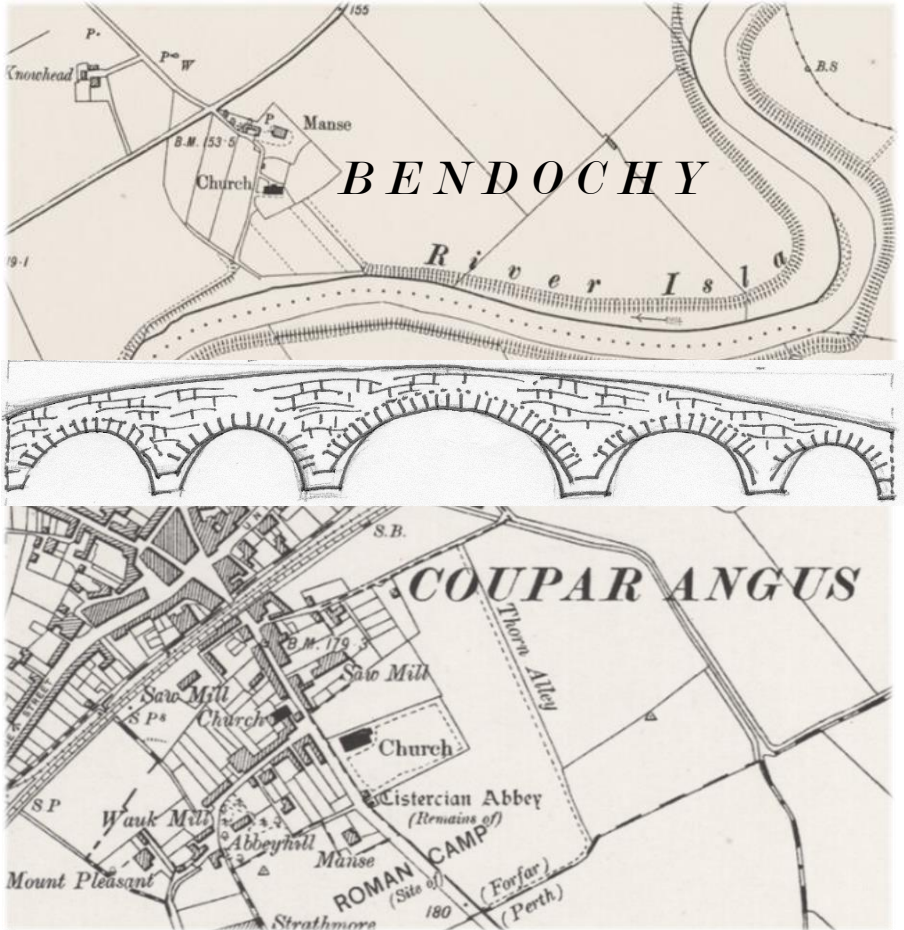


# ISLA LINK



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

**DECEMBER 2015**

## Issue 82

December 2015

Interim Moderator:

Rev Tom Tait

Tel: 01250 874833



### ***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: 01828 628115

Website: [www.bandcachurch.org.uk](http://www.bandcachurch.org.uk)

