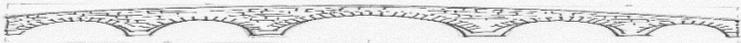
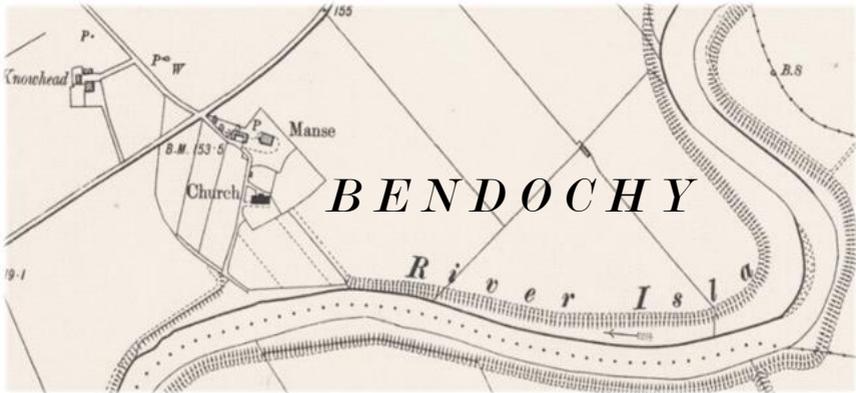


ISLA LINK



**THE MAGAZINE OF BENDOCHY LINKED
WITH COUPAR ANGUS ABBEY CHURCH**

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2017

Issue 87

Feb/March 2017

Minister:

Rev Andrew F Graham
The Manse,
Caddam Road
Coupar Angus PH13 9EF
Tel: 01828 627864
Email: andrew.graham@churchofscotland.org.uk



Bendochy Church

Sunday Service 10.00am

Session Clerk:

Mr Graeme McNeill
Bendochy House
Blairgowrie PH13 9HU
Tel: 01828 627751

Abbey Church

Sunday Service: 11.15am

Session Clerk:

Mrs Ellen McGibbon
4 Abbey Gardens
Coupar Angus PH13 9EN
Tel: 07541009398

Website: www.bandcachurch.org.uk

Welcoming you at The Abbey today (subject to change)

Feb 19

B Crighton
R Ewins
H Pithie

Feb 26

S Turnbull
D Chinn
J Chinn
I Rodger

Mar 5

J Brewer
K Godfrey
E Jack
S Robertson

Mar 12

D Hindmarch
I Jack
M Pattullo
W Pattullo

Mar 19

A Easson
J Easson
E McGibbon

Mar 26

S Jack
A Legge
A Richards

Apr 2

B Anderson
I Henderson
J Rennie

Apr 9

B Crighton
R Ewins
H Pithie

Apr 16

S Turnbull
D Chinn
J Chinn
I Rodger

Apr 23

J Brewer
K Godfrey
E Jack
S Robertson

Apr 30

COMMUNION

May 7

D Hindmarch
I Jack
M Pattullo
W Pattullo

May 14

A Easson
J Easson
E McGibbon

May 21

S Jack
A Legge
A Richards

May 28

B Anderson
I Henderson
J Rennie

June 4

B Crighton
R Ewins
H Pithie

Welcoming you at Bendochy today

February 19

J Morison
R Patterson

February 26

G McNeill
S Grant

March 5

R Cormack
W Pate

March 12

B MacKenzie
J Laburn

March 19

C Pate
D Grant

March 26

C Cochrane
J Morison

April 2

D Donaldson
D Patterson

April 9

R Cormack
G McNeill

April 16

S Grant
C Pate

April 23

R Patterson
C Cochrane

April 30

J Laburn
B MacKenzie

May 7

W Pate
J Morison

May 14

D Patterson
R Cormack

May 21

D Grant
G McNeill

May 28

C Cochrane
C Pate

June 4

D Donaldson
S Grant

Will elders please note that the first named for each Sunday is responsible for ensuring that there is someone on Door Duty.

Bendochy Cleaning Rota

February

R Patterson and S Meldrum

March

J Davidson and M Davidson

April

M Cormack and R Cormack

May

C Pate and W Pate

June

J Laburn and G McNeill

Coach House Hostesses



Coffee will be served in the Coach House at the end of the service on the first Sunday of each month. All are welcome.

