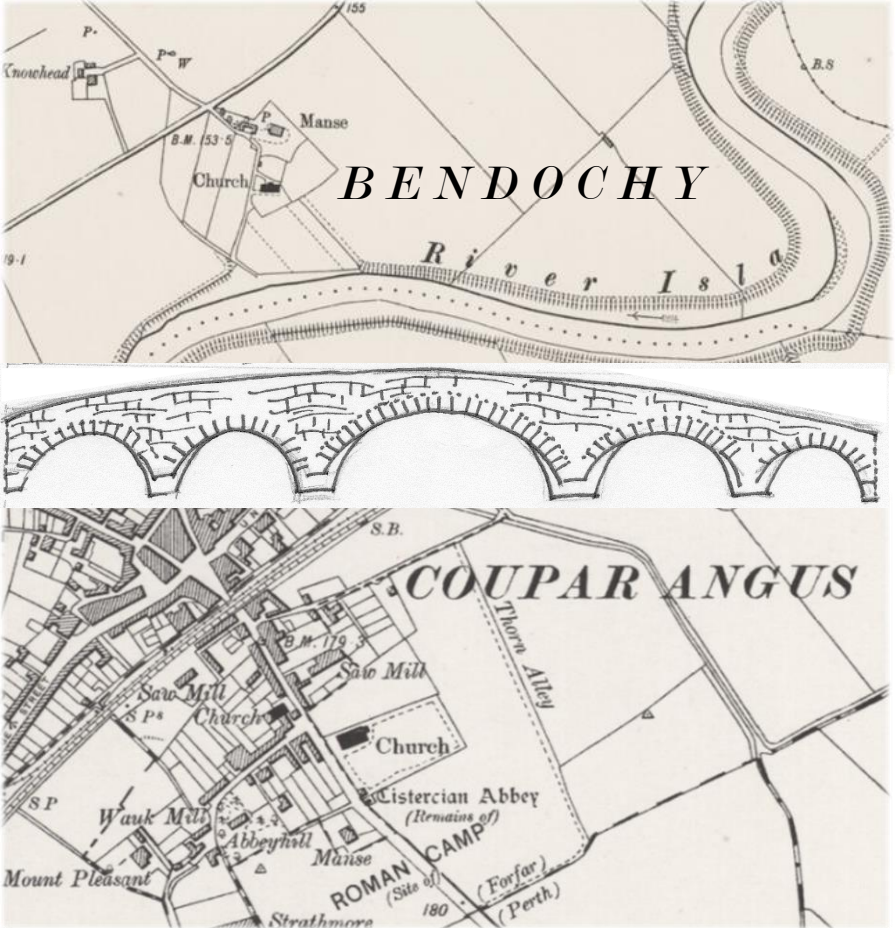


ISLA LINK



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

DECEMBER 2016

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)

Dec 4

A Easson
J Easson
E McGibbon

Dec 11

J Duncan
S Jack
A Legge
A Richards

Dec 18

B Anderson
I Henderson
J Rennie

Dec 25

NO COLLECTION

Jan 1

B Crighton
R Ewins
H Pithie

Jan 8

S Turnbull
D Chinn
J Chinn
I Rodger

Jan 15

J Brewer
K Godfrey
E Jack
S Robertson

Jan 22

D Hindmarch
I Jack
M Pattullo
W Pattullo

Jan 29

A Easson
J Easson
E McGibbon

Feb 5

J Duncan
S Jack
A Legge
A Richards

Feb 12

B Anderson
I Henderson
J Rennie

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

Welcoming you at Bendochy today

December 4

D Donaldson
S Grant

December 11

C Cochrane
G McNeill

December 18

B Mackenzie
J Laburn

December 25

***Christmas
Service***

January 1

J Morison
D Donaldson

January 8

S Grant
D Patterson

January 15

W Pate
G McNeill

January 22

R Patterson
R Cormack

January 29

J Laburn
B MacKenzie

February 5

D Donaldson
C Pate

February 12

D Grant
C Cochrane

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

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

December

C Pate and W Pate

January

J Laburn and G McNeill

February

R Patterson and S Meldrum

March

J Davidson and M Davidson

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

Bernice Mackenzie

Jean Laburn

January

Susan Meldrum

Rosemary Paterson

February

Shona Grant

Marie Cormack

March

Jean Laburn

Jane Davidson

Readers in the Abbey and Bendochy



	<i>The Abbey</i>	<i>Bendochy</i>
December		
4	Jeff Brewer	Sarah Tulloch
11	Anne Richards	Graeme McNeill
18	Margaret Pattullo	Jane Davidson
25	Ellen McGibbon	Christmas Service
January		
1	Catriona Henderson	Robert Cormack
8	Iain Bentley	Jean Laburn
15	Joanne Chinn	John Morison
22	David Chinn	Margaret Davidson
29	Irene Henderson	Steve Cumming
February		
5	Robert Farquharson	Nick Tulloch
12	Anne Easson	Graeme McNeill
19	John Easson	Rosemary Patterson
26	Jeff Brewer	Jane Davidson
March		
5	Anne Richards	Robert Cormack
12	Margaret Pattullo	Jean Laburn
19	Ellen McGibbon	John Morison
26	Catriona Henderson	Margaret Davidson

