

ISLA LINK

June 2018



The Magazine of
Bendochy
linked with
Coupar Angus Abbey



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	Tel: 01828 627365
	Sheila Robertson	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	Tel: 01828 628728
	Rachel Ewins	Tel: 01828 627031
Children's Ministry:	Irene Henderson	

Safeguarding Co-ordinator	Mrs Joanne Chinn	Tel: 01828 670454
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Who's who at Bendochy

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



Minister:

Rev Andrew F Graham

Tel: 01828 627864

email: andrew.graham@churchofscotland.org.uk

Bendochy Church

Sunday Service 10.00am

Session Clerk:

Mr Graeme McNeill

Tel: 01828 627751

Abbey Church

Sunday Service: 11.15am

Session Clerk:

Mrs Ellen McGibbon

Tel: 07541009398

Website: www.bandcachurch.org.uk

Featuring in this edition of your Isla Link:-

- ◇ Bendochy Church Ladies Group— Spring Coffee Morning
- ◇ Thoughts from the Manse.
- ◇ Safeguarding Training Dates.
- ◇ Rosemary Patterson admitted to the Order of Reader.
- ◇ EPACTS Calendar 2019—Photographers Wanted.

Opportunities Galore

This edition of the Isla Link presents many opportunities to participate in the activities of both Churches.

We each know where our talents lie and how we can best serve, but sometimes all that is required of us is to be the support act; supporting the events and actions of others. A fundraising event can only succeed if people attend, and our groups can only flourish with the support of volunteers. We hope you will take some time to enjoy the opportunities available to you in whatever capacity.

Rachel Ewins

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Bendochy Church Ladies Group



Spring Coffee Morning
10.00 am on Thursday, 31 May 2018
Bendochy Coach House
Tickets: £3.00 Available from members
or pay at the door.

Donations of baking for tables and stalls
will be much appreciated.

At the Business Meeting held on the 1 May 2018, it was agreed to give Donations to CHAS and Hope Park.

If you are interested in joining our Group, please contact ***Judy Long*** .

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Magazine Deadline

Deadline for the next issue: 19 August 2018.

Please send articles to:-

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

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



Thoughts From The Manse

Over the past week or so, the manse garden has just suddenly burst into new life. Trees which just had small green buds on them a fortnight ago are now full and vibrant with pink blossom and plants which were just small shoots, poking their heads through the soil, are now fully established, beginning to bloom already. Of course all this is due to the warm, spring sun helping the plants to grow as they should and although I am not a keen gardener, I think this is a beautiful time of year, where we get to see the full splendour of God's creation.

But as I write this article I am conscious that this Sunday is Ascension Sunday, when we think of our Lord and Saviour returning to the glory of God in Heaven. Yet before He did so He said to His disciples, ***'You are my witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised...'*** (Luke 24:48-49) and of course He was speaking of the gift of the Holy Spirit which we remember on Pentecost Sunday.

In the same way that the Sun enables God's creation to grow and blossom as it should, so the Holy Spirit enables us to grow and blossom as we should as Christians. Jesus Himself spoke of the Holy Spirit as an advocate, counsellor, helper - and the Holy Spirit is all of these things and more. For the Holy Spirit also empowers, enables and inspires us in ways we might never have believed possible. It is the very presence of God within every one of us, transforming every one of us from within, that we might become more Christ like in all we say and do, and become the disciples and witnesses that He calls us to be.

With Every Blessing,

Andy

Prayer Meeting

The prayer meetings continue in the Abbey Church each week and it is good to see people come along to this, but we would welcome others to come and join us. Prayer is essential in our faith lives as we seek to serve our Lord and Saviour in this part of His Kingdom. 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.

Bible Study

The Bible Study group has now stopped for this session and will restart at the end of August, with details appearing in the weekly intimations before it does so. Thank you to all who have come along over these past weeks and joined us in our time of discussion and fellowship. Although the study of God's Word is a serious matter, we have done so in a warm, relaxed and friendly atmosphere and have enjoyed some moments of laughter along the way - even during our study of Amos, perhaps the most misunderstood man in the Bible! So why not come and join us when we start again - we would love to see you there.

Bible Study – Elijah

Even his name, Elijah speaks volumes about the kind of man that he was, for it means, '*...my Lord is Jehovah...*' A Hebrew prophet and reformer of around the 9th century BC, no other Old Testament prophet has kept such a vivid hold on the mind of the people than Elijah. He first appears around 864BC about midway through the reign of King Ahab in the now Northern Kingdom of Israel. Of Elijah himself we know very little. He was a Tishbite from the region of Gilead to the Northeast of Jerusalem on the other side of the Jordan. But he just seems to appear mysteriously from nowhere, a soldier of God against the heathen practices now prevalent in the land and champion of the downtrodden. And he disappears just as suddenly and mysteriously in a chariot of fire!

