



# The Provost Ponders

By The Very Rev'd Dr Isaac Poobalan

Dear Friends,  
We are entering a period of intentional prayer with God's people throughout the world focusing on the phrase from our Lord's Prayer, '**Thy Kingdom Come.**' The Archbishop of Canterbury who initiated this movement exclaims with astonishment, that he never imagined that what began as a Church of England prayer for renewal would become a global movement. Our Bishop Anne Dyer wanted us as the Cathedral and the Diocese to be part of this global movement and hence asked for the Ascension Day service to be a Eucharistic worship for the launching of 'Thy Kingdom Come' in Aberdeen. Please make a note of this Thy Kingdom Come Diocesan Event in your diaries, the Sung Eucharist on the **Ascension Day 7pm Thursday the 10<sup>th</sup> of May 2017.**

The 'Thy Kingdom Come' season will continue with Daily Prayers at 8.30am and 5.15pm each week day. Please come to the Cathedral for these prayers. If you are unable, then commit yourselves to join in these prayers from wherever you are. You

can join in at other times simply following the Cathedral Website.

Thy Kingdom Come at the Cathedral will take the form a Whit-sun Gift Campaign. The Cathedral has a very generous and committed people of God. You as a member of this family, both from within the Cathedral congregation, in the churches around our diocese and as a friend of the Cathedral give generously. However, this giving has remained unchanged for past several years while the cost of our operations has increased significantly. We have managed to make do each year and we have come to a point we unable to continue as we are without increasing our giving. Claire Woods, the Provost's Warden, moved with pity for the Provost, whose welfare is her duty, will make an appeal at the Reception after the Ascension day Service in the John Skinner Centre. She wrote in the previous Focus and she has given more reasons and pathways to ask for your support. Please pray, come to the Ascension Day service and commit yourself to giving.

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**Cathedral Children** also will take part in these prayers and we are blessed with an able team led by Lucy McDonald, administered by Moira Middleton and supported by an excellent team.

In addition, the Provost will do a **Kilt Walk** on Sunday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June or the Monday before to raise funds for the Cathedral. Every pound you give will become £1.40 if you give through this scheme and there are two ladies signed up to walk with the Provost, a big thank you to Wendy Pope and Fiona McMillan. Why not join them and raise more for the Cathedral. The Cathedral family has given already to this very generously. We need to reach out to people out with the Cathedral. Please extend your support.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June, our young people also will walk the grounds of Haddo House. Please encourage them by sponsoring their walk. There will be a service of Choral Evenson at 6pm to celebrate this giving in the Chapel at the Haddo House. Bishop Anne will be

preaching and Lady Aberdeen will be our host. Please make and note of the date and time and come and support.

God is at work among us. God is calling us to go where we dread to. I was reminded of this at the Morning Prayer today in the First Reading from the book of Numbers (14.1-25). 'And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried: and the people wept that night.' Please take time to read the rest of the story. When God calls us to possess what God promises, we can not be like the people of Israel - crying and weeping. If God is calling us to possess a House of Prayer with purpose, beauty and splendour, we will pray, trust and obey. The congregation of Israel tried to stone Moses because they were afraid of the challenge. The Glory of the Lord in the Tabernacle! May God bless us with the power from on high to transform our Cathedral Church into a place of prayer, beauty and splendour. God has chosen you to do it. May God bless you to do it.

As ever, Isaac

## Children & Youth Ministry Thy Kingdom Come Family Prayer Walk

By Lucy Macdonald

After attending the Jump conference on 28 April, I was inspired to think more deeply about praying with the children. Although we do work with prayer in the Children and Youth Ministry team, there is often not enough time to fully explore and engage with it. As the children will be presenting intercessions this Pentecost, which will be followed by the Thy Kingdom Come initiative, this term seemed to be the ideal time to focus a little more closely on prayer.

We are already looking at different kinds of prayer, different ways to pray and what prayer means to each of us. For the older children this will be an opportunity to start thinking more deeply and creatively about prayer, and for the younger children a chance to become comfortable and confident with prayer.

Thy Kingdom Come will run from 10-20 May and to celebrate it we hope to undertake a Prayer Walk on Saturday 19 May. The walk will begin at

Aberdeen beach and finish with refreshments at the Cathedral. We will be including some activity prayers such as collecting pebbles, holding them while praying before throwing them into the sea and writing in the sand, as well as spoken prayers for the world around us. Although inspired by the children, this event is open to everyone, so please join us and invite your friends and family. If you would like to come along please email me on [lucyjeanmacdonald@gmail.com](mailto:lucyjeanmacdonald@gmail.com).