February

Shona Grant

Marie Cormack

March

Jean Laburn

Jane Davidson

April

Bernice Mackenzie

Margaret Donaldson

May

Erica Espley

Sheila Lindsay

Readers in the Abbey and Bendochy



The Abbey

Bendochy

February

19 John Easson
26 Jeff Brewer

Rosemary Patterson
Jane Davidson

March

5 Anne Richards
12 Margaret Pattullo
19 Ellen McGibbon
26 Catriona Henderson

Robert Cormack
Jean Laburn
John Morison
Margaret Davidson

April

2 Iain Bentley
9 Joanne Chinn
16 David Chinn
23 Irene Henderson
30 Communion - R Farquharson

Steve Cumming
Sarah Tulloch
Graeme McNeill
Rosemary Patterson
Jane Davidson

May

7 Anne Easson
14 John Easson
21 Jeff Brewer
28 Anne Richards

Robert Cormack
Jean Laburn
John Morison
Margaret Davidson

June

4 Margaret Pattullo

Steve Cumming

Bendochy Flower Rota

February 2017

5 Jean Laburn
12 Margaret Donaldson
19 Margaret Donaldson
26 Margaret Donaldson

March

5 Christine Pate
12 Christine Pate
19 Christine Pate
26 Sheila Lindsay



April

2 Sheila Lindsay
9 Rose Paterson
16 Rose Paterson
23 Cathy Fullerton
30 Cathy Fullerton

May

7 Jean Fairlie
14 Jean Fairlie
21 Ann Wilkie
28 Ann Wilkie

New Beginnings

Another New Year brings a new beginning for all of us with fresh opportunities and new directions beckon.

We are all very happy to welcome our new minister Andy and his wife Margaret to our parish of Coupar Angus. We wish them well, as they embark on a new life amongst us.

The editorial team are pleased to have a mixture of news and views this February edition, and a big thank you to all who have contributed news, comments, and announcements as to forth coming events. Each magazine produced is in effect a new beginning and we welcome all to take the opportunity to share a story, even if it's an old one, and share what's going on near and far.

The magazine is a real opportunity for each one who reads it to share in the life of what's happening within the parish. Even if you don't feel able to write an article but would like to share news, one of us would be happy to hear what's on your mind and we would collaborate with you to share your news with a wider audience. This month, it's great to have Susan Meldrum bring one of her stories to life with an illustration from Rose Paterson, to hear how the music takes new directions with the choir and to see the outline of the forthcoming Snowdrop Festival, now in its fourth year.



Keep your eyes open for the programme, out very soon!

Roz Arno-Button

Magazine Deadline

Deadline for the next issue: 12 June 2017.

Please send articles to:-

Roz Arno-Button - 01828 628728 - roz.arno@btinternet.com

Rachel Ewins - 01828 627031 - rachel.ewins@btinternet.com

Links

At the start of another new year, I found myself reflecting on the title of our kirk magazine - 'Isla Link' – and realised just how many links we all have, both with each other and our community.

When we retired here over 5 years ago, I discovered there were lots of groups in Coupar Angus with confusing initials. CART, MAD, POP, FCA, CAPS & TT for instance. So I decided to join them all! It has taken me this time to get a grip on what they do. Each group has its own remit and seemed to me to act separately. Gradually these groups are all now beginning to share resources and communicate more effectively. We have started to link together, which is both more effective and more fun.

Getting involved in the different projects has helped me settle in quite quickly, and I have really enjoyed my time spent helping to develop Butterybank Community Woodland in particular. This has involved contributions from several groups including those already listed. Butterybank for instance is a Forward Coupar Angus (FCA!) project but relies heavily on support from Pride of Place (POP!) Make a Difference (MAD!) and Coupar Angus Primary School (CAPS!) in particular.

So where does the Abbey Church and Bendochy link to these various community projects? Well several of us as kirk members are also members of these groups. For instance, Anne Easson is chair of POP with John often alongside helping, as with Jeff Brewer and myself and they have always helped out with Butterybank – where we now have over 600 young trees already planted! The same links also apply to eg Britain in Bloom and Keep Scotland Beautiful, with 4 successive gold awards for the town! Without Allan and Sheila Legge's continual charity shop presence, many of our community groups would be strapped for cash. There are lots of other examples where our linked churches are strongly linked with our communities and I have probably missed out far too many examples of our members' contributions - Snowdrop Festivals, Open doors, markets.....

These links also work in reverse, since several of our school children attending the Children's Ministry sessions (led by our enthusiastic and capable team) have also been helping POP and FCA at school. I have been fortunate to have been granted open access to the school, wearing both my Woodland Willie hat and my ministerial collar. This has given me a stronger link between the kirk and the next generation. All of us have ample opportunities for outreach, representing our commitment to Jesus Christ as God's Son and our Saviour – without having to ram the bible down folks throats!

So there are definite links which have grown over the years - over the 800 years we have had a kirk presence here! I wonder what your own links are? With a new minister settling in very quickly with us, Andy and Margaret are learning about all our various activities. In this exciting and challenging year ahead, we pray that Andy will lead us onwards and upwards to live out our faith both within and without our church buildings. All of us have a contribution to make as we strive to put back a bit of Pride back in our Place. This is our heritage and responsibility.

After all we are only as strong as our weakest link!



Iain Bentley

Bendochy Ladies Group

We were delighted that Margaret Graham was able to join us for our Christmas Lunch which was held at Rosemount Golf Club. Many thanks to Jean Laburn for organising it. We enjoyed a delicious lunch in most convivial company and relaxing surroundings.