## ***Welcoming you at The Abbey today*** (subject to change)

### ***December 6***

D. Chinn  
J. Chinn  
I. Rodger  
S. Turnbull

### ***December 13***

J. Brewer  
K. Godfrey  
E. Jack  
S. Robertson

### ***December 20***

D. Hindmarch  
I. Jack  
M. Pattullo  
W. Pattullo

### ***December 27***

P Barker  
A Easson  
J Easson  
W Walker

### ***January 3***

J Duncan  
S Jack  
A Legge  
A Richards

### ***January 10***

I Henderson  
J Rennie

### ***January 17***

E Crighton  
R Ewins  
H Pithie

### ***January 24***

S Turnbull  
D Chinn  
J Chinn  
I Rodger

### ***January 31***

J Brewer  
K Godfrey  
E Jack  
S Robertson

### ***February 7***

D Hindmarch  
I Jack  
M Patullo  
W Patullo

### ***February 14***

P Barker  
A Easson  
J Easson  
W Walker

### ***February 21***

J Duncan  
S Jack  
A Legge  
A Richards

### ***February 28***

I Henderson  
J Rennie

### ***March 6***

E Crighton  
R Ewins  
H Pithie

### ***March 13***

S Turnbull  
D Chinn  
J Chinn  
I Rodger

### ***March 20***

J Brewer  
K Godfrey  
E Jack  
S Robertson

## ***Welcoming you at Bendochy today***

### ***December 6***

D Donaldson  
R Cormack

### ***December 13***

J Laburn  
B MacKenzie

### ***December 20***

C Cochrane  
S Grant

### ***December 27***

W Pate  
G McNeill

### ***January 3***

D Donaldson  
C Cochrane

### ***January 10***

M Davidson  
D Grant

### ***January 17***

R Cormack  
C Pate

### ***January 24***

A Davidson  
G McNeill

### ***January 31***

B MacKenzie  
J Laburn

### ***February 7***

S Grant  
W Pate

### ***February 14***

R Cormack  
M Davidson

### ***February 21***

G McNeill  
C Pate

### ***February 28***

C Cochrane  
D Grant

### ***March 6***

D Donaldson  
A Davidson

### ***March 13***

J Laburn  
B MacKenzie

### ***March 20***

S Grant  
G McNeill

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

## ***Bendochy Cleaning Team Rota***

It has been suggested that from January 2016, we have a cleaning rota team. If you feel you can help please contact Graeme McNeill or any member of the Session.



## ***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.

### ***December***

### ***January***

### ***February***

### ***March***

Bernie McKenzie  
Rosemary Patterson  
Shona Grant  
Celia Cochrane

Jean Laburn  
Jean Laburn  
Marie Cormack  
Jane Davidson

# Readers in the Abbey and Bendochy



## *The Abbey*

## *Bendochy*

### **December**

6	Anne Easson	Graeme McNeill
13	John Easson	Rosemary Patterson
20	Jeff Brewer	Jane Davidson
27	Anne Richards	Robert Cormack

### **January**

3		Jean Laburn
10		John Morison
17	Details as per the	Margaret Davidson
24	noticeboard	Steve Cumming
31		Graeme McNeill

### **February**

7		Nick Tulloch
14		Rosemary Pateterson
21	Details as per the	Jane Davidson
28	noticeboard	Robert Cormack

### **March**

6		Jean Laburn
13		John Morison
20	Details as per the	Margaret Davidson
27	noticeboard	Steve Cumming

## ***Bendochy Flower Rota***

**December**      Christmas Decor

### **January**

3	Festive Decor
10	Seasonal Arrangement
17	Seasonal Arrangement
24	Seasonal Arrangement
31	

### **February**

7	Jean Laburn
14	Jean Laburn
21	Margaret Donaldson
28	Margaret Donaldson

### **March**

6	Margaret Donaldson
13	Christine Pate
20	Christine Pate
27	<b><i>Easter Sunday</i></b>



## ***Bridge Reflections***

Firstly, I'd like to thank people for their comments re the new look Isla Link. Comments re the bridge illustration have been noted and we've incorporated the bridge back onto the cover, leaving the maps to be revealed behind.

Bridges are metaphors for everything in life. The bridge is not just a structure for getting us back and forth over an expanse of water, it's also about connecting our communities.

When there's a need to calm down and allow things to come to you we decide to "cross that bridge when we come to it". When we want to let go of the opportunity to go back we say "we're burning our bridges".

When you physically walk a bridge there's the experience of being in between two places, but its only when you're on the bridge you have a distanced outlook on the land from both sides of the bridge.

The Couttie Bridge near Coupar Angus was built in 1766 and as we reflect on this fine structure we can be thankful for the bridges we can identify within our own lives and be reminded of the links we have with each other.

As we near the close of 2015 let us reflect on bridges we have built within ourselves and with others this year and maybe some of the metaphors will be a powerful picture for us. New bridges can be constructed, new networks developed and new opportunities can always be created in the new year ahead.

Thank you to all who have contributed to the magazine this month.

***Deadline for the next issue: 7 February 2016.***

Please send articles to:-

Roz Arno-Button - 01828 628 728 - [roz.arno@btinternet.com](mailto:roz.arno@btinternet.com)

Rachel Ewins - 01828 627031 - [rachel.ewins@btinternet.com](mailto:rachel.ewins@btinternet.com)

Or pass to any member of the Isla Link team:-

John Easson, Donna Hindmarch, Isobel & Hamish Jack, Helen Pithie and Anne Richards at The Abbey or Margaret Davidson and Bernie McKenzie at Bendochy.