If you don't fancy the Prayer Walk but want to be involved in Thy Kingdom Come please get in touch with me or visit [www.thykingdomcome.global](http://www.thykingdomcome.global) for inspiration and ideas on answering this worldwide call to prayer.



# Easter Flowers

By Moira Middleton

Thank you to everyone who helped decorate the Cathedral for Easter. Also to the people who donated money brought greenery made tea and cleared up. To everyone who have helped keep the flowers looking good over the Easter period your help and support are much appreciated.



## Pew Bibles

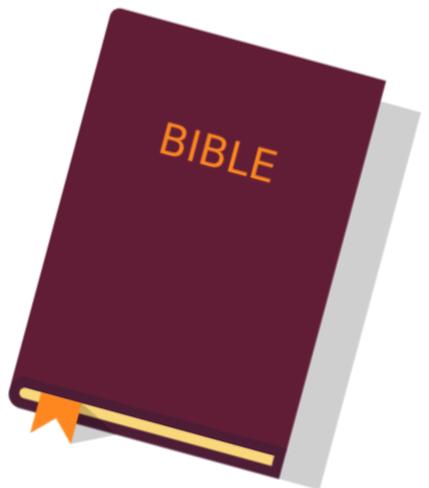
By Mark Edwards (People's Warden)

I am pleased to say that I have continued to receive positive comments about the "clean look" that we now have in our Cathedral, and again I thank you for your support. I have however received several questions regarding our Pew Bibles and, although I have asked those I have spoken to help spread the word, what better way than to explain to everyone myself?!

Next time you pass through the porch you will see our Bibles stacked on the shelves above where we normally place the Hymn and Prayer books for services. The Bibles were not removed because we wanted to stop using them, but to try and make them last a little longer. Many of them show signs of broken spines and torn coverings from being knocked from the pews and falling to the ground; we just do not have the financial wherewithal to keep replacing damaged books, and it is not fair on those who donate to replace them to do nothing about their demise. We had bookshelves

in the Porch that were unused, and Bibles being damaged where they were. So, the Bibles now reside in the Porch.

I fully appreciate that our sound system is not totally adequate and that many wish to follow the readings using the Bibles. If you would like a Bible for use in your worship please just ask a Steward to pass one to you as you collect your Hymn book and Service sheets. My only request; please return it to the back of the Cathedral as you leave to help the Stewards as they clear the Cathedral at the end of our services. Thank you.



# Crèche Rota May-July 2018

MAY 6	Moira	Davika	Faustina
MAY 13	Christine	Chioma	Catherine
MAY 20	Kathleen	Linda	Oge
<b>PENTECOST</b>			
MAY 27	Moira	Nan	Julie
<b>TRINITY</b>			
JUNE 3	Christine	Mimi	Blessing
JUNE 10	Kathleen	Davika	Faustina
JUNE 17	Moira	Chioma	Linda
JUNE 24	Christine		
JULY 1	Kathleen	Oge	Nan
JULY 8	Moira	Julie	Mimi
JULY 15	Christine	Blessing	Davika
JULY 22	Kathleen	Faustina	Chioma
JULY 29	Moira	Catherine	Oge

If you cannot come on your allocated Sunday, please arrange a replacement or a swap. You should be in the JSC by 10.30 to welcome parents and children and set out the toys.

# Meet the MPs, 28th April 2018

By Chioma Ojinna

It was a great opportunity for Christians across the Aberdeen city to discover the "hidden gems" of service and compassion being expressed faithfully in large and small groups and gatherings. St. Andrew's Cathedral was present and we are delighted to have some people show interest in the redevelopment of the Cathedral. The Provost also came to watch over his sheep. A huge thank you to our volunteers - Oluchukwu Ugochukwu, Adekunle Oke, Micah Furlong, Molly Furlong, and Chioma Ojinna.



Left: It's a full house at the event.



Left: Talking to attendees.  
Top: The Cathedral MU flag.