Bendochy Flower Rota

December 2016	January 2017
4	1 <i>Festive Décor</i>
11 <i>Festive Décor</i>	8 <i>Silk Flowers</i>
18	15
25 Ann Wilkie	22
	29
February	March
5 Jean Laburn	5 Christine Pate
12 Mgt Donaldson	12 Christine Pate
19 Mgt Donaldson	19 Christine Pate
26 Mgt Donaldson	26 Sheila Lindsay



Transition



We don't have to look far to realise our lives and our word are all in a state of transition. Nothing stays the same. We can't bottle the moments, only reflect and store them in our memory banks.

This year has seen huge transitions, both nationally and globally. Events and shifts can stir within us a huge range of reactions.

This month's magazine celebrates some of the transitions we are living through.

As we reflect on the message of Advent, which sees the beginning of the Church year, we can be encouraged and inspired by the transformational message of Immanuel - God with us. This message is life changing and can radically work within all the transitions we encounter.

Roz Arno-Button



St Anne's Ecumenical Lunch Club

St Anne's Lunch Club continues to meet regularly and we are looking forward to the 13th December when we will offer our Christmas lunch. This is always a very happy event with a nice choice of soups, followed by dumpling or Christmas pudding and biscuits, cheese and other treats. There will be a raffle and all are asked to bring a prize.

Lunch is served from 12 noon onwards and costs £2.50.

The Lunch Club is open to everyone, young and old, and a warm welcome awaits all who come along. For more information speak to Helen.

Helen Pithie

Nominating Committee Farewell Report

It is both a pleasure and a relief to inform you all that our work is done, since Rev Andrew Graham will be taking over the ministerial reins shortly. Tuesday 29 November 2016 is pencilled in for his Induction, which is a celebration to which we are all looking forward immensely.

As you can imagine the Committee has done a lot of quiet and confidential work in the background and we have been wisely guided in Presbytery protocol by our Interim Moderator, Rev Tom Tait. Tom has done a great job in providing us with continuity and leadership over the last 2 years. We have all been a wee bit concerned with his health of late, so he now deserves a well-earned break to recover!

The Committee has carried out a number of important tasks in a lengthy process, throughout which I have asked you all for prayerful patience. We have now been rewarded. After declaring an unrestricted call vacancy to Presbytery, we have (among other tasks) re-drafted the profile for our linked churches, advertised the pose in Life and Work, arranged for manse repairs and agreed interview procedures. I have kept you up-dated from time to time. If you think 2 years seems a long time, perhaps you should reflect on our current Presbytery situation, where vacancies frequently last for over 4 years, so I think we are fortunate!

During the summer, Rev Graham applied for the post, and we agreed an informal visit when he could meet a few of us and have a look at both churches and the manse, together with his wife. He has been in post at Ferintosh Parish Church, Conan Bridge, since 2006 and offers an interesting and varied background with a strong CV. His experience includes service with the RAF in both engineering and electronic and chaplaincy, before becoming inducted to full-time church ministry. When I first met him I was immediately impressed by Andy, and he seemed to be an ideal candidate for our situation.

We proceeded to invite him down, both for an interview and to preach. As a result, we advised both congregations that in our opinion Andrew should be recommended as sole nominee. Shortly after, Andy came down to preach with a view and Presbytery witnessed a unanimous vote by those present, confirmed by those unable to attend but were entitled to vote. Andy subsequently accepted our call, which is why our work is now complete. Even Presbytery have confirmed our decision and are happy with the outcome - well as happy as our Presbytery ever can be!

I wish to acknowledge on your behalf the outstanding support I have received from the Committee. With the promptings of our Session Clerks, Committee Secretary and Interim Moderator, the whole process has been a privilege to supervise. Your Nominating Committee was initially chaired by the late and much-missed servant Peter Barker, succeeded by myself. Josh Anderson recently stood down from the Committee since he has moved to London and was replaced by John Hawkins. David Chinn, Marie Cormack, John Easson, Kathleen Godfrey, Irene Henderson, Esther Jack, Jean Laburn, Ellen McGibbon, Graeme McNeill and Rosemary Patterson completed our line-up.