***Roz Arno-Button***

## ***Does God Have A Gender?***

Silly question? Yes, but there are problems in answering this. Most ministers and theologians would agree that God is neither male nor female but if you are a fundamentalist Christian and believe that the Bible is absolute truth then it is quite clear God is a man just as Jesus is a man and even the Holy Spirit is referred to as “he.” I have mentioned this on a previous occasion in connection with Sunday School. As we all know, children have inquisitive minds and in Sunday School we bring them up on the Bible so we have to have an answer to this problem.

I believe it is important not to sow seeds of confusion so, at this stage, I think children should concentrate on what the Bible says and not on matters of interpretation. Later on during those teenage years when young people are naturally sceptical about most things such questions can form the basis for healthy discussion.

When I was at school, for example, I learnt about the structure of the atom; it was a very simplified picture and later on I realised that it was a lot more complicated but, and this is the important point, it was a picture that I could understand at that stage of my education. I tended to think that science had all the answers and was always right because it dealt with facts and facts can’t change. Well I was wrong, they can and do change as knowledge advances. Scientists do not have all the answers because science is full of uncertainties. Our old friend Richard Dawkins believes one thing is definitely certain, there is no God because there is no evidence but equally there is no evidence that there is not. Scientists like Dawkins, if they are going to be honest must be agnostics not atheists.

I am simply making the point that we should avoid being dogmatic about anything but if in doubt show a healthy scepticism and keep an open mind. As Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury once said, I don’t know if God exists but I believe in HIM” Yes HIM.

***Peter A Barker***



## ***Contact The Elderly***

Contact the Elderly is a National organisation which changes the lives of people aged over 75 and over who live alone and who cannot get out on their own.

If this sounds like you ,and you would like to get out of the house and meet new people then Contact the Elderly can help.

Once a month each local group meets for tea, cake and company. Various hosts take it in turn to welcome you and the group into their home for a couple of hours and the drivers make sure you get home safely. The service is free.

If you are interested in becoming part of such a group, or you could be a host and have a small group in your home and provide afternoon tea for a couple of hours, or you would be interested in offering help as a driver then please contact Roz Arno-Button on 01828 628728 for more information regarding this organisation.

***Roz Arno-Button***

## ***Bendochy Flower Report***

Another year comes to an end, where has the time gone? I would like to thank my team of ladies (and one or two men) for contributing to the flowers at Bendochy in 2015. It is especially poignant for many of the arrangers who reserve significant dates to commemorate life events. I also feel that flowers add to the warm welcome we all want to create in our Churches for both visitors and regulars alike.

A special *Thank You* must go to May Bulloch who has decided to retire from the next Flower List. May has given devoted service to Bendochy Church over many decades and is much loved and appreciated by us all.

We will be decorating the Church for Christmas on Thursday 3 December at 10.30am. As usual, bring as much greenery as you can, along with 6 red flowers and any favourite gold decoration ... the rest will be provided. It is a fun morning ..... all welcome.

***Christine Pate***

## ***Whats On***

Friday	04.12.15	Forward Coupar Angus - Butterybank Tree Planting
Sunday	06.12.15	11.15am (Advent 2) Morning Worship
Wednesday	09.12.15	7pm Christmas Concert by Children's Ministry
Sunday	13.12.15	11.15am (Advent 3) Morning Worship
Sunday	20.12.15	11.15am (Advent 4) Service of Readings & Carols
Thursday	24.12.15	11.15pm Watch Night Service
Friday	25.12.15	10.30am Christmas Day Service
Sunday	27.12.15	11.15am Morning Worship
Sunday	27.03.16	Easter Sunday
Sunday	17.04.16	Communion - Bendochy Church
Sunday	24.04.16	Communion - The Abbey Church

## ***Human Nature***

Mankind and his existence within the natural world has a deep meaning which we can still explore, in spite of our sophisticated and technologically advanced civilization.

God created us, and makes provision for our livelihood which gives us comfort and wellbeing. With good management and peaceful respect for these resources we can all benefit and thrive. So often humanity has undermined the natural order and disrupted these processes causing problems and negative effects on our planet. Today we see crises all over the world; regional, religious, ethnic, economic, social and racial. These occur because we go beyond the limits laid down for us in the Ten Commandments and we disregard one another. Unnecessary struggle for supremacy takes us beyond our boundaries to often regrettable consequences. We see terrorism in our midst today inflicting injury on innocent men, women and children. If we maintained the joy of the Lord in our midst we would see all forms of violence, hatred, discrimination, theft, oppression and an unnecessary display of pride banished from our world.