# Cathedral Finances



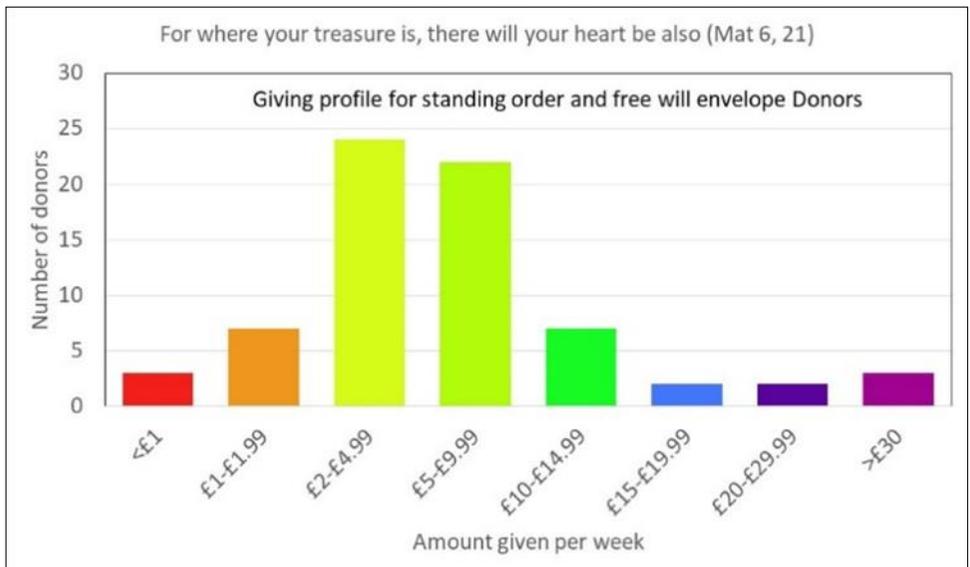
For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Matthew 6.21

*The Provost invited our Cathedral young people recently to give a local flavour to the global theme of 'Thy Kingdom Come'. Their response was a phrase from the Scriptures, the words of our Lord, 'For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.'*

## Cathedral Finances by Claire Woods with the Provost

I wrote a detailed background article on the state of the Cathedral finances for the April edition of Focus. Its intention was to set the scene for the giving campaign which will be centered on Pentecost. This article contains 2 graphs that will be used during the campaign, with a small amount of explanatory text.

The first graph (a histogram) shows the giving profile of those members of the congregation who give by standing order or free will offering (FWO) envelopes.



## Cathedral Finances

Almost all the people who give £5 per week in the FWO envelopes fall into the category £2-£4.99, because we inevitably miss some weeks during the year. Part of the idea of having envelopes is for us to fill them each week, whether or not we attend a Sunday service. We should then bring all the filled envelopes when we do come. A few of us are highly disciplined in doing this. In contrast, many of the FWO donors actually return less than half of their envelopes filled during the course of a year. Please pray and fill all your envelopes with the amount you have committed to give before the Lord. Be faithful to your commitment and see God's faithfulness in your life.

Over the past few years there has been a decline in giving. The reasons are numerous. Once the impact of inflation is added to this, the value of the giving is about 20% less than it was in 2014/15 and £19,000 less than the £125,000 a year required to run the Cathedral.

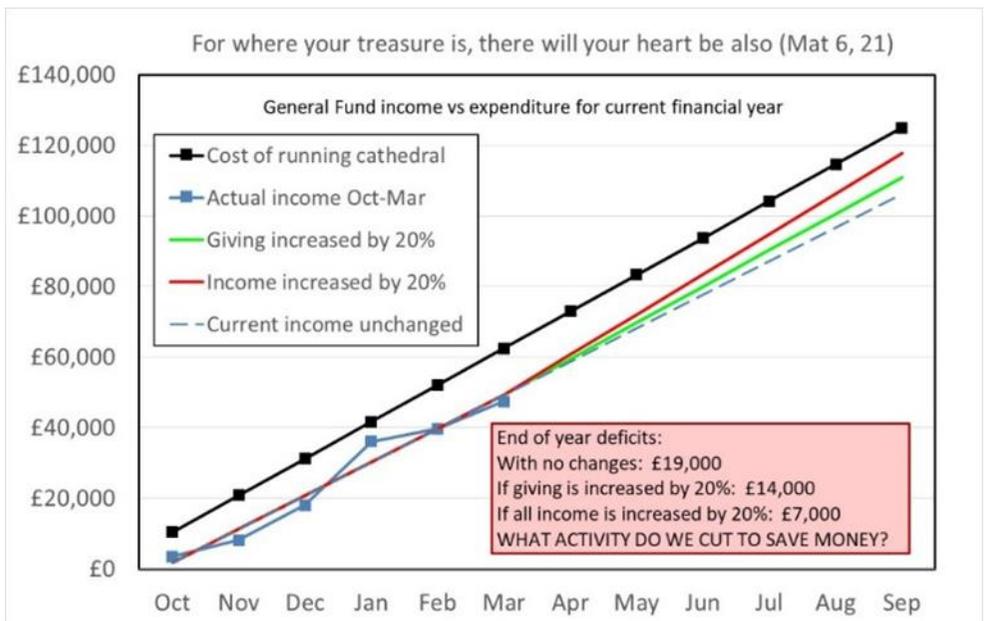
In last month's Focus I suggested we should aim to increase all our regular giving to the General Fund by at least 21%. Considering the giving profile in the picture, I would also like to suggest that those who give £5/week or less increase their giving by at least £1/week.