King Ahab, spurred on by his evil wife Jezebel, the daughter of the Phoenician King, turned out to be one of the most wicked of all Hebrew Kings. Jezebel actively encouraged worship of foreign gods and idols, in particular those of her own people. She had pagan temples and shrines built and had her own 'army' of pagan priests and prophets. Any true prophets or priests of God were driven out as Ahab gradually allowed Jezebel to dictate the religious way of life.

Enter Elijah, recorded first at the beginning of 1 Kings chapter 17...

1 Kings 17:1-7

What can we learn from Elijah from these verses?

- That he is completely obedient to God.
- That he obviously trusts God and has complete faith in Him.
- There is an element of bravery here - Ahab had led his people into evil ways in the worship of foreign gods and together with his wife Jezebel, had built up a strong force in the land.

1 Kings 17:8-24

What lessons can we take from Elijah's experience in these verses?

- God provides help for us from areas that we might least expect it.
- No matter how bitter or hopeless our situation might be, we should always look for God's caring touch.
- If we are obedient and have faith, great things might happen in our lives.
- Even when God does intervene in our lives, it doesn't always mean that our problems will suddenly disappear.
- We need to depend on God afresh with every new problem that comes our way.

1 Kings 18:17-40

What can we learn from this incident involving Elijah?

- Even when everyone around appears to be against you and your faith, when no-one else appears to believe in God as you do, it's important not to lose faith.
- If we do hold on to that faith, God will not abandon us and will always be there for us.
- In times of crises, there is no-one else we can call on but the Lord Himself - no-one else can ultimately offer us the guidance, answers or wisdom that we seek.
- If we remain faithful to God, He will keep His promises to us.

Elijah's single minded commitment to God both shocks and challenges us. He was sent to confront the king and the people, not to comfort them. And sometimes as Christians we too are called to confront people and to challenge them about the way in which they live. Not by standing on our soap-boxes in the street corner so to speak, but by boldly declaring the difference that Jesus can and does make in our lives through the lives that we ourselves lead. And in order for us to complete this mission, we too need to be focussed on God and be obedient and faithful to His word.

Friendly Fridays

Our Friendly Friday afternoons continue to be a great success and it is so heart-warming to see and hear the chat and laughter that takes place over a cup of tea or coffee - not to mention something nice to eat. Our thanks go to those who help organise and run this every month and to all who come along and join in the fellowship. And if you haven't come along yet, why not come and join us at our next one on Friday 1st June, anytime between 1.30 - 3.00pm. A warm, friendly welcome awaits all.

Hospital Visits

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

The Scottish Bible Society

Every year in Spring there is a weekend held locally to promote the work of the Bible Society who provide Bibles to many countries in their own language. A faithful group in Coupar Angus organize these events. Funds are always needed, but there is the inspiration of knowing how much the Bible is sought after in so many places.

On April 7th the coffee morning was held in Cargill/Burrelton Church hall, followed by a service at the Abbey church on the Sunday evening.

The Sat event followed the re-assuring pattern that people here look forward to, long tables with cakes and 'little treasures' for sale. Mrs Morag Rendall of No 62 Blairgowrie provided Christian books for the book stall.

Through in the main hall were tables set out with a great selection of cakes and unique sandwiches, all offered by the helpful team. At one table was a local family with a very furry dog, and a niece from Brisbane who told of swimming happily with the sharks! Visitors came from Blairgowrie Parish church and Kettins church, and at the last minute a couple arrived on their way to Perth who were badly needing coffee and a chat.

The evening service was well attended, organized by the same team and led by Rev Andy Graham. The visiting speaker, Robert Russell from the Scottish Bible Society, told us of his visit to refugee camps in Iraq where Bibles were distributed to the refugees in their own language. Robert shared his great sense of shock at seeing such huge numbers of people suffering pain and distress, but then came the joy of seeing the response and hunger for Bibles - so many fleeing their homes, at risk of death, with nothing. Muslims were also seeking Bibles, showing us once again how persecution leads countless numbers to the Christian faith of love.

The Scottish Bible Society in Malawi

Another event was held on April 21st at St Catharine's Centre, Blairgowrie, hosted by EPACTS.

Norman Liddle spoke about his ten-day trip with a team from Edinburgh to the south of Malawi. He showed us colourful pictures explaining the three projects they established.

1. Let the children encounter Christ

We saw 250 lively children queuing to enter the church. As Norman said, once inside there were 'wall to wall children' - what a sight! The team had been invited to hear them reciting Bible verses - one of them doing so in a dilapidated wheelchair.

2. Transforming Families

Again, a crowded congregation. In the front was a strange object, a laundry basket, which held Bibles to be lent out. We were told one in ten people possess a Bible, and their Pastor, up until then had a copy but with many missing pages! This project entailed supplying Bibles with notes to be distributed to each family in their own language

3. Literacy

Because only Primary schools are free in Malawi (Secondary schools are too expensive) there is a great need, especially amongst the women to learn to read and write, previously the men would not have allowed this.