God loves us with an unconditional love and provides us with light, air and water, all essential elements for life at no cost. To the poor and the rich these are all gifts. May the Glory of God the Almighty never elude us, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Thank you to all who made me feel welcomed when I visited this year.

***Joe, A visitor from Lagos, Nigeria***

## ***A Musical Update***

It's hard to believe that I am now into my sixth month as Organist and Choirmaster at Bendochy and The Abbey. How time flies. It has been a lot of fun and I am glad you all enjoy my somewhat "eclectic" mix of music. Seriously though, Lisa and I thank you all for making us so welcome.

The Choir has now been running since September and I am finding my feet. We have a small but very enthusiastic choir and I would ask that anyone who would like to give it a try contact me or come and see me after the service. It would be great to swell the ranks.

***Austin Wilkie***

## ***St Anne's Ecumenical Lunch Club***

St Anne's Lunch Club held their first lunch of the new session at the beginning of September and have continued to meet every two week since, with their Christmas lunch being held on 15<sup>th</sup> December. The lunches are run by members of local churches and open to all members of the community. Any profits accrued from the lunches are shared by local groups in the community. Starting at 12 noon a warm welcome is extended to all.

***Helen Pithie***

## ***Coupar Angus Abbey Church:***

### ***Fabric Report August 2015***

Work on checking the cross at the West gable finally went ahead and it turned out the cross was still very secure, but has now been straightened and the base pointed to prevent water penetration and any risk of corrosion of the shaft holding it in place. At the same time the builders checked the pointing on all the coping stones on both gables whilst they had the high platform on site, and cleared some gutters. The fixings for the West window grilles were checked, and some loose stone flakes removed.

Asbestos removal at the manse is due shortly, following which other works can be started.

**John Easson**  
***Fabric Convener***



## ***Seeing The Wood For The Trees.....***

Roz invited me to write something about the symbolism of trees, which I'm happy to supply - indeed this has been my theme for more than one (different!) sermon over the years. The Kirk was due for another update on Butterybank Community Woodland anyway.

On Friday December 4<sup>th</sup> a group of us in Forward Coupar Angus will meet on Butterybank in the morning to launch the first ceremonial tree planting. Having secured a long-term lease from Perth & Kinross Council on the basis of a design and management plan, I've invited one of my sponsors to plant an 'iconic' (ie special!) tree. The launch is primarily a celebration, in the presence of all those local & regional supporters who have helped me get the proposal started, including CART POP and MAD. We'll also plant a mini orchard in the middle of the slope.

Later on there will be a succession of plantings over the next 18 months or so, using indigenous small sapling trees such as rowan birch hazel oak hawthorn. These will be carefully sited and maintained to both protect views and create a unique woodland, neither forest nor park. These plantings will be open to all members of the community wishing to participate.

The launch is a celebration of more than 2 years preparation and negotiation, and perhaps the most important guests participating are 'my' P7 class from the school. I've worked closely with P7's from the beginning and it is for them, their children and grandchildren that the community woodland will gradually develop. So much for the update!

Woodlands don't really have a starting or finishing date, like most projects - they simply evolve - much to the surprise of my sponsors who request this sort of information! This leads me to a conversation I had with Roz. I took on the project because I was asked to - probably because of my previous

agricultural and horticultural career. Perhaps my initial focus was on the technical and practical side, but it was my students who taught me to lift my head up from the microscope and look at the bigger picture, leading to my involvement in landscaping - for which I am not trained! They introduced me to a more aesthetic appreciation of the environment via landscaping. They went on to gain Chelsea golds a generation ago, for which I am immensely proud. In October, they on the other hand, presented me and the three other POP committee members with (another!) gold for our Britain in Bloom efforts to improve Coupar Angus. You can imagine how delighted I was to catch up with 'my' student harvest and hear about their careers.

You are probably only too aware that trees of one sort or another have inspired countless generations across the world - poets authors artists sculptors musicians amongst many - to create masterpieces beyond the realms of science and technology. Some are quite breath-taking with a spiritual dimension. There's a pretty good smattering of trees in the bible too, many with deeply profound symbolism. That's your bible study challenge for December!