The second graph compares income to expenditure in the General Fund. It costs us approximately £125,000 to run the cathedral for a year at its current level of activity. This does not include the exceptional expenditure on tackling the maintenance backlog over the past year. We incur expenditure gradually over the course of the year and this is shown as the black line on the graph. If we extrapolate income linearly based on the first six

# Cathedral Finances

months of our financial year, we predict an operational deficit of £19,000 by the end of the year. This is illustrated as the blue dashed line on the graph. If everyone who gives to the church increased the amount by 20% immediately, we would gain an extra £5000 by the end of the year, reducing the deficit to £14,000. This scenario is shown as the green line on the graph.

The Trustees are working hard to increase our income from other sources. We are proactively marketing our facilities for rent and have increased our rental rates to make them similar to, but still competitive with, those for similar facilities in the town centre. We are also applying for grants towards the cost of running specific activities, for example the 'Food with Friends' meetings on Friday evenings and the choir summer trip to Oxford. If we manage to increase all our income by 20% (giving, rental and grants), then the deficit at the end of the year will reduce to £7000.

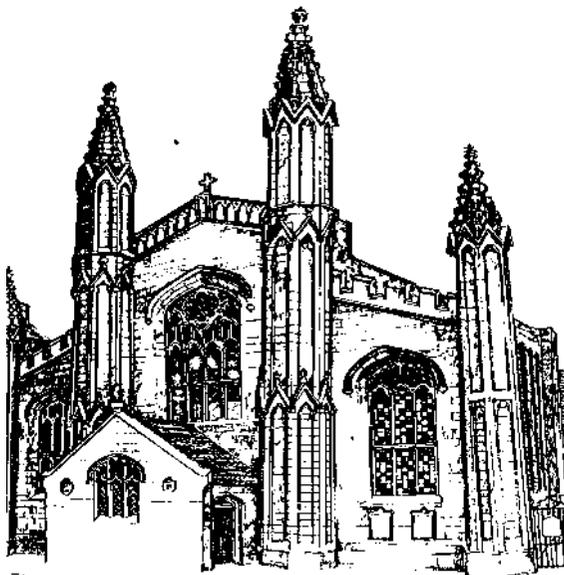


## Cathedral Finances

This scenario is shown as the red line on the graph. We would still have to cut some of our activities to close the gap and balance the books. This strategy would be completely at odds with the unlimited generosity shown to us by God in the sacrificial love of our Lord Jesus Christ and the priceless gift of his Holy Spirit.

In the April edition of Focus, I stated that we need a one-off injection of £20,000 into the General Fund. This will enable the fund to operate with a 'float' of £15,000 at the start of each month and to repay the £5000 of gift-aid rebate it currently owes the Development Fund. Together with a 20% increase in giving, it will allow us to continue at our current level of activity and to balance the books at the end of the financial year.

As we pray for God's Kingdom to Come, the Provost and Trustees (your elected representatives) invite you and challenge ourselves to invest in where our hearts are. It is time to pray, commit and give as the Spirit leads us.



The meeting was attended by Bishop Anne (Chair), who asked that the meeting cover the life of the Cathedral and how it relates to the life of the Diocese and also the Civic Reception on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May.

### **1. LIFE OF THE CATHEDRAL (BISHOP ANNE)**

Bishop Anne described her first impressions of the Cathedral:

- That the music is of a very high standard and worthy of note, although it had not been mentioned in any of the background paperwork or discussions before she accepted the post.
- That the cathedral is wonderfully hospitable and welcoming.
- That it manifests both inclusivity and diversity of worship. She suggested that this might be a charisma which we should exercise for the people of Aberdeen.