The talk gave a wonderful insight into the country.

Many thanks to the Scottish Bible Society for opening our eyes to this country and to their work all over the world.

Jean Napier

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Rosemary Patterson

The Presbytery of Dunkeld and Meigle conducted a special service at Bendochy on the evening of 24th April to admit Mrs Rosemary Patterson to the Order of Reader in the Church of Scotland. It was a joyful, celebratory occasion.

The service was conducted by the Presbytery Moderator Rev Peggy Ewart-Roberts, the Presbytery Clerk Rev John Russell and the Convenor of Ministries Committee Dr Nigel Henderson. Lessons were read by Rev Fraser Penny and Rev Andy Graham. The service was attended by many members of Presbytery and members of the Bendochy and Abbey Church congregations.

Rosemary is an elder at Bendochy and a volunteer in the Children's Ministry at the Abbey Church.

During the service she answered questions put to her before signing a Formula to confirm her appointment as Reader. She was congratulated on completing her training, and for the commitment and enthusiasm she has shown.

After the service, members of Bendochy Congregation provided food and beverages in the Church and this was an excellent opportunity for good fellowship after an uplifting and memorable service.



Graeme McNeill

Lessons From Reading The Lessons In Church

What do you do when you realise you are reading the wrong lesson? The first thing I did was to correct the mistake and recognise that I have rights which are common to each of us.

In this instance 'I HAVE THE RIGHT TO MAKE A MISTAKE'. This is a fundamental right and without it we would be berating ourselves several times each day, every time we made a mistake, if we did not accept that we have this right.

My thoughts lead me on to wondering what the attentive members of the congregation, (about all of them), thought about this mistake. Well, everyone present will have had their own thoughts, which would in some way differ from the thoughts of everyone else.

Whose thoughts should I give the most precedent? The simple answer is none. I have no control of the thoughts of other people. I only have control of my own thoughts, and this brought to mind a 'life lesson' I came across, and wrote about, some years ago.

***To live our lives looking over our shoulders asking,
'What do others think of me? Is a wearying way to exist.
But this trauma does not only affect those who feel inadequate;
Many successful men and women live in the prison of other people's
opinions of their lives. And it is a prison indeed, for it robs us of
freedom in our social and family life, our careers and in our very
spirits.***

This is a 'life lesson' we do well to keep reminding ourselves of.

Jeff Brewer (the unrepentant reader)

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Fabric Report

Most recent work relating to fabric has been to meet the fire safety requirements, but we took the opportunity to replace the ageing lights in the church with new LED units, which are far more economical to run, and are a nearer match to daylight.

Whilst this was a significant cost, it was made cheaper by the workmen fitting the smoke detectors already accessing the very high fitting positions.

John Easson

A View From The Pew

Recently I have been reading a very helpful book called “Taking God Seriously” by Dr Jim Packer (Subtitle, “Vital things we need to know.”)

One of the chapters is all about “Repentance”. You might think that sounds pretty boring! But it wasn’t for me, for repentance has been a very important matter in my life. Perhaps for some reading this too?

Remember that John the Baptist and Jesus both preached - “Repent, the Kingdom of God is near” as recorded in the Gospel Matthew wrote for us. Then the first thing Jesus said to the disciples after the resurrection was:- “.....preach repentance and the forgiveness of sins.” (Note that order.)

Then later Peter and Paul both preached:- repentance towards God and forgiveness from Jesus Christ. Always repentance before forgiveness.

Now, we all need to keep a clear conscience before God and quickly say “Sorry God” and seriously mean it! We all know that our bodies need a good diet and the same goes for our spiritual life within us.

Author’s Name Withheld

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Abbey Church Choir Member Celebrates 50 Years Of Song

Every week at the Abbey our worship is enhanced by the beautiful singing from the choir and this year one of our choir members celebrates something of a milestone. For over 50 years Harry Walker has been singing in various church choirs, adding his tenor voice to wonderful effect - and if you're wondering how many praise songs Harry would have sung in that time, rather a lot!! Congratulations, Harry, on such a wonderful achievement, we are delighted to have you as part of our choir here at the Abbey and look forward to singing many more praise songs with you.

Andy

Choir practice takes place from 6-7pm at the Abbey on Wednesday evenings. New members would be made very welcome.

Austin Wilkie

Data Protection

We are required by Presbytery and by the Church of Scotland Law Department to draw your attention to this matter.

Bendochy Parish Church and Coupar Angus Abbey Church (The Congregation) are committed to protecting your privacy and safeguarding your personal data and shall use and retain the information you have provided us with as a point of contact, only while you retain your connection as a member of these congregations.