I wonder if you have a favourite tree, and why? I wonder if you have ever really looked closely at them, or watched one over the seasons and the years? My own favourite is the horse chestnut, because I grew one from a conker when I was a keen 7-year old cub scout, and nurtured it over my childhood and adolescence. The great great grandson of that conker is presently sitting in a pot ready to plant on Butterybank at the launch. My own iconic tree! Trees should have a good story behind them, and the ones at the top of the orchard area all have a tale to tell. How about you?

Believe it or not it was an early Cistercian monk from France - St Bernard - who said "Believe me, you will find more lessons in the woods than in books" - 30 years before our Abbey was founded! How right he was. Our vision for Butterybank is to improve an abandoned and neglected landscape and protect the environment in a unique location overlooking Strathmore. We should thank God we live in the jewel (!) of the Big Tree county. Watch the woodland grow and may you find a sense of contemplation peace and serenity there, alongside the cemetery where 5 of my much-loved family lie at rest.

***Iain Bentley aka Woodland Willie  
Butterybank Community Woodland Convener,  
Forward Coupar Angus***



Dear Friends,

A few years ago - well, many, many years ago if I'm honest - I worked in Glasgow and my mode of transport was the car. No, not car as in my comfortable Mazda, six gear, 'Tamura' - but the car, as in tramcar! 6d (OLD MONEY) from Millerston on the outskirts of Glasgow-right into the stop at the Empire Theatre. And I can still hear the dulcet cry of the Clippie - "Fares, please!"

Did you know in life, you progress in proportion to the fare you are prepared to pay?

This is true of Knowledge. In getting knowledge, the price of the journey is work. If we are not prepared to work really hard, we only get a smattering of a subject, a superficial knowledge, a nodding acquaintance with it, admission to the fringes of it. If we are prepared to pay the fare in the coin of work, we can travel far. No one can learn without paying the fare - in sheer hard work!

This is true of Friendship. Real friendship is a costly thing. It was said of a wealthy man, "with all his giving, he never gave himself". Friendship means far more than getting; far more than using the other person for our convenience. It means self-giving. This is the fare that friendship asks.

This is true of Life. It is easy to stay in the shallows in life. There are those who wonder why they do not get more out of life; why they never get on or succeed in making something worthwhile out of their lives. But there is a kind of rough justice in life. We get out of life what we put into it. If we always live as if life owes us something, we will receive nothing.

That is true of the Christian life.

Jesus said that if we try to save our lives, we would lose them, but if we threw them away, we would find true living. Are you prepared to pay the fare?

The words of an old fashioned hymn come into mind:-

Ask the Saviour to help you,  
Comfort, strengthen, and keep you;  
He is willing to aid you,  
He will carry you through.

May God's richest blessing be upon you all.

Your Friend and Interim-Moderator

***Tom Tait***

## ***Mission Partners***

Mission Partners Malcolm and Cati Ramsay work for the United Mission to Nepal (UMN) in Kathmandu. Predictably, following the devastating earthquakes earlier in the year, life has been much more difficult for them.

In the October Partnerplan letter Malcolm expresses his frustration that £2.7bn, pledged by foreign governments and donor agencies at a conference in June, has remained unclaimed and unspent by the Nepali government body overseeing reconstruction in the country. The reason for this is because the politicians are finalising a new Constitution for Nepal!!

What would the earthquake victims rather have, a constitution or new houses and schools? The new constitution was finished in September and has caused a new set of problems. Malcolm does stress, however, that the UMN has been using money donated directly to them for the relief effort.

Cati writes that they continue their own work and are pleased to be welcoming more volunteers and their families to UMN and spend more time helping them to settle into a very different lifestyle and culture.

She finishes with a story about a big Hindu religious festival involving a giant wooden structure which is paraded through the streets. Unfortunately electricity and phone lines sometimes get in the way so they are just randomly cut down! This leaves everyone with no power and they resort to candles and torches ONCE AGAIN!

The full version of the letter from Malcolm and Cati can be found on the noticeboard in the Abbey.