Our first meeting of 2017 will be held in the Coach House on Wednesday, 15th February, at 2.15pm. We are having an afternoon of favourite poems, prose and music provided by ourselves. This is a repeat from last year as it was so much enjoyed by us all. So do come along together with your contribution to the afternoon's entertainment.

Mrs Janet Wetherall will be with us on 15th March to give us an illustrated talk on gardens. Mrs Wetherall has been to speak to us before and we are looking forward to seeing her latest films.

Meeting dates for 2016/17:

2017

15 February

15 March

12 April

11 May - Spring Coffee Morning

Meetings are held in Bendochy Coach House.

Judy Long



Weekly Reports

We need some more members from Bendochy and the Abbey Church to help write the weekly report for the Blairgowrie Advertiser. At present, we have 3 members but would like at least another 3 so the commitment would be once every 6 weeks. The work is not difficult as we use a proforma for the report, a copy of which is reproduced below. The report includes any intimations and 3 or 4 sentences on the general theme of the sermon as you understood the message. Andy provides some bullet points to help summarise his text. The report is sent by email to the Advertiser's editor and the deadline is Monday evening.

If interested please speak to David Chinn, who organises the rota (01828 670454), or to Anne Richards (annehrichards@hotmail.co.uk) or Jeff Brewer (pantojeff@gmail.com).

Proforma for Church Report

Bendochy Church:

Sunday's service was conducted by Rev Andy Graham and the readings were by ...xxx... For details see Coupar Angus, Abbey Church.

Sunday service at Bendochy is from 10.00 - 10.45am, all welcome.

Coupar Angus Abbey Church

Sunday's service was conducted by Rev Andy Graham and the readings were by ...xxx...

(*first reading, second reading*). The choir sang an introit " ...xxx... ". Rev Graham spoke about ...xxx.... *3 or 4 sentences on the general theme of the sermon. Andy provides bullet points to help you summarise his text.*

Austin Wilkie, organist, played ...xxx...

Intimations Abbey Church:

...xxx...this section to include any intimations for Bendochy

The Sunday service at the Abbey is from 11.15 - 12.15pm, all welcome.

Intimations for next week to Ellen at emcgibbon@sky.com or 07541009398

Open Doors' Focus On North Korea

In 1907 Pyongyang, North Korea's capital city, was known as the "Jerusalem of the East". There was a great revival, and hundreds of churches were started. Over a century later - according to the latest World Watch List 2017, recently launched in Parliament, North Korea is now the most dangerous place in the world to be a Christian. Anyone who is even suspected of following Jesus faces imprisonment, torture - or even death.

Yet despite these terrible risks, the church there is enduring - and growing. Hundreds of thousands of North Koreans follow Jesus in secret. Open Doors workers provide these believers with vital aid, and are often their only contact with the outside world. The risks they take are greater than ever, but our prayers and support make their work possible, and show our brothers and sisters in that country that they are not forgotten.

Pauline Dolby



Food Bank

Looking back over the past two or three months and especially over Christmas, it was marvellous the way the Foodbank box in the church was so well supported. A really big thank you is extended to all responsible for the great variety of food handed in. Unfortunately, the need is still with us and the box will be kept in place for as long as necessary. Gifts of money would be also appreciated. For more information speak to Helen Pithie.

St Anne's Ecumenical Lunch Club



The first lunches of the new year were held on Tuesday 10th and 24th January and will continue on a fortnightly basis. Lunch is served from 12 noon onwards and costs £2.50 for soup, cheese toastie, biscuit tea/coffee. If you are looking for a snack lunch do come along, and enjoy the food and fellowship. Everyone is very welcome.

The final lunch will take place on 21st May and will be in aid of (CHAS) the children's hospice in Kinross. Cost for this lunch will be £3 and there will be a raffle.

Helen Pithie

Musical Update

Hello everyone! It's been a very busy Christmas period with lots of services and playing music, but I feel ready for putting a concert together in the spring with different varieties.....watch this space!

Just to remind anyone wishing to join the Choir for Bendochy or The Abbey, rehearsals are held at The Abbey on a Wednesday at 6pm - 7pm. Please contact me on 01250 876104 or 07909 801760

The Wadsworth had it's tuning visit from Forth Organ Builders on 6th January and is sounding fantastic. Since the whole Swell Action was refurbished in 2015....it has made so much difference to how the organ speaks. It is doing very well for an instrument over 100 years old! Speaking of Forth Organ Builders, I am hoping to be playing an instrument they rebuilt which is installed in the Summerlee Heritage museum in Coatbridge. This organ is a late 30's Compton Theatre pipe organ.....very similar to the one I learnt on in Aberdeen. It is a 3 manual /10 rank organ with the art deco "jelly mould" illuminated console surround. This will be fun!

Lastly, I would like to thank the Choir who turn up every Wednesday evening to practice, for their support and enthusiasm. We really are going from strength to strength and attempting more and more adventurous music. It really is great to see what we can achieve.