The Bishop gave the Trustees several challenges:

- Whether they would be pre-

pared to let the Cathedral be the flagship of the Holy Spirit, setting the pace and at the front edge of God's mission.

- That they should strive for excellence in every aspect of the Cathedral's life, both as an example to others and because God is excellent and it is our duty to reflect and represent him in the world.

She identified the following blockers and risks:

- The buildings, fixtures and fittings are shabby and in need of attention (for example, the sound system, the quality of disabled access, the toilets)
- The music is dependent almost totally on the Director of Music, who will be leaving at the end of the year. She asked whether we have succession plans in place.
- The cathedral is extremely under-staffed, with only one full-time clergy position. This does not leave any slack for new initiatives. If the cathedral's mission gained momentum, how would we resource it?

Turning to the relationship be-

tween the Cathedral and the Diocese, Bishop Anne described her vision of the Cathedral as Mother Church. It is the place where ministers are ordained and from which they are sent out to serve across the Diocese. She conceded that the Cathedral's role is not accepted in some parts of the Diocese and urged the Trustees to connect the ministry of the cathedral with that of the other churches. The Cathedral's role will include music, hospitality and mission, but we must discern what form it will take. Bishop Anne advised us to work out the next step with God, setting SMART targets, and not to worry about the steps after that.

## **2. CIVIC RECEPTION ON 15<sup>th</sup> MAY**

The Provost had circulated a draft of the Information Sheet which must be submitted to Aberdeen City Council at least 7 days before the event. Bishop Anne will respond to the Lord Provost's speech and Professor Ferdinand von Prondzyn-

ski (Patron) will also speak. The Bishop suggested that we use the occasion to begin to build relationships. It will not be an occasion for fund raising. She asked the Trustees to provide her with the message they wish to get across. The Cathedral Trustees, Patrons, members of the CDP2020 team, members of the fund raising team and the COLT will be present and all must be united in the message they deliver on behalf of the Cathedral. The event will start with drinks, followed by the speeches and ending with a sit-down dinner, where the guests will be seated at tables of eight, each including two members of the cathedral. The Bishop will provide a press release to the P&J in the week preceding the event. Andrew Morrisson will provide some recordings of the Cathedral Choir which could be used as background music at the start of the event.

## **3. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May

## Notes and Announcements

### Thank you!

To all my friends in the Cathedral,

I want to thank you all for your kind enquiries, telephone calls, get well cards and your prayers during my recent stay at the Aberdeen Royal Infirmary. I also want to thank Isaac, our Provost, for his kind and comforting visits to the ARI and to my home.

I am on the mend now and hope to get behind my steering wheel within the next few weeks and return to the fold!

I would like to share with you an amusing story I received in a card I received from a colleague in the Acclamations choir.

Canadian bagpiper, often asked to play a funerals, is asked to play at a burial for a man somewhere in the backwoods. He gets lost and being a man (*my friend's comment*) doesn't ask for directions. By the time he gets there, there's only the diggers left and the hearse is gone. He looks into the hole and sees the vault

cover is on, so not knowing what else to do, he takes out his pipes and plays. He really plays his heart out and everyone is in tears. Then he packs up and gets back to the car. Just as he gets in, he hears one of the men saying: "Well, I've never seen anything like that before, and I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years."

Boom boom!!!!

*Ian Flett*

### MU News

The next meeting is on Tuesday May 8th at 2 pm in the JSC when Rev Alison Harvey will speak about her work as prison Chaplain at Peterhead Prison. I am sure this will be a very interesting afternoon. All welcome.

The summer outing on Saturday June 16 th is to Stonehaven. Details will be circulated nearer the time. Transport will be by train, bus or cars. To give us an indication of how many are coming so that we can sort out the transport please contact

## Notes and Announcements

me as soon as possible. Children welcome and this outing is open to anyone to join us - just let me know.

There will be no meetings over July and August.

*Kathy Priestley*

involved in Cathedral activities. There will be a box on the back pew in the Cathedral into which you can drop these cards. Please direct visitors to this box too if they are unsure about where they should be left. Thank you.

