoy the joyful music of this festival service which is the final Wednesday service of this academic year.

You are also invited to coffee/tea in the James MacKay Hall after the service.

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 4th May 2025

SERVICES

Sunday 11th May 2025	11am Morning Worship with Rev Sarah Brown 6pm Evening Worship with Rev Sarah Brown
Sunday 18th May 2025	11am Morning Worship with Rev Sarah Brown 6pm Evening Worship with Rev Sarah Brown
Sunday 25th May 2025	11am Morning Worship with Rev Sarah Brown 6pm Evening Worship with Rev Sarah Brown

OUR CONTACT DETAILS

Office (Tue, 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 *****

POT LUCK LUNCH

Join us for fellowship and soup after the Service **today**. All welcome. Cold finger food contributions to lunch will be gratefully shared.

WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP



The next meeting of the Woman's Book Group will be on **Wednesday 14th May at 6.30pm** in the Snug at Ma Cameron's and new members are very welcome. This month's book is Stalingrad by Vasily Grossman.

For further information, please contact the Cathedral office.

NEW MEMBERS CLASSES

For anyone interesting in joining the Church, there will be New Members Classes to be held on **Wednesdays 21st and 28th May, and 4th June**. They will be held in the gatehouse from 7.30pm – 8.30pm.

These will be followed by a profession of your faith at the Sunday service on 8th June.

Please contact the office if you are interested or have any questions

THANK YOU!

Thank you to all our wonderful St Machar's Spring Cleaners who came to the Cathedral on Monday.

We had lots of feather dusters, buckets, mops, cloths and had 5 vacuum cleaners and 17 people filling the cathedral with noise!

We did a lot of work in 1 1/2 hours and were all really pleased as we could see the difference we had made.

If anyone sees an area we missed please don't be shy, ask the beadle for a duster, brush or mop!

LENT APPEAL

Following the end of the Appeal on Easter Sunday, a delivery was made to Instant Neighbour at the top of St Machar Drive. The delivery consisted of a very substantial collection of trugs, baskets, and bags of food and toiletries donated throughout Lent.

In addition, the sum of £415 was separately paid over, representing the sum donated through the Collecting Box or through the Card Machine.

Instant Neighbour were very grateful, and value their partnership with St Machar's.

STAMP APPEAL



The Church of Scotland's Stamp Appeal 2025-2026 will support the Al Ahli Hospital in Northern Gaza, the only Christian hospital in the Gaza Strip and Gaza's only cancer hospital. Please continue to save your stamps and put them in the west end basket. Your cooperation will be much appreciated!!

BIBLE STUDY 2025

We 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:

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

SCHOOLS MUSIC CONCERT

Kevin Kyle is bringing pupils from Aberdeen City Music School to perform in the Cathedral on **Tuesday 27th May at 1.30pm**. This performance is a mix of musical styles, under an hour and for an audience of local primary school children. The congregation, whatever your age, are very welcome to attend.

**A musical journey through
Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Jazz
and Pop**

**Aberdeen City Music School
Directed by Kevin Kyle**

**Tuesday 27 May
13.30**

**Free Admission
St Machar's Cathedral, Old Aberdeen**

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

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.

SUSTAINABLE FLOWER FESTIVAL

At St Machar's Cathedral In Old Aberdeen. 10-11 June 2025 Free entry
This festival is promoting the use of locally grown flowers arranged sustainably. Buying flowers from the supermarket comes with a heavy carbon footprint. Often flowers out of season here are grown far away using lots of water and energy. Come and see beautiful Scottish blooms and foliage adorn our wonderful Cathedral. The florists will be using natural, sustainable, earth-friendly materials to support them.

On Monday 9th June 'Flowers for the future' 5.30pm
Join us for a sneak preview of the floral displays with a drinks reception and a special floral demonstration by **Beth Bruce-Gardner** of Honeymoon Flowers. She is an Ambassador for Sustainable Church Flowers and will inspire you to create masterpieces of your own for every occasion – with eco-friendly materials. Tickets £12 from Eventbrite

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1336432689149?aff=oddtcreator>

ST MACHAR'S CATHEDRAL

JUNE 10-11
09.30-16.30

FREE ENTRY

SUSTAINABLE
FLOWER FESTIVAL

CELEBRATING SCOTTISH
GROWN FLOWERS

JUNE 9TH 6.00PM
PREVIEW RECEPTION AND FLORAL
DEMONSTRATION
BY BETH BRUCE-GARDNER, AMBASSADOR FOR SUSTAINABLE
CHURCH FLOWERS - TICKETS £12 ON EVENTBRITE

St Machar's Community Biodiversity Project

**KIRKYARD
OPEN DAY**

BIOBLITZ WITH
EXPERTS

DISCOVER MORE
ABOUT BATS

GUIDED WILDFLOWER
TOUR

SEED SOWING AND
PLANT SALE

FAMILY TRAILS

REFRESHMENTS

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR KIRKYARD BIODIVERSITY PROJECT

Saturday June 7
11-3
Free

HELP NEEDED

Because of the increasing number of visitors (we have lots of tour visits from the cruise ships booked in over the summer), and because the Kirk Session takes the view that, if possible, no one should be on duty alone in the Cathedral, St Machar's needs more volunteers.