Onwards and upwards!



Austin Wilkie

What's On

15.02.17	7.15pm	Bible Study Meeting - The Abbey Church
24-26.02.17		Snowdrop Festival
24.02.17	10am-2pm	Snowdrop Fair - The Abbey Church
25.02.17	10am-4pm	Flower Show & Demonstration - St Anne's Church Hall
26.02.17	10am-4pm	Flower Show & Demonstration - St Anne's Church Hall
27.02.17	7 for 7.30pm	Murder Mystery Supper - The Abbey Church
26.03.17		British Summer Time - Clock move forward 1 hour
14.04.17	7.00pm	Maundy Thurs Communion Service -The Abbey Church
15.04.17	7.00pm	Good Friday Service - Bendochy Parish Church
23.04.17	10.00am	Communion - Bendochy Parish Church
30.04.17	11.15am	Communion - The Abbey Church
21.05.17	noon	St Anne's Ecumenical Lunch in aid of CHAS
12.06.17		Deadline for next issue of Isla Link

Blairgowrie Advertiser w/e 30/12/16 – Nativity Report

Nativity Is Big Hit With Parents

Around forty primary school children from Coupar Angus and BendochyC's children's ministry performed a traditional Nativity in the Abbey Church last week. The production was attended by around 100 members of the community, many of whom were singing along with the choir, and featured a number of classic festive songs. These included Go Tell It On The Mountain; Silent Night; O Little Town of Bethlehem; We Three Kings of Orient Are; Mary's Boy Child; Away In A Manger; Once in Royal David's City and Merry Christmas.

Organisers were really pleased with the success of the event, which raised funds to enable the two groups in the Children's Ministry, the Stepping Stones group and the Compass group, to go on trips next year.

A spokesperson for the Children's Ministry thanked all the parents, the volunteers who helped out and new minister Andy Graham.

They said: "The biggest thanks of all must go to all the children, who worked really hard and sang so beautifully."

John Easson



Jars of Grace

If you would like to take part in the Jars of Grace fill an old jar (coffee, jam, marmalade) with your loose change, this could be the 1p, 2p, 5p, 10p, 20p coins, etc, which weigh down your pockets or stop your purse from closing. The loose change which is given in this way goes towards the development of the church and recently funded the screens which show the hymns, bible readings each Sunday. If you can't find any old jars, speak to Ellen who will provide you with one.

As a Tax Payer, a further way to help the Abbey Church with their finances is to sign up for Gift Aid which allows the Church to claim 25p for every pound you donate. All it requires is for the Tax Payer to sign a Form which permits us to claim for this very worthwhile benefit which the Government has set up for Charities. If you are interested speak to Ellen McGibbon the Gift Aid Convener or phone 07541009398.

Ellen McGibbon



Thoughts From The Manse

Margaret and I have been overwhelmed by the welcome and kindness we have received since arriving at Coupar Angus and Bendochy. We have settled well into our lovely new manse and look forward to getting to know our new parishes. But of course a parish needs people and so far everyone we have met have been so warm and friendly and we look forward to getting to know everyone better in the coming months.

Over the past six weeks I am sure you will have heard me use the word *flexible*. This is what I believe we have to be to serve our Lord faithfully in our community and indeed in our lives as we walk with Him. The Lord calls us all to work together and Paul tells us, '***There are different kinds of working but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work..***' (1 Cor. 12:6).

Only this week I attended a meeting of the 'Town Team'. It is good to know that we are living in a community where the people care and are happy to be *flexible* in coming together to make things happen in bringing the community together. It was also a privilege to welcome our Moderator, the Right Rev'd. Dr. Russell Barr and his wife Margaret into our parishes on Monday the 16th of January. We had a lovely lunch with them at Bendochy before moving on to the Abbey for a talk and afternoon tea and it was good to see so many of you there from both congregations. Dr. Barr gave us a brief insight of his time thus far as Moderator, relating to us something of his visit to America and other Presbyteries, and his work with homelessness in Scotland. I'm sure *flexibility* has to be a key factor in the planning of all these trips.

I look forward to working together with you all as we carry out the Lord's work here in our parishes and my hope and prayer is that *flexibility* becomes our watch word as we move forward together.

May the favour of the Lord our God rest upon us; establish the work of our hands for us - yes, establish the work of our hands...(Psalm 90:17)

With Every Blessing,

Andy

Prayer Meeting

The prayer meetings began on the 18th of January and it was nice to see a good number of you there for that. Prayer is an important part of our faith life if we are to grow and flourish as a Church and in our own discipleship. So if you can join us on a Wednesday afternoon at 2pm in the Abbey Church please do so and together we can come before the Lord in prayer, seeking His hand in all we do in His name and in the world around us.

Bible Study

A Bible Study meeting will begin on Wednesday the 15th of February at 7.15pm in the Abbey Church. All are welcome to come and join this and share together something of God's Word and what it means to us in our lives of faith today.