***Anne Richards***

## ***Bendochy Church Ladies Group***

On October 14, we welcomed Tom Tait to our first meeting of the session. His talk was entitled "Behind a Twenty Foot Fence" - he was an advocate for the inmates of Carstairs and he spoke about his experiences working with them. It was most enlightening and a subject about which we knew very little, a most informative afternoon.

We held our Autumn Coffee Morning on November 5 - we raised the magnificent sum of £416. We should like to thank everyone who contributed to this successful morning.

Our following meeting was held on November 11 when we enjoyed an afternoon of Music and Favourite Poems and Prose. We all contributed to the entertainment and the discussion and agreed we would repeat it.

Our final event takes place on December 9 when we are going to Pitlochry Festival Theatre to see "White Christmas".

We should like to take this opportunity to wish the congregations of the Abbey and Bendochy a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

### ***Meeting Dates***

#### ***2015***

9 December - Christmas Lunch

#### ***2016***

10 February

9 March

13 April - Business

All meetings will take place in the Coach House, beginning at 2.15pm apart from the Christmas Lunch and the Business Meeting which will begin at 10.30am.

The Spring Coffee Morning will be held on Thursday, 19 May 2016.

Annual membership remains at £6.00, teas £2.00.

***Judy Long***



## ***Personal Testimony***

I have had a nagging thought for some time now that I should share this. It all started after Vaughan's death. Bruce was such a tower of strength at that time, and for some time after, when I had a hunger for more of God in my life. Bruce kindly gave me books to read and encouraged me to watch Christian TV. So I got cracking. Reading, viewing, learning, listening and trying to be nice, and driving my family up the wall! One day I was watching TV and the preacher said "Stop doing, doing. God loves you just the way you ARE". These words struck a deep cord within and I experienced a complete turn around - I felt born again.

At this time I attended the Abbey prayer group with Kathleen, Kathryn and others. What a joy it was to be alongside Kathryn, the perfect Christian woman, freely using her gifts for others.

Later in the year I found an unopened video on which the preacher was teaching about the various baptisms. He prayed the prayer of repentance and encouraged us to pray in tongues. I quickly prayed "Is this for me Lord?". I spent the rest of the day just doing that! What a relief it is to know God's Holy Spirit is with me guiding me every day and keeping me free from demonic interference and helping others through me as a channel.

***Betty Doe***

## ***Bendochy Church Retirement***

The Session and Congregation of Bendochy Church would like to take this opportunity to extend our gratitude and best wishes to Susan Meldrum who is due to retire as Bendochy Beadle on 31 December 2015, a post which she has cheerfully occupied for over 34 years.

A reception to celebrate her achievement and valued service will take place after the service on 3 January 2016.

We are glad to report that she has intimated that she will remain an enthusiastic member of the Congregation.

Donation towards Susan's presentation can be made to G McNeill.

## ***Questions Questions Questions!***

I enjoyed Peter Barker's thoughtful article on the Trinity in last month's *Isla Link*. While simple analogies for complex theological mysteries may help us, chemistry and drama have their limits. My background leads me to botanical comparisons ... roots, shoots and leaves for instance, or a clover leaf, 3 in 1 and 1 in 3. Simple. Or is it? Maybe that's why I studied biology first and theology later!

Paradoxes of trying to comprehend the incomprehensible also apply to other foundation stones of our Christian faith, such as Baptism, Incarnation and Resurrection. Some of us, whether in pulpit or pew, prefer not to ask these curious and awkward questions, since they can make us feel uncomfortable and threaten to undermine our faith.

By contrast, some of us - myself included - prefer to follow their instinctive curiosity and explore the interpretation of the Word made Flesh revealed in Scripture. Peter mentioned crossword puzzles reminding me that 'easy' or 'cryptic' clues are not always either easy or cryptic, depending on your vocabulary and way of thinking, compared with the puzzle setter. Difficulties in scriptural interpretation may similarly reflect our use of language and interpretation of words.

Our language is a rich blend of Anglo Saxon, Gaelic, Norse, Germanic, French and Latin, amongst others. The New Testament was written in Greek and the Old Testament in Hebrew. If you are a linguist and wordsmith, you are capable of accurately translating words. Most of us are not! Our several 'English' versions have frequently lost their original meaning in the Greek and Hebrew texts, all of which are second-hand copies anyway, written long after Jesus' life.