Anyone can volunteer: members, elders, friends, spouses, the elderly, teenagers, and everyone in between. There's no discount for bringing along a neighbour but bringing someone along is an obvious way of recruiting. Training will be given, so 'not knowing enough' is irrelevant. A weekly commitment would be great, but offering to help is the first priority.

Please email office@stmachar.com, or talk to Shona Mutch or David Hewitt.

St Machar's is highly praised for its welcoming attitude to visitors: we want that to continue. And we want it to be a safe place. Please help.

Christian Aid Week 11th - 18th May

It is that time of year again. As always, we at St Machar's are keen show our support for Christian Aid with a series of activities:

Distribution of Donation Envelopes

As is our custom, we will be distributing envelopes around the parish to encourage people to make their own contributions to Christian Aid. Sadly, we cannot really contemplate covering the whole parish but will concentrate on readily accessible areas where we have in the past been well supported. We need about 8-10 volunteers to help get these envelopes through letter boxes at the beginning of the week.

Annual Plant Exchange and Sale

A very popular part of our Christian Aid programme, this event will now take place on **Sunday 18th May**, not the 25th as previously intimated. Peter Stephen will, once again, be masterminding the event, and as well as providing lots of plants of his own, he will also be glad of others. So now may be the time for you to look out any plants you have which might be exchanged or sold.

Bread and Cheese Lunch

This well established annual fixture will be held again this year. As with the Plant Sale, there is a change of date here too, It will now be held, like the Plant Sale, on **Sunday 18th May**, the official end of Christian Aid Week. So come along on the 18th to enjoy both events, and to show your support for Christian Aid.

70k in May Challenge

Finally, Christian Aid are doing what they did last year, challenging individuals to do their own thing by travelling a distance of 70 kilometres in the month of May. It can be done by running, walking cycling or any other form of movement, as long as the distance is completed. And you can raise funds by attracting your own sponsorship or simply by adding your mileage to the Cathedral's total. If you want to get involved or to find out further information on any of the Christian Aid Week Activities, please speak to Shona Buxton, Convener of the Outreach Committee, or to Alan Grant, Session Clerk.

I am writing on behalf of the Gifford Lectures Committee at the University of Aberdeen to share a poster for the upcoming Gifford Lectures and to extend a warm invitation to all to join us for these events.

Professor Miroslav Volf will be joining us to deliver a series of lectures entitled: 'Amor Mundi: God and the Character of Our Relation to the World' between 12th and 20th May 2025 in the King's College Conference Centre, at the University of Aberdeen.

Miroslav Volf is the Henry B. Wright Professor of Theology at Yale Divinity School and the Founder and Director of the Yale Center for Faith and Culture. Educated in his native Croatia, the United States, and Germany, he regularly lectures around the world and has been a leader in international interfaith dialogues and a participant in the Global Agenda Council on Values of the World Economic Forum. He has written or edited more than two dozen books, and his work has been featured in The Washington Post, Christian Century, Christianity Today, Sojourners, and many other outlets. We are delighted that he is able to join us in Aberdeen for these Lectures.

The lectures are free to attend and open to the public, and each lecture is followed by a drink's reception. We will also be live streaming the event online. Registration is required for both in person attendees and to receive the streaming link. You can do this at the following link, or by scanning the QR code on our flyer: <https://abdn.site/OHL6d>

We would be most grateful if you could share these details with your congregation; we hope some of you can join us for this series!

MONDAY 12TH MAY

"Unchained from its Sun": *Amor Mundi* between Atheism and Theism

TUESDAY 13TH MAY

Odium Mundi: Schopenhauer on Suffering and the Will to Nothingness

THURSDAY 15TH MAY

Amor Fati: Nietzsche's Universal Affirmation and Limited Love

MONDAY 19TH MAY

The Earth Embraced: Dostoevsky and *Genesis* on Unconditional Love for the World

TUESDAY 20TH MAY

Singed by the Flame of Ambition: St. Paul and Scheler on Striving for Superiority



All lectures begin at 6pm in the King's College Conference Centre.

An online live-stream will also be available. Register to attend in person or online, please visit our website: <https://abdn.site/OHL6d>