The Congregation recognise the importance of your privacy and personal information and we have therefore outlined below how we use, disclose and protect this information. The Congregation, jointly with the Presbytery of Dunkeld & Meigle is the data controller, because we decide how your data are processed and for what purpose.

How we use information

We use the information you give to us:

- to administer membership records, including a Communion Roll and Supplementary Roll;
- for pastoral care purposes;
- in relation to participation in Congregational activities ;
- to provide you with information about news, events, and activities within the Congregation or the wider Church of Scotland;
- to provide the services of a parish church to the local community;
- to fulfil contractual or other legal obligations;
- to manage our employees;
- to further our charitable aims, for example through fundraising activities;
- to maintain our accounts and records (including the processing of Gift Aid applications);

Disclosure of information

The Congregation will only share your personal information where this is necessary for the purposes set out above. Information will not be shared with any third party outwith the Church of Scotland without your consent unless we are obliged or permitted to do so by law.

Inaccuracies and Objections

If you believe that any information the Congregation holds about you is incorrect or incomplete or if you do not wish your personal information to be held or used by us please let us know. Any information found to be incorrect will be corrected as quickly as possible.

A full copy of the GDPR Privacy Notice will soon be available on our website www.bandcachurch.org.uk and on the notice boards within each church. However, if you require any further information please contact the Minister, Session Clerk or your District Elder.

Rev Andrew F Graham

Hooray For The Women

A statue was unveiled recently in London's Parliament Square. The only woman amidst five great men.

Millicent Fawcett played a key role in securing women older than thirty the right to vote in 1918. She was a feminist and union leader before she died in 1929.

Many women have acknowledged the role played by Millicent Fawcett in their own lives, including Theresa May. A memorial was long overdue.

The Church of Scotland likewise took a long time before they allowed the ordination women to the ministry. In *Life and Work* (May issue) Rev Margaret Forrester reflects on the journey which led to women being ordained to the ministry within the Church of Scotland. It seems strange to us these days that many church men were very against this. Women were allowed to study Divinity at New College in Edinburgh but they had to fight to sit the exams. On passing the exams they were still not accepted as candidates for the ministry. They would be welcomed with open arms in these times when there is such a shortage of ministers.

Mary Lusk (later Levison) petitioned the General Assembly in 1963 but it wasn't until 1968 that the act was finally passed. You can read the stories of some of the first lady ministers in *Life and Work* and also a profile of the Moderator Designate the Rev Susan Brown who has been minister at Dornoch Cathedral for twenty years.

How far the women of the Church of Scotland have come. Even in the Abbey the majority of the Kirk Session are WOMEN.

If anyone would like a copy of *Life and Work* please see me.

Anne Richards

Daffodowndilly

She wore her yellow sun-bonnet,
She wore her greenest gown;
She turned to the south wind
And curtsied up and down.
She turned to the sunlight
And shook her yellow head,
And whispered to her neighbour:
"Winter is dead."

A.A. Milne

My Three Year Journey

I would like to thank everyone who came to my Setting Apart service at Bendochy on 24th April 2018. Your presence gave me great pleasure and made for a very warm and happy evening. Special thanks to all who contributed to the organisation and delicious refreshments, and I would also like to express my heartfelt appreciation to everyone at Bendochy and Coupar Angus Abbey whose unfailing encouragement and support has helped me through what has often been a very challenging time.

I started the Readership course three years ago. I made enquiries to the Church's Head Office at 121 George Street, Edinburgh in November 2014, then attended an all-day Enquirer's Conference in Glasgow, in February 2015. The different ways and offices in which the Church can be served were introduced and I came home with copious amounts of paperwork. After applying for the position of trainee Reader, I began a three month period of discernment at Dunkeld Cathedral with Rev. Fraser Penny in May of that year. This was a relaxed and pleasant time; apart from doing a couple of prayers at the Cathedral and giving a five minute talk in Dowally Church, my only task was to read various books and then discuss them with Fraser over coffee. So far, so easy. An assessment and interview followed, and I was deemed a suitable candidate.

A two day residential course at Coatbridge was next, and there I met another 14 trainees. They had already started the academic part of the course and I was sure their tales of difficulty and stress were exaggerated. (They weren't!) My first of four terms as an online student began in January 2016 at Aberdeen University. At the same time my first six month placement at Pitlochry Church with Rev. Mary Haddow started. Suddenly, I didn't have a second to spare! I struggled with the complications of distance learning technology (without Calum I'd never have managed!), listened to lectures, attended tutorials and wrote essays. In between I began learning how to construct sermons with Mary and shuttled between Blairgowrie and Pitlochry on Sundays, and through the week, as I shadowed her busy routine.