This makes it harder to get to 'the truth' and still leaves us with riddles and enigmas, whether we're Christians or not. I believe the challenge is not to let this erode our faith. Trust in the only truth I know. Jesus Christ is God's Son and our Saviour. *ICHTHUS* if you want the Greek! The Greek word for 'fish' which explains the common use of a fish symbol in Christian history, as many of you will know. It's part of my URC logo, and I've secretly worn a fish badge on my lapel since schooldays.

I'm currently enjoying a series of challenging questions thrown at me in recent months by one of our congregation - perceptive questions which are tantalisingly impossible to answer. They cover a wide range of Christianity

and 'Churchianity' issues. I can't offer any easy answers, but they do offer fruitful and enjoyable discussions. I wonder if you ever ask yourself any of these 'why?' riddles? Bible Study may seem a thing of the past, but it's ever-present.

Maybe that is why Jesus himself used 'simple' stories - parables - with hidden deeper meanings. Fish. Bread. Wine. Sheep. If it was good enough for him surely it's good enough for us. The very word 'mystery' is from Latin and Greek and means secret, or closed eyes and lips. Christianity is an open secret!

***Iain Bentley***



## **PoP Not Resting On It's Laurels**

Everyone must know by now of the Britain in Bloom success this year, with Coupar Angus winning a gold medal and top of its class in the UK, in an entry led by PoP but involving many other local groups. This is a welcome boost for the town, and a just reward for the voluntary efforts of so many who helped in the various projects and in keeping the town smart.

In recognition of the town's efforts, the Provost held a Civic Reception at the Town Hall on 14th November 2015.

Since then, routine work parties have continued, rescuing the plants from the hanging baskets to overwinter, and tidying. PoP also assisted at the fireworks display. The charity shop raised £1700 of valuable funds which also helps when filling in grant applications for new projects as it shows local support. Ongoing work includes putting up the standing stone on the Perth Road, and finalising funding for the Burn project.

***Anne Easson***



## ***I Said A Prayer For You Today***

I said a prayer for you today,  
And know God must have heard.  
I felt the answer in my heart  
Although He spoke no word.  
I didn't ask for wealth or fame,  
I knew you wouldn't mind.  
I asked Him to send treasures  
Of a far more lasting kind.  
I asked that He'd be near you  
At the start of each new day,  
To grant you health and blessings  
And friends to share your way.  
I asked for happiness for you  
In all things great and small,  
But it was for His loving care  
I prayed the most of all

***Author Unknown***  
[www.inspire21.com](http://www.inspire21.com)



## ***EPACTS.***

Looking forward to the New Year and January when the annual Hunger Lunches for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unit will be held from 18 to 22<sup>nd</sup> January. This year, because we will no longer be able to have the use of Riverside Methodist Church Hall the lunches will be held Monday, Wednesday & Thursday in Blairgowrie Parish Church Hall and Tuesday & Friday in St Catharine's Community Centre. Starting at the usual time of 12 noon with a short service which is followed by a choice of soup, biscuits and cheese lunch tea/coffee. The Abbey along with a partner church will be providing the meal on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January. A warm welcome is extended to all members of the church and community.

### ***Food Bank***

Perth and Kinross Food Bank would like to thank the congregation of Coupar Angus Abbey Church for their generosity in the Harvest Festival Collection. The £21 donated will help us buy goods when we have a shortage and the goods collected will be very much appreciated by those who find themselves in a crisis and need a food parcel.

During an average week 30 food parcels are distributed feeding 37 adults and 12 children.

Annually over 1,500 parcels are distributed, weighing 2,600 Kg, and the majority of recipients come only once.

Your contribution is very well appreciated.

### ***Food Bank Traffic Lights***

<b><i>Red - Supplies Needed</i></b>	Sugar, Tinned Veg, Rice Meals, Crisps, Coffee, Drinking Chocolate, Packet Mash, Tinned Fruit.
<b><i>Amber - Supplies OK</i></b>	Main Meals, Biscuits, Juice, Treats, Milk, Packet Soup, Jam, Puddings, Toiletries, Pet Food
<b><i>Green - Plentiful Supply</i></b>	Beans, Soup, Teabags, Cereal, Pasta, Rice, Pasta Meals, Tinned Tomatoes

***Helen Pithie***

## ***Life and Work***

At this time of Remembrance the November copy of Life and Work contains some poignant references to the First World War with letters which were sent from the Front by the army chaplains. They make sober reading.

