

St Machar's Cathedral

Sunday 27th April 2025

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.

SERVICES

Sunday 4th May 2025

11am Morning Worship with Rev Professor Philip Zeigler
6pm Evening Worship with Rev Mark Rodgers

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

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 *****

HELP REQUIRED!

We are looking for people to join a work party on **Monday 28 April from 4.30-6pm**, hoping you can help out?

We are going to give the Cathedral a spring clean before the Memorial service for Sir Peter Graham on Wednesday 30th April.

What is needing done?

Several areas including the chancel are needing a wee bit extra TLC.

The beadies find the chancel difficult to clean during normal opening hours as it's the most photographed area of the Cathedral.

The pews could do with a dust, especially the troughs which hold the hymn books

The areas below the central heating pipes collect the little bits of masonry dust that fall from the walls constantly.

The wooden housing for the organ pipes collects dust and could do with a clean.

The gallery could do with a dust and vacuum.

What do you need to bring? Your energy, enthusiasm, rubber gloves, a vacuum cleaner (we only have 2), a long-handled feather duster for high ledges and shelves, a bucket for water. We have dusters and cloths.

WOMEN'S GROUP COFFEE AFTERNOON

The daffodils are flowering beautifully and the bright Spring sunshine promises warm days ahead.

Our next Women's Group meeting is on **Wednesday 30th April**.

For a change, we are meeting in the afternoon in the

West Gatehouse between **2.30pm and 4 o'clock**.

There will be cake, teas/coffees and good company

Looking forward to seeing you

POT LUCK LUNCH

Join us for fellowship and soup after the Service on Sunday **4th of May**. All welcome. Cold finger food contributions to lunch on the day will be gratefully shared.

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:

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

NEW MEMBERS CLASSES

There will be New Members Classes on Wednesdays **21st and 28th May, and 4th June**. They will be held in the Gatehouse at **7.30pm**.

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.

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

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.

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THE GIFFORD LECTURES 2025

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>

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