It was difficult keeping up with my own work as an artist and the standard of meals and housekeeping at home slipped very low. (I'm afraid that's yet to recover! Sorry Dave!) Exam time came, and my first mark was a C - the lecturer's comment was "this essay has been written from the perspective of the author's religious convictions rather than from a literary, historical and philological understanding of the texts."! The next

three terms however, saw a steady improvement. Subsequent lecturers proved to be committed Christians, whose instruction and support was invaluable. I attended a total of five residential conferences and my fellow trainees have become firm friends.

My second six month placement at Kinclaven, Caputh & Clunie started in June 2017 with Rev. Peggy Ewart-Roberts. Conveniently close to home and I loved every minute. I was given November off to prepare for my final exams and returned for a packed programme of Christmas services and events in December. January felt strangely flat and quiet, but I soon readjusted to having free time. □

I look forward to supporting Andy in his ministry and serving Bendochy and Coupar Angus Abbey..

Rosemary Patterson

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EPACTS Calendar 2019—

Journey through a year / journey through life / meeting Jesus on the journey.

Following the success of the 2018 EPACTS Calendar it has been decided to repeat the exercise for 2019. The success resulted from the excellent photographs donated locally.

The calendar theme for 2019 is a “journey” through the year which relates to our life journey, with the expectation that we may “meet” Jesus on the way.



So come on all you budding photographers, put your cameras to work or sift through your saved photos. Topic suggestions include:- travel, racing, cycling, paths and roadways, but fuller details of monthly topics can be seen overleaf, on Church noticeboards or provided on request.

The deadline for the photos is **1 September 2018**. They can be emailed to secretary@epacts.org.uk or speak to Anne Richards at the Abbey or Susan Meldrum at Bendochy.

Anne Richards

EPACTS 2019 CALENDAR PROJECT

THEME: *Journey through a year / journey through life / meeting Jesus on the journey*

MONTH/HEADING	TEXT	SUGGESTION FOR PHOTO
JANUARY Look back – or forward?	Forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press onwards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.	A jogger? Snowdrops pushing up through snow?
FEBRUARY A guiding light for life's journey.	... The rising sun will come to us from heaven to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace.	A sunrise? A pathway?
MARCH A woman met Jesus at the well of Sychar.	Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, "Come see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?"	The well site in the Wellmeadow? Any picturesque pool of water, preferably with someone sitting nearby.
APRIL Easter	When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him. So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell the disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them.	A graveyard?
MAY God equips us for a journey of faith.	Consider how the lilies grow. Not even Solomon is all his splendour was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field ... how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith!	Bluebell woods?
JUNE Take a break!	Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you a rest.	Resting on roadside bench? A cyclist with a heavily laden bike? A roadside inn?
JULY Saul (=Paul) meets Jesus	On one of these journeys as I was on the road, I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun blazing around ... I heard a voice saying "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" Then I asked, "Who are you Lord?" "I am Jesus", whom you are persecuting."	A bright sunny scene? A contre-jour?
AUGUST Jonah had met the Lord, but did not wish to be guided by him.	The word of the Lord came to Jonah, son of Amittai, "Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it." ... But Jonah ran away from the Lord and headed for Tarshish (in Spain)	City of Perth.
SEPTEMBER Knowing Jesus personally is the way to find God.	There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death. Jesus answered, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me."	A road or path.
OCTOBER Have we met Jesus? Are we changed? Do we follow him? Show me the way I should go When he, the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth.	A Signpost at crossroads? Vi with guide dog Coco?
NOVEMBER Death is not the end.	Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff they comfort me	Perthshire Glen on a gloomy day?
DECEMBER Simeon took a walk to the temple and met the infant Jesus. His goal is realised!	It has been revealed to him (Simeon) by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the Temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus Simeon took him in his arms and praised God.	A mother holding a baby.

Coupar Angus Abbey Treasurer's Report

Hello again. Once again it is time for a report. We have had a large number of commitments on our finances. A new fire alarm system has been fitted along with new lighting which came to a cost of £8,778. The installation of sound and vision systems was £3,084. There was also a large bill from the gas board of £1,782.80, this however covers a five month period.

We received a refund of £428.53 from electric company. Bendochy also paid their share for manse upkeep and other relevant costs of £428.53, this is for a 3 month period. Brownies paid £275 for use of the church. Many thanks to them.

The account at present stand at the following:

General account	£13,734.22
Fabric	£1,369.37
Reserve	£2,788.76
Development	£24,833.08
Childrens ministry	£2,537.83

Many thanks to all who help and support our church.

Peter Godfrey. Treasurer

Coupar Angus Abbey—Charity Shop—2-10 July 2018

Its coming up to the time of year when we hold our Charity Shop in aid of church funds, the first two weeks in July, so hopefully when you have been cleaning out your cupboards, sheds etc you have remembered to keep aside items which can be sold in the shop. If you require any items uplifted contact Ellen on 07541009398 and I will arrange for items to be picked up. Tombola Prizes and Raffle Prizes are required also please. Home Baking is always appreciated jams, marmalade, fruit loaves, pancakes etc. Nearer the time a Rota will go up on the church noticeboard and if you are able to help in the shop any morning or afternoon that would be great. As you know the shop runs for two weeks so please add your name to the Rota. Sheila and Allan Legge, who run the Charity Shop for us, ask if two people could man the shop every morning and every afternoon along with themselves.