Following on from this, the Big Question, which is a regular feature in the magazine, asks "Has the role of the military chaplain changed through time and conflict?

Also relating to conflict, the Minister of St Columba's Church in Budapest, Hungary gives a powerful account of this summer's refugee crisis in the city and how his church responded to the need.

This month's Life and Work is very significant in that our own NEW and VERY COLOURFUL advert for a NEW MINISTER appears. Let's pray that someone special will respond.

***Anne Richards***

## ***Children's Ministry***

The Childrens Ministry groups continue to thrive and are well attended each week. We have recently commenced the Christmas Story and are trying to do this along with practising for the "Christmas Concert" which will be on Wednesday 9th December at 7pm in the Abbey Church. Please come along and support the children and I am sure you'll have a lovely evening.

Can we also take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year."

Volunteers to assist with the Groups, Monday morning set up for the Groups or Thursday evenings setting up the Church for Sunday morning service would be very welcome.

Crossover	Monday	7.00-8.30pm	P7-S1	31 <sup>st</sup> August
Youth Fellowship	Wednesday	7.00-9.00pm	S2+	2 September
Stepping Stones	Thursday	5.30-6.45pm	P1-P3	3 September
Compass	Thursday	7.00-8.30pm	P4-P6	3 September

For more information contact Ellen McGibbon on Tel: 01828 628115.

***Irene Henderson***

# ***Abbey Flower Rota***

**2015**

**December** Christmas Decor

**2016**

**January** Seasonal Arrangement



**February**

Co-ordinator: **Kathleen Pirie**  
Tel: 627754

- 7** Mrs K Pirie
- 14** Mrs K Godfrey
- 21** Mrs M Pennycook
- 28** Mrs V Grayson

**March**

Co-ordinator: **Sheila Robertson**  
Tel: 627375

- 6** Mrs M Patullo
- 13** Mrs M Matthews
- 20** Miss P Campbell
- 27** Mrs J Haddow

## ***Used Stamps***

The total amount raised by the sale of used stamps in aid of World Mission in **2014 was £4,627**. This is a record and was used to support the Greek Evangelical Church's Refuge House for Women Victims of Domestic Violence and their children in Milotopos, North Greece. The project for 2015 is for people worldwide living with HIV.

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***

***Donations for the Isla Link***

Donations for the Isla Link will be gratefully received. Please put your donation in an envelope and either put it in the plate or hand it to your distributor. Your help in this matter will be greatly appreciated

***Beadle Duty***

	<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Other</i>
<b>2015</b>		
<b>December</b>	<b>Services</b> M Patullo	<b>Services</b> E McGibbon
<b>2016</b>		
<b>January</b>	J Chinn	H Pithie
<b>February</b>	I Henderson	I Rodger
<b>March</b>	S Robertson	S Robertson

***Congregational Registers***

***The Abbey***

***Death***

16.10.15                      Alison Nairn, Glenalmond Road, Blairgowrie

***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*.....



## ***Who's who at the Abbey***

<b>Acting Treasurer:</b>	Joanne Chinn	Tel: 01828 670454
<b>Roll Keeper:</b>	Johann Rennie	Tel: 01828 628283
<b>Gift Aid:</b>	Ellen McGibbon	Tel: 01828 628115
<b>FWO:</b>	Donna Hindmarch	
<b>Fabric:</b>	John Easson	Tel: 01828 628001
<b>Flowers:</b>	Helen Pithie	Tel: 01828 627365
	Sheila Robertson	Tel: 01828 627375
<b>Life and Work:</b>	Anne Richards	Tel: 01828 628138
<b>EPACTS:</b>	Peter Barker	Tel: 01250 875461
	Helen Pithie	Tel: 01828 627365
<b>Presbytery Elder:</b>	Jeff Brewer	Tel: 01828 628126
<b>Organist:</b>	Austin Wilkie	Tel: 01250 876104
<b>Isla Link Editor:</b>	Roz Arno-Button	Tel: 01828 628728
<b>Children's Ministry</b>	Irene Henderson	

<b>Safeguarding Co-ordinator</b>	Mrs Joanne Chinn Bridge Cottage Little Keithick PH13 9NB Tel: 01828 670454
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## ***Who's who at Bendochy***

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

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).



Front Cover – Scotland OS Map 1892-1960

Back Cover – OS Explorer Map 381 - 2001