## Summer Stewarding

Summer Stewarding in the Cathedral starts on the 6<sup>th</sup> of June. The Cathedral is open Tuesday-Friday from 10-3, and this is split into two shifts (10-12:30 and 12:30-3). We need volunteers, so if you are interested please contact Bill Henderson.

## Prayer Cards

We are trialling the attached Prayer Card in the Cathedral. Not only does it give an individual an opportunity to request a prayer but it also asks for feedback on the Cathedral "experience", and provides information about getting

## Thank you!

A huge thank you to the Provost and all my friends at St Andrew's Cathedral for your good wishes, cards and prayers. I am now feeling a bit better, less breathless and learning to SLOW DOWN! Quite difficult for me.

My medication has been altered which I think may have helped, and the weather will hopefully now start to improve. I'm sure your prayers have made a difference and once again I thank you for thinking of me. Hope to catch up at the end of May when we are in Aberdeen for a few days.

Kind regards,  
Janie Smail



St. Andrew's Cathedral, 28 King Street,  
Aberdeen, AB24 5AX

# Cabaret and Ceilidh

Saturday 12 May  
John Skinner Centre  
7.30 pm

**Tickets £5/3, please BYOB.**

Tickets available from Christine Flett at Sunday coffee and  
Lynda in the office (01224 640119).

**If you'd like to perform a number,  
please contact Andrew Wilson  
([andrewdtwilson@yahoo.com](mailto:andrewdtwilson@yahoo.com))**

Crisps & the like will be served, but have your tea beforehand!

It's time for the Kiltwalk!



**Have you heard of KILTWALK before?? Here you go!!**

**JUST WALK IN YOUR KILT AND RAISE MONEY FOR YOUR CATHEDRAL!**

Kiltwalk is organised by The Hunter Foundation (<http://www.thekiltwalk.co.uk/>) to help small organisations like us raise funds. Several entrepreneurs are part of this initiative and the Foundation adds 40% to all the money we collect.

**What do we do... quite simple.... WALK IN YOUR KILT and collect sponsorship!!!**

**When:** We Walk on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> of June 2018

**Where:** You have two options:

- Walk with the Provost (If you are brave enough to risk that!!) in Aberdeenshire. Details will follow.
- Our choir are singing at Haddo House that afternoon (3<sup>rd</sup> June). Like last year we can go to Haddo house and walk around the grounds of Haddo, listen to choir and have Fish and Chips at Ashvale!

**What to do:** We will be asking you to participate at the refreshments after the morning Eucharist and Christine Flett is also encouraging everyone to sponsor the Provost. Sign up to the Kiltwalk.... Fill it with pledges and collect the money!

We want all of us to get in there... CHOIR, LaRCs, Aberdeen Christian Men, Mothers Union...

**Let's do it... PLEASE SIGN UP.... WILL BE FUN.**

# May Diary

## Weekly Services

Wednesdays at 10.00 am	Holy Communion
Sundays at 8.00 am	Holy Communion (1970 Liturgy)
Sundays at 10.45 am	Sung Eucharist (1982 Liturgy) followed by coffee in the JSC
Sundays at 10.45 am	Crèche available in the JSC
Sundays at 6.30 pm	Choral Evensong

## Weekly Events

Tuesdays at 6.00 pm	Fellowship, JSC
Fridays 10.00 am to 12 noon	Cathedral Coffee Shop (Teas/ Coffees, and a whole range of homebaking, as well as sandwiches available)
Saturdays at 12 noon	Cathedral at Noon (30 minute recital followed by refreshments)

### Cathedral at Noon - May/first week of June

5 May	Bowtied String Quartet and Friends <i>Robert Schumann's Piano Quartet Op. 47</i>
12 May	Martha Hayward and Matthew Lazenby <i>Songs of Blighted Women (postponed from Dec.)</i>
19 May	Intuitive Music Aberdeen <i>Including New Work by Ensemble Members</i>
26 May	David Ferguson and Gordon Cooper <i>English Art Songs for Baritone Voice</i>
2 Jun	Julia Frazer <i>Music for Soprano Voice</i>

The **deadline** for the June issue of the Focus magazine is the **31st of May**. Please send your articles to Amber at [a.shadle.07@aberdeen.ac.uk](mailto:a.shadle.07@aberdeen.ac.uk). Many thanks to all those who contributed to make this issue of the Focus Magazine possible!

Cover photo: "God is...", taken by Lucy Macdonald

# Contacts

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<b>Organ Scholar</b>	Chris Black, c/o Cathedral Office		
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