Easter Services

We are planning to have a Maundy Thursday Communion Service in the Abbey Church at 7.00pm and a Good Friday service in Bendochy Church at 7.00pm. All are welcome to come and join us for these Holy Week services. Then on Easter Sunday we will have an Easter Day service in Bendochy and a Family Easter Service in the Abbey Church. More details of these services will follow in the intimation sheets closer to the time.

Hospital Visits

If you are going into hospital or know of someone in hospital who would like a visit, please let the Minister know.

Bible Study - Abraham

Chapters 12 to 25 in the book of Genesis all recall, to different degrees, the story of Abraham, yet we know very little about him prior to him receiving the call from God. A descendant of Shem, son of Noah, he came originally from Ur, a Sumerian city in the Euphrates valley, in the ancient land of Mesopotamia. (About 450 miles East of Jerusalem and close to where Basra is in Iraq today.) We have this image of Abraham as an honest and upright individual, someone who was dignified and firm in his faith, and who was held in high regard by others. Even in his younger days, before he has his own family, he is something of a Father figure and he was obviously a man who had faith in the God who made heaven and earth. Indeed in religious terms Abraham emerges as the Father figure of all 3 main faiths today - Judaism, Islam and Christianity, but what can we learn from him?

Read Genesis 12:1-9

What is our first impression of Abraham as we are introduced to him in these verses?

- When God called, Abraham responded in faith - no doubts or hesitation - simple obedience.

Read Genesis 16:1-15

How do we think Abraham behaved in these verses - and what lessons can we learn?

- He was acting in accordance with the custom of the day, but was he impatient?
- Indeed, was he more than impatient? Was he showing a lack of faith in his actions here?
- Or was he trusting faithfully in the promises of God - that He will act in His own time?

Read Genesis 18:16-33

What do we learn about Abraham from his actions in these verses?

- Was he genuinely concerned about the people in Sodom - or was it more a case of him probing to discover just how merciful God was?
- Why would God allow Abraham to question Him in the first place?
- Abraham believed in the power of intercession but he discovered here also how prayer also helps us to better understand the will of God.
- What does this encounter teach us about prayer today?

Read Genesis 20

What do we make of Abraham's actions in these verses?

- No matter how faithful we are or how much we love God, the temptation to sin will still come our way, and we will succumb.
- Furthermore, it is very easy for a sinful action to become a sinful pattern of living.
- Abraham showed a lack of trust in God to work in his favour. He assumed Abimelech would do the worst and so set out to deceive him from doing so.
- God will intervene in our lives when we perhaps least expect Him to do so.

Read Genesis 22

What does this encounter between God and Abraham teach us?

- In these verses we witness one of the greatest acts of faith and obedience in the entire Bible.
- God abhors human sacrifice and would never have let Abraham carry out this act, but wanted to see if in his heart he would have been prepared to do so - He was testing him.
- Abraham was willing to give up his only son for God. God did give up His only Son for us. *But what are we prepared to give up for God?*

Abraham was a faithful and loyal servant of God. He was respected by others and practised hospitality towards others whenever the opportunity arose. He avoided conflict where possible but when it couldn't be avoided he was willing to let his opponents dictate the rules for settling any dispute. However, under severe pressure, he was liable to 'bend the truth' slightly for his own end. Yet from his life we learn implicitly that God desires genuine dependence, faith and trust in Him, and that if we can live in this way, God will make Himself known to us and bless us abundantly.

Prayer Group Meetings

If you or someone you know needs or would welcome prayer, please let us know by using the request slip below the ones in the Church vestibules or contacting us by phone: Kathleen Godfrey (01828) 627028.

.....

Prayer Request

Please pray for

.....

.....



Name.....

Presbetyery Dinner

Our Presbetyery brought forward the annual dinner, held as usual in the Pitlochry Festival Theatre Restaurant, from March to Saturday 14th January, so that The Moderator of the Church of Scotland and his wife could attend. Last year we almost filled two long tables, this time there were five filled tables.

The Moderator dressed in his highland outfit, greeted each one on arrival. It was the prelude to a very nice evening in good company with good food. The Moderator shared his views on the 'homeless of Edinburgh' and the organisation he began 10 years ago to help them. He said that this was very successful, but disappointing to know there is still a need for it.

During a successful evening, Andy had chance to meet informally with many of his new colleges and Margaret met many of the Presbetyery Ministers wives.

I don't suppose there will be as many at next year's dinner, but the food is very good and the cost of £24 for a three course meal, coffee and chocolate mints, is about the same price as you would pay in this restaurant for the two course pre Theatre meal. Any of us can attend, so if you are interested for next year, please let me know and I will make sure you get full notice of the date and a chance to book your place.

Jeff Brewer

The Moderator's Lunch At Bendochy

On Monday 16th January, a glorious sunny day, the Moderator of the General Assembly, the Right Rev. Dr. Russell Barr, and his wife Margaret visited Bendochy as part of his time spent with Dunkeld and Meigle Presbetyery.