I thank them all for their support in helping me ensure that we have conducted a prayerful and fair process throughout, according to the remit given to us by you. We are now redundant! Over to you Andy - but a gentle reminder that we cannot expect our new Minister to wave a magic wand. There is a lot of His work to do and that will apply to all of us working together in supporting Andrew!

Iain Bentley
Chairman, Nominating Committee

Whats On

14.12.16		Bendochy Ladies Group - Christmas Lunch
08.12.16	7.00 pm	EPACT Mtg-Blairgowrie Parish Church Session Room
13.12.16	12 noon	St Anne's Ecumenical Lunch Club
15.12.16	7.00 pm	Children's Ministry Nativity - The Abbey
09.01.17		Children's Ministry Groups - resume this week.
16.01.17		Rt Rev Russell Barr, Moderator of the General Assembly, to visit both the Abbey and Bendochy Parish Church where a buffet lunch will follow a short address in the Coach House.
18-25.01.17		Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
24-26.02.17		Snowdrop Festival
26.03.17		British Summer Time - Clocks move forward 1 hour

Services

27.11.16	1 st Sunday in Advent	Normal Service in both Churches
04.12.16	2 nd Sunday in Advent	Normal Services in both churches
11.12.16	3 rd Sunday in Advent	Special Gift Giving Service-in Bendochy Normal Service in the Abbey
18.12.16	4 th Sunday in Advent	Readings & Carol Service in both Churches
24.12.16	11.30 pm	Watchnight Service in the Abbey
25.12.16	10.30am	Christmas Day Service in the Abbey
01.01.17		Normal Services in both Churches.

Congregational Registers

Weddings – Bendochy

17.08.16 Ross Sutherland to Katarzyna Spiewa
03.09.16 Craig Beattie to Louise McNeill

Deaths – The Abbey

September Mrs Christina McTavish, Abbey Gardens, Coupar Angus
October Mr Derek Doig, Beechhill Place, Coupar
 Mrs Irene Ashworth, Woodlands Road, Blairgowrie

Admissions to Congregational Roll

Admitted to the Roll of the Abbey by resolution of the Kirk Session -
October Sarah Urie, Beechhill Place, Coupar Angus

Re-affirmation Of Wedding Vows – The Abbey

29.10.16 John and Ann Robertson (nee Jewell), Maxtone Terrace,
 Gilmerton, Crieff

Family Blessing – The Abbey

29.10.16 Maisie Marie Mitchell - daughter of Lorna and William Mitchell
(formerly of Coupar Angus), Malton Yorkshire

Family Celebration

Ann and John Robertson returned to the Abbey in October to re-affirm their wedding vows in celebration of their Silver Wedding Anniversary. They were joined by 80 members of their close family and friends, including the newest member of their family, their great-niece, Maisie Mitchell.

Following Maisie's baptism in Yorkshire earlier in the month, those of her family who were unable to attend that ceremony were delighted to be able to be part of this family blessing.

The joint service was conducted by the Rev Tom Tait, who informed the congregation that this was the first time in his long career that he had conducted a service in celebration of a re-affirmation of wedding vows or for the blessing of a child, but that he was very pleased to have been asked. Maisie showed her appreciation of his participation by leading those gathered in a round of applause.

Maisie's grandfather, Watt Mitchell, reminisced with Rev Tait after the service, reminding him that he had baptised Maisie's dad, William, over 30 years previously during his charge at Rattray Parish Church.

Rachel Ewins

Their First Day In Heaven

The three of them were at the gates, all toggled up in their new wings.

"I wonder if we'll sing?" said Herbert.

Mrs Gee and Herbert looked at their heavenly mate and Herbert said in his Sunday voice,

"My name is Herbert Hodgkinson - Deacon at the South Sea Mission,
Chairman of the Billy Graham Inter-college Christian Union,
Sunday School Inspector for the whole of Yorkshire East,
Co-ordinator of the Federation of British Whitsun Treats,
Teacher, preacher, evangeliser, prophet, priest, and"

My name's Bartholomew. On earth I knew . . ."

"Pleased to meet you!" came the rushing wind of Mrs Gee,
Organiser of the local 'Save the Natives Tea',
Women's Guild and sewing class,
Christian croquet on the grass.
Healthy, red and rosy, she.

"My name's Bartholomew," said he. "On earth I knew . . ."

"You ever preached at Bognor Hall?"