Our grateful thanks to Sheila and Allan who do a wonderful job manning the shop and remaining so cheerful. We are indebted to them as they have raised a fantastic sum over the years for Abbey funds.

Ellen McGibbon

Are you an Elder or work with the Children's Ministry?

It is now mandatory for all Elders and volunteers to undertake and update safeguarding training. Many Elders have already attended a training session either last year in Pitlochry or, more recently in May at Bendochy.



To update your Safeguarding training .

We all want the young people who attend our Children's Ministry groups to feel safe. We also, as a Kirk need to be able to support and care for any other young person or adult who may be vulnerable and need our help.

It's not just about children.

Margaret Conroy has been appointed by Presbytery to provide the training required. The sessions last approximately two and a half hours and the next session for volunteers is planned to take place in Blairgowrie on Wednesday 6th June at 7pm. A further session aimed specifically at Elders will be offered at Aberfeldy on 25th September.

Please would all volunteers try to attend the training in June. You can let either Irene Henderson or Jo Chinn know if you can attend. Sadly, if volunteers fail to attend the training during the next few months they will be unable to continue to work with our Children's Ministry. We really do need all of our leaders and appreciate all that you do for us, so please try to attend a training session as soon as possible. Training thereafter will need to be updated every 3 - 5 years for Volunteers and Elders so it's not too onerous a task.

VOLUNTEERS

Wednesday 6th June

Venue: Blairgowrie Parish Church

Time: 7 pm

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Telephone:

01828 670234

(leave a message if I'm not in)

ELDERS

Tuesday 25th Sept

Venue: Aberfeldy Church Hall

Time: 7pm

Email:

mchinn982@btinternet .com

Jo Chinn

Safeguarding Coordinator

The Ten Beautiful Lines

Please read and try to understand the deeper meaning of them.

1. Prayer is not a 'spare wheel' that you pull out when in trouble but it is a steering wheel that direct the right path throughout life.
2. Why is a car's windshield so large and the rear view mirror so small? Because our past is not as important as our future. So, look ahead and move on.
3. Friendship is like a book. It takes a few seconds to burn, but it takes years to write.
4. All things in life are temporary. If they are going well enjoy them, they will not last forever. If they are going wrong don't worry, they can't last long either.
5. Old friends are Gold! New friends are Diamonds, but don't forget the Gold; to hold a Diamond, you always need a base of Gold.
6. Often when we lose Hope and think this is the end, God smiles from above and says "Relax Sweetheart; it is just a Bend not the End".
7. When God solves your problems you have faith in his abilities; when God doesn't solve your problems, he has faith in your abilities.
8. A Blind person asked God: can there be anything worse than losing eye sight? He replied yes losing your Vision.
9. When you pray for others, God listens to you and blesses them and when you are safe and happy, remember that someone has prayed for you.
10. Worrying does not take away tomorrow's troubles; it takes away today's Peace.

Veronica Bruce-Rowlands

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Congregational Rolls

Deaths

Feb 2018	Ella Smith - Bendochy Parish Church Celia Cochrane—Bendochy Parish Church Joanna Lumsden—Coupar Angus
March	David Patterson —Coupar Angus
April	Hilda Duncan —Coupar Angus
May	Frances Smeaton —Coupar Angus

Baptism

15 April 2018 Michael John Pratt - Coupar Angus Abbey Church

Pride of Place

Pride of Place as ever have been busy getting ready for the summer displays and improving our poor spring plants that have really suffered with the winter weather. They are now looking good, I am pleased to say after the hard efforts of our Popper; trimming back the winter damage and planting up with new plants. The crocuses, snowdrops and daffodils have looked great across the top of the Common.



The polytunnel has been washed down ready to receive the summer plugs which have now been planted on and we are optimistically hoping they will be ready to plant into the hanging baskets in two weeks time!! Some sunshine would be a great help.

Last year's tubers have also been planted on and we are still hoping they will start growing ready for the Plant Sale which will be on Saturday May 26th, in the Town Hall from 10am until 12 noon. The £2 Entry Fee will include refreshments.



We have been tidying up the Pollinators bed and are about to add some fertiliser to help the plants recover from the winter, and now have a new flag flying there. The park will be our next port of call to start tidying up the beds there and edging them. Often these tasks sound somewhat dull but need to be done to encourage new growth for this year. Seeing the beds clear and newly edged does bring a sense of achievement.

By the time you read this our PoP AGM will have passed but we really could with some more helpers. It is not compulsory to come every time when we are out, just when you can. Just think of that sense of achievement when you see the town in full bloom in the summer.