Our Minister, the Rev. Andy Graham, introduced them to a good turnout of congregation members gathered in the Coach House.

The Moderator and his wife, along with Andy and Elders then took the short walk to view the Church. On return to the Coach House a buffet lunch was enjoyed by all.

Dr. Barr then enlightened us with an informal talk on the Moderator's year in office followed by a question and answer session. This was a very interesting and informative time.

Margaret Davidson

Letter From The Moderator



The Church of Scotland MODERATOR OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

GRB/AGM

24 January 2017

The Reverend A Graham
The Manse
Caddam Road
CUPAR ANGUS
PH13 9EF



Picture taken during Moderator's visit to Coupar Angus Abbey.

Jew Andy

A note from Margaret and me to thank you and your people for making us so welcome when we came to visit you at Bendochy and then the Abbey church.

Bendochy church looked quite beautiful in the winter sunshine and it was fascinating to see the sanctuary and learn a little bit about such an historic church.

The lunch was excellent, especially the mushroom soup, and it was good to have the opportunity to meet so many of the congregation. I hope they found my description of some of the duties and varied activities of the role of Moderator interesting and I certainly enjoyed the question and answer session which followed.

Again it was a pleasure to meet some of the members of the Abbey church and to see such a different but equally historic setting. It was good to share with them a little of our activities, to answer their questions, and the afternoon tea was very welcome.

After such a whirlwind start to your ministry with all the Christmas activities, hopefully you and Margaret will be able to settle in to your new Manse and congregations and they are certainly very pleased to have you with them.

Please pass on our warmest thanks to both congregations and assure them of our thoughts and prayers

With every blessing

Russell

Rt Rev Dr Russell Barr
Moderator

Rt Rev Dr Russell Barr BA BD MTh
131 South Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1QU

Treasurer's Report For The Abbey Church.

Yet again it has been an extremely busy and expensive month for the church,

I have listed the majority to show the costs and bills paid over the last month:-

Robert Clark Electricals	£ 245.00
Travis Perkins (gravel for manse)	£ 582.04
Phone Bill Manse	£ 60.15
Gas Manse (final)	£ 153.32
P&K Council Charge Manse	£ 857.64
Cunningham Carpets	£ 519.09
Ministries and Mission	£ 627.00
City Blinds Manse	£ 321.00
CCLI (copyright licence)	£ 470.26
Printer Toner	£ 126.00
Data Development	£ 75.00
Stationery	£ 49.39

There are other costs to be paid but these will be for the 2017 accounts. This year's account (2016) which are in preparation will be presented to auditors this month for annual audit, this normally takes approx. 3 weeks to complete.

I would like to thank Bendochy Church for their share of the manse upkeep and Vacation costs for 2016 of a total £5,992.55. Many thanks and this is greatly appreciated.

Peter Godfrey
Treasurer

Congregational Roll

Deaths – The Abbey

December 2016 - Ellen Whittet, Gillaroo, Beechhill Place, Coupar Angus

December 2016 - Thomas Mackie, Dunottar, Beechhill Place, Coupar Angus

Hot Cross Muffins

(adapted from “Muffins, Fast and Fantastic”, 3rd ed, by Susan Reimer)

This is a lovely way of using up any jars of mincemeat left after your Christmas baking.

Traditionally, rich fruits, eggs and other sweet things were given up during the period of Lent and so Easter celebrated the return of these delights to our tables through baked treats on Easter Sunday.

Makes 11-12 standard sized muffins

Ingredients:

10 oz (280g) self-raising flour
½ teaspoon (2.5 ml) bicarbonate of soda
½ teaspoon (2.5 ml) salt
3 oz (85g) fine white granulated sugar
1 egg
8 fl oz (240 ml) milk
8 fl oz (240 ml) ready-made mincemeat (about 12 oz/350g)
3 fl oz (90 ml) sunflower oil
3 oz (85g) sultanas
Thin, narrow slices of marzipan to make crosses for the tops

Method:

- 1) Prepare muffin tins (deep pan tins with deep papers to allow muffins to rise correctly). Preheat oven to 375-400 °F (190-200 °C) for a conventional oven, Gas Mark 5-6.
- 2) In a large bowl, sift together: flour, bicarbonate of soda, salt and sugar.
- 3) In a separate bowl, beat egg with a fork, stir in milk; mincemeat and oil.
- 4) Pour all of liquid ingredients into dry mixture. Stir just until combined, adding the sultanas during the final strokes. The batter will be lumpy, but no dry flour should be visible. Do not over-stir.
- 5) Fill muffin cups three-quarters full. Place marzipan strips across tops of muffins and bake for 20-25 minutes until tops are lightly browned and spring back when pressed gently. Allow muffins to cool for several minutes to make removal easier.

Jo Chinn

Abbey Church Fabric Report

The Manse.

Andy and Margaret's arrival at the manse after it being unoccupied for so long revealed a number of previously un-noticed problems that needed attention, fortunately only one being major. This latter is the drainage, for the drains quickly became blocked (twice), and although they were cleared with drain rods, there is obviously an underlying problem. A camera investigation checked it was not in the main runs under the paths, which confirmed suggestions that it was connected with an old-fashioned trap near the gate. Estimates are being sought for replacing this, likely to cost several hundred pounds.

Other faults ranged from poor burning of the gas hob (being replaced), a bow in the front door (under investigation), and a leak in the garage roof, to a fault in the security light detector and a burst plastic drain pipe. We're hoping the list is now coming to an end so Andy and Margaret can enjoy everything working properly.

Abbey Church

The problem of the church boiler flues not complying with regulations was mentioned in the last Isla Link. However, on checking with the Gas Regulator, it was confirmed that this legislation does not apply to these boilers (though it will when they are replaced).

A gust of wind blowing doors open has broken the glass on the internal Session House door, so this will be replaced with a solid panel as the glass served little purpose. A check on the roof was done, and a number of slates replaced. The lectern microphone cable had deteriorated from getting trapped, and has been replaced (and the lectern moved to minimise the risk of future damage). After the old microphone used by the minister failed, it was replaced, but we are grateful to Keith Langelaan who managed to repair the old one (pronounced by a professional as unrepairable) so it can be held as a spare.

Annual electrical and fire safety checks are due shortly.

John Easson

Pride of Place News



Poppers had a welcome break over Christmas and the New Year but are now back at work, litter picking around the town and in the park, weeding (sadly they keep growing), keeping the boxes tidy and cutting grass back around the young trees at the end of the park. Bulbs are beginning to grow with the weather beginning so mild so please keep your eyes peeled when walking in the park for the daffodils coming through in the grass and try to avoid walking on them, especially on the Common, please, as the newly planted crocus bulbs, planted for Harlow, will be poking through the grass at the top of the Common, also the snowdrops around the trees and along the path.

We would love to welcome more friends to PoP to help us keep Coupar Angus looking great all year round. Our work parties through the Winter are every Thursday morning, meeting at the Town Hall at 9.30am. Once the clocks change and the evenings get longer, we meet Tuesday evenings at 6.30pm at the Town Hall. Contact Anne Easson on 628001 for further details.

Work will be starting on the Coupar Burn Community Biodiversity Project on Monday, 6th February 2017. Its purpose is to provide balance management to enhance the area for nature conservation and biodiversity and to provide a new amenity for residents and to help reduce the risk of flooding. The work will comprise coppicing, selective tree removal and replanting. Nesting boxes and bat boxes will be installed. Paths and seating will be created at the western edge of the burn. Local school pupils are studying natural and cultural heritage of the area and will provide content for information boards. This project is supported by:- Heritage Lottery, Perth & Kinross Council, The Scottish Government, The European Agric. Fund, SRDP and LEADER

Anne Easson

SNOWDROP FAIR

Craft stalls, raffle, tombola, home baking, face painting, activities for children and adults. Try your hand at printing and glass painting.



The Abbey Church

10am - 2pm on Saturday, 24th February 2017



Entry £2 - includes refreshments - accompanied school children free
Soup and roll will be on sale at lunchtime.

Come and see the Children's Ministry snowdrop tile patterns.

Stalls: Crafts £10 Charity £5

Contact: Anne Easson 01828 628001

Abbey Flower Rota

February 2017

Co-ordinator: Kathleen Pirie
Tel: 627754

- 5** Mrs K Pirie
- 12** Mrs K Godfrey
- 19** Mrs M Pennycook
- 26** Mrs V Grayson

March 2017

Co-ordinator: Sheila Robertson
Tel: 627375

- 5** Mrs M Pattullo
- 12** Mrs M Matthews
- 19** Miss P Campbell
- 26** Mrs J Haddow

April 2017

Co-ordinator: Sheila Robertson
Tel: 627375

- 2** Mr & Mrs J Easson
- 9** Mrs M Ferguson
- 16** Mrs S Legge
- 23** Mr Ian Neill
- 30** Iain Bentley

May 2017

Co-ordinator: Helen Pithie
Tel: 627365

- 7** Mrs S Jack
- 14** Mrs M Thomson
- 21** Mrs M Pattullo
- 28** Mrs H Pithie



The Abbey Beadle Duty

2017

February
March
April
May
June

Sunday Services

Irene Henderson
Sheila Robertson
Bill Pattullo
Helen Pithie
Irene Rodger

Other Services

Irene Rodger
Sheila Robertson
Ellen McGibbon
Irene Rodger
S Robertson

Used Stamps



A big **THANK YOU** to all the members of both Congregations who donate their **used stamps / postcards**. Your continued support is greatly appreciated. Postcards with stamps (pre 1950) are also sought and should be left whole. **Please leave a ½ inch border round stamps**. Do not include damaged stamps - they have no value. If stamps are in an album, please leave in album. Boxes are at both churches. So, come on, bring your used stamps along.