Anne Easson

Children's Ministry

The groups continue to flourish and the children are enjoying a wide range of activities. We have been learning about the books of the Bible and the difference between the Old and New Testament. We have learned about Joseph and his technicolour dream coat and the children have made their own coats of many colours.

Stepping Stones have made a number of crafts which can be seen in the church

Irene Henderson, Coordinator

Food Bank

Once again I write to thank the many who continue to support the Food Bank box in the corner of the church. It is really gratifying the variety of food that is donated and I know it is much appreciated by the team in Perth who make up the parcels that go out to those in need. I can only ask that you continue to give your support and hope that others will join in support of this very worthwhile cause.

Helen Pithie

Flower Club

On behalf of the flower club committee I would like to thank all who so kindly donate fresh flowers Sunday by Sunday. The girls who run the club are really grateful to all who regularly donate flowers, those who arrange them and distribute them to homes in the community. We are very fortunate that all dates on the calendar are now filled but vacancies do occur and if there is anyone out there who would like to contribute to this very worthwhile cause please let us know.

Sheila Robertson & Helen Pithie

Whats On

- 30/05/18 Abbey Kirk Session Meeting—7.30pm in the Church
Agenda items to the Clerk or Moderator before meeting.
- 31/05/18 Bendochy Ladies Group—Spring Coffee Morning—10.00am
- 01/06/18 Friendly Friday—Coupar Angus Abbey — 1.30—3.30pm
- 02-10/07/18 Abbey Church Charity Shop, George Street, Coupar Angus

Reflections On This Year's Snowdrop Festival



This year, the Snowdrop festival lived up to its name in more ways than one. Every year the festival is an opportunity to reflect on the season's cycle at the beginning of another year. The snowdrops emerge, come what may, and never fail to give a fantastic display like a ribbon along the curb side of the country lanes around Coupar Angus, as well as in people's gardens. A new venue at the garden at Princeland's House was open for people to walk amongst a sea of white snowdrops to see the view across to the Couttie Bridge and beyond.

Here at the Abbey the Spring Fair was time to celebrate with snowdrop craft events for the children, and this year Strathmore Men's Shed were displaying their activities. Various tea party events were all well attended and Alison Jones of 'Alison's Kitchen' catered for well over 100 people over the weekend at St Anne's hall for another new Vintage tea event, alongside Kate the florist from Moyness garden Centre, who crafted her unusual spring flower displays in vintage tea pots, cups and even from within an old Victorian chair!

Two local artists held a colourful exhibition at the Heritage Centre revolving around the theme of upcycling.

I was inspired by collaborating with a small group who turned St Anne's church into a Quiet space for reflection; creating a display of hundreds of snowdrops within the recessed windows of the church to give impact. People who entered were invited to sit quietly, maybe light a candle to represent what was meaningful for them. There was also a display regarding the Snowdrop Project; an organization/charity based in Sheffield, seeking to assist those caught up in human trafficking. The preparation for this event proved to be a great time of working together with lots of banter and laughter.

Sadly, cold and somewhat bleak weather disrupted some of the planned events, but that didn't discourage the energy and enthusiasm felt across the community which seems like a heartbeat - a coming together to celebrate an event which inspires, and one which Coupar Angus can be proud of.

Summing up, when all is back to normal?! It's good to evaluate and build upon this year's successes, and to realize there are still 1,001 ideas out there that have the potential to take root and blossom, like the snowdrops emerge and flower.

It's never too early to think of new ideas for next years festival- so if anyone has even a flicker of an idea, I'd love to hear your thoughts. Please contact Roz on 01828 628728 or email roz.arno@btinternet.com



Roz Arno-Button

The Knots Prayer

Dear God, please untie the knots that are in my mind,
my heart and my life.

Remove the havenots, the cannots, the donots,
that I have in my mind.

Erase the willnots, maynots, mightnots
that may find a home in my heart.

Release me from the could nots, would nots and should nots
that obstruct my life.

And most of all, Dear God,

I ask that You remove from my mind,
my heart and my life

all of the "am nots" that I have allowed to hold me back,
especially the thought
that I am not good enough.

Amen

Kathleen Godfrey

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Prayer Group Meetings

The Prayer Group meetings take place on Wednesdays at 2.00pm in the Abbey Church. All are welcome to come along and spend some quiet time in prayer before the Lord.

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.....



Abbey Flower Rota

June 2018

***Co-ordinator: I Rodger
627703***

- 3** Mrs A Richards
10 Mrs B Crighton
17 Mrs I Rodger
24 Mrs P Donaldson

August

***Co-ordinator: I Jack
627759***

- 6** Mrs J McNaughton
13 Mrs C Todd
20 Mrs I Jack
27 Mrs I Henderson/
Mrs J Rennie

Bendochy Flower Rota

June 2018

- 3** A Wilkie
10 A Wilkie
17 J Davidson
24 J Davidson

August

- 5** B Lithgow
12 B McKenzie
19 B McKenzie
26 M Scott

July

***Co-ordinator: A Richards
628138***

- 1** Mrs K McKinney
8 Mr & Mrs H Walker
15 Mrs S Jack
22 Mrs J Hawkins
29 Mrs I Jack

September

***Co-ordinator: H Pithie
627365***

- 2** Mrs R Ewins
9 Miss E Jack
16 Mrs I Rodger
23 Mrs A Farquharson
30 Rev I Bentley

July

- 1** J Long
8 J Long
15 J Long
22 B Lithgow
29 B Lithgow

Septemember

- 2** M Donaldson
9 M Donaldson
16 M Donaldson
23 C Pate
30 C Pate



Bendochy Cleaning Rota

<i>June</i>	Mrs J Davidson and Mr M Davidson
<i>July</i>	Mrs M Cormack and Ms B MacKenzie
<i>August</i>	Mrs C Pate and Mr W Pate
<i>September</i>	Miss J Laburn and Dr G McNeill

Coach House Hostesses

<i>June</i>	Jean Laburn	Bernice MacKenzie
<i>July</i>	Rosemary Patterson	Susan Meldrum
<i>August</i>	Shona Grant	Marie Cormack
<i>September</i>	Jean Laburn	Jane Davidson

***Coffee is served in the Coach House
at the end of the service
on the first Sunday of each month.***

All are welcome.



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. Last year's total for the Stamp Appeal was £2,194.

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.

Harry Walker

Readers in the Abbey and Bendochy

	<i>The Abbey</i>	<i>Bendochy</i>
<i>June</i>		
3	Joanne Chinn	S Cumming
10	David Chinn	R Patterson
17	Irene Henderson	G McNeill
24	Robert Farquharson	J Davidson
<i>July</i>		
1	Anne Easson	J Laburn
8	John Easson	J Morison
15	Rev Andrew Graham	M Davidson
22	Jeff Brewer	S Cumming
29	Anne Richards	R Patterson
<i>August</i>		
5	Margaret Pattullo	G McNeill
12	Ellen McGibbon	J Davidson
19	Catriona Henderson	J Laburn
26	Joanne Chinn	J Morison
<i>September</i>		
2	David Chinn	M Davidson
9	Irene Henderson	S Cumming
16	Robert Farquharson	R Patterson
23	Anne Easson	J Davidson
30	John Easson	J Davidson

The Abbey Beadle Duty

	<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Other</i>
	<i>Services</i>	<i>Services</i>
<i>June</i>	I Rodger	E McGibbon
<i>July</i>	S Jack	E McGibbon
<i>August</i>	A Richards	E McGibbon
<i>September</i>	K Godfrey	K Godfrey

Welcoming you at Bendochy today

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

June 3

D Patterson
D Donaldson

June 10

G McNeill
S Grant

June 17

B MacKenzie
J Laburn

June 24

J Morison
D Grant

July 1

W Pate
R Patterson

July 8

S Grant
C Cochrane

July 15

J Morison
D Donaldson

July 22

D Patterson
G McNeill

July 29

D Grant
C Pate

August 05

J Laburn
B MacKenzie

August 12

S Grant
W Pate

August 19

C Cochrane
R Patterson

August 26

G McNeill
J Morison

September 2

D Donaldson
D Patterson

September 9

D Grant
C Cochrane

September 16

C Pate
J Morison

Welcoming you at The Abbey today (subject to change)

It is the responsibility of the people on Welcome Team rota to request assistance to ensure that there are 4 people for the Collection.

June 3

S Jack
ALegge

June 10

I Henderson
J Rennie

June 17

B Crighton
R Ewins

June 24

D Chinn
J Chinn

July 1

K Godfrey
P Godfrey

July 8

J Easson
A Easson

July 15

B Anderson
A Richards

July 22

E McGibbon
I Rodger

July 29

S Turnbull
J brewer

August 05

H Pithie
E Jack

August 12

S Robertson
E McGibbon

August 19

D Hindmarch
I Jack

August 26

M Pattullo
W Pattullo

September 2

S Jack
ALegge

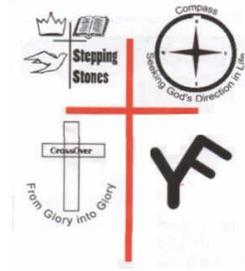
September 9

I Henderson
J Rennie

September 16

B Crighton
R Ewins

COUPAR ANGUS AND BENDOCHY CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Groups meet on Thursdays during school term time:

Group	Start	Age Group
Stepping Stones	5.30pm to 6.30pm	P1 to P3
Compass	6.45pm to 7.45pm	P4 to P6
Crossover	8.00pm to 9.00pm	P7-S1



COME ALONG AND JOIN THE FUN

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