Wikje Walker

Who's who at the Abbey

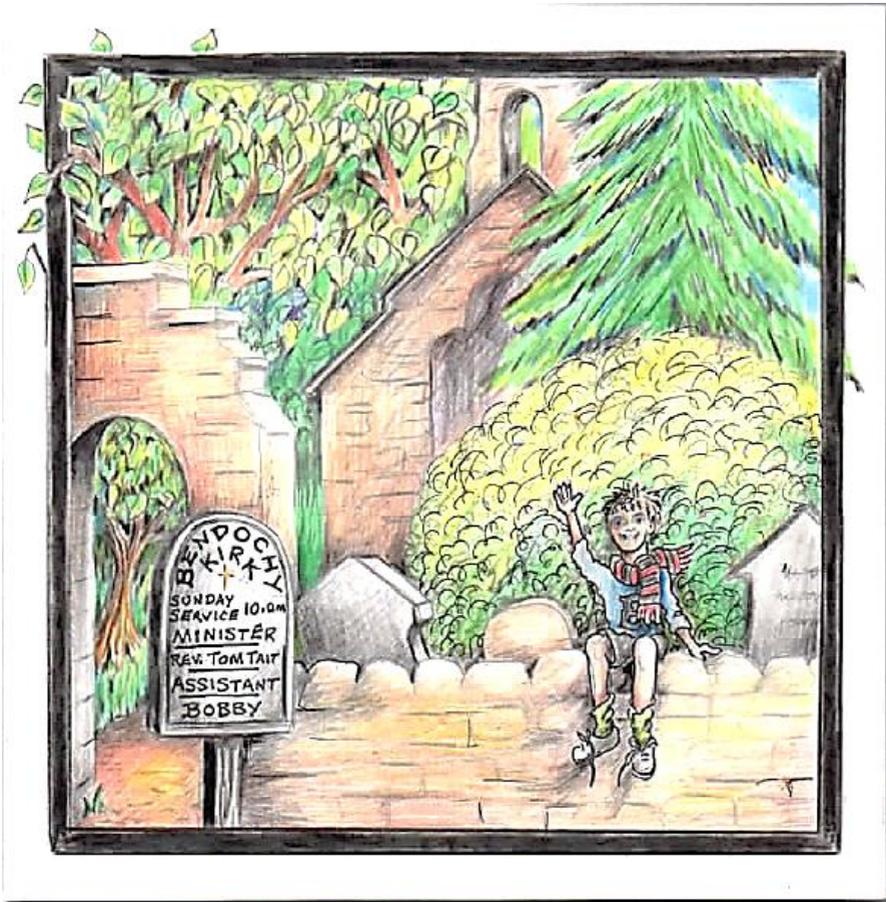
Treasurer:	Peter Godfrey	Tel: 01828 627028
Roll Keeper:	Ellen McGibbon	Tel: 07541009398
Gift Aid:	Ellen McGibbon	Tel: 07541009398
FWO:	Donna Hindmarch	
Fabric:	John Easson	Tel: 01828 628001
Flowers:	Helen Pithie Sheila Robertson	Tel: 01828 627365 Tel: 01828 627375
Life and Work:	Anne Richards	Tel: 01828 628138
EPACTS:	Helen Pithie	Tel: 01828 627365
Presbytery Elder:	Jeff Brewer	Tel: 01828 628126
Organist:	Austin Wilkie	Tel: 01250 876104
Isla Link Editor:	Roz Arno-Button Rachel Ewins	Tel: 01828 628728 Tel: 01828 627031
Children's Ministry	Irene Henderson	

Safeguarding Co-ordinator Mrs Joanne Chinn
 Bridge Cottage
 Little Keithick PH13 9NB
 Tel: 01828 670454

Who's who at Bendochy

Treasurer:	David Donaldson	Tel: 01828 640017
Gift Aid:	Graeme McNeill	Tel: 01828 627751
Fabric:	Robert Cormack	Tel: 01250 875449
Presbytery Elder:	Bill Pate	Tel: 01250 874548
Flowers:	Christine Pate Margaret Donaldson	Tel: 01250 874548 Tel: 01828 640017
Bendochy Ladies:	Judy Long	Tel: 01828 632515
EPACTS:	Susan Meldrum	Tel: 01828 628209
Health & Safety:	Robert Cormack	Tel: 01250 875449
Organist:	Austin Wilkie	Tel: 01250 876104

Bendochy Parish Church



This beautiful illustration by Rosemary Patterson was created for the front cover of the farewell card recently presented to the Rev Tom Tait by Bendochy Parish Church.

Bendochy Parish Church of Scoland ((SC004358) and Coupar Angus Abbey Church of Scotland (SC014438) are component elements of the Presbytery of Dunkeld and Meigle (SC036630) which is itself a component element of the Church of Scotland (SC011353).