"I never preached nowhere at all".

"Does your wife arrange flowers for the local church?"

"No, left me and three kids years ago - left us in the lurch".

And Mrs Gee turned to dear Herb and said,

"Why this is strange and so absurd.

This little man with scars, and wounds and dirty face.

I must say Herb, he's out of place.

And blood all over his new wings.

It shows a life of awful sins . . ."

But then He came.

A light so bright that all three cringed before the King of Heaven.

It was Herbert who recovered first and soon began his usual burst:

"I'm Herbert Hodgkinson, Chairman . . ."

"And I'm Mrs Gee, surely you remember me."

But then He spoke, "Bartholomew, it's good to see you. Come with me".

And Mrs Gee quite red with rage turned on St Peter to complain.

"Why him? Why him? It's so absurd?"

"Shhh . . . they knew each other . . . back on earth."

Jeff Brewer

Flowers at Bendochy

A big thank you to all the flower arrangers who have helped decorate our Church in 2016. I hope you have all enjoyed creating the floral displays.

A special Thank You to Tom Small, who keeps the container at the Church door filled with seasonal colour, also Charlie and Celia Cochrane for the welcoming flower tubs at the top of the walkway.

As usual, we will be decorating the Church for Christmas - Friday 10th December at 10.30. If you would like to join in, bring 6 red flowers and some greenery. The rest will be provided.



Christine Pate

Celebration Lunch

I would just like to say a big thank you to everyone for making this event so very special for me. Thank you to everyone who provided the food, cleared and washed up and also to everyone who stayed over and made it such a good day for me.

I would also like to thank Mr Tait for his kind and entertaining speech, I did really appreciate it. My family also expressed their thanks to all.



Helen Pithie

Magazine Deadline

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

Deadline for the next issue: 22 January 2017.

Please send articles to:-

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

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

We hope that you find the contents of this magazine to be both informative and enjoyable and we would welcome any articles, stories, poems, etc that you would like included in future editions.

Bendochy and Coupar Angus Children's Ministry Groups

By the time you read this article Stepping Stones and Compass will have had their outings on Saturday 19 November 2016.

Stepping Stones attended Funbox - Christmas Wonderland (cast previously from Singing Kettle) which is on at the Whitehall Theatre, followed by a visit on the way home to "McDonalds".

The Compass Group shared the bus with Stepping Stones but they went to McDonalds firstly, and then had fun at the Ice Skating Rink. Grateful thanks to all the adults who helped with these Outings.

Ellen McGibbon



The Children's Ministry Nativity

7.00 pm

Coupar Angus Abbey

Thursday, 15 December 2016.

Tickets - £2.

Please buy a ticket and come along to support the children, and also the Leaders and Helpers who put so much work in with the Groups from week to week

Dear Friends,



On looking at my diary I notice that I have had the opportunity of leading worship in Bendochy Church and Coupar Angus Abbey for at least 110 times during the current vacancy - and it was the word “opportunity” that comes to mind as I sat down to write what will be my “farewell” words for the “Isla Link” as you are about to welcome the Rev. Andy Graham.

And my only regret is that during my two years as your “Pulpit-supplier” - I have not had the opportunity of speaking to the majority of your church membership! They just weren’t there to hear my undoubted words of wisdom as I sought to lead the worship! There are compelling reasons why church attendance is necessary to keep the Christian life alive, and to fulfil the duties of the Christian life. So it is worth asking you to look again at some familiar reasons for going to church.

There is a togetherness without which even worship becomes a colder and emptier thing; there is a community of faith which does much to buttress the inadequacy of our own personal faith; there is a claim which it would be both folly and ingratitude not to acknowledge. We need the Church and the Church needs us.

And this leads on to that word opportunity again!

Do you look for something to criticise, or do you look for something to praise? Do you encourage or discourage? When some course of action is suggested, do you promptly see all the difficulties which make it impossible, or do you see the opportunities which make it well worth trying?

Do you count your blessings or do you count your misfortunes?

Ardler, a famous psychologist, tells somewhere of two men each of whom had lost an arm. At the end of a year one of them was so discouraged that he had decided that life wasn’t worth living with a handicap like that. The other was so triumphant that he went about saying he didn’t really know why nature had given us two arms when he could get along perfectly well with one.

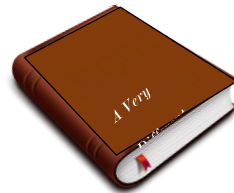
Do you thank God for what you have, or do you curse God for what you have lost?

Two years ago you lost your Minister. Do you recognise that the Good Lord works in mysterious ways, and that in a matter of days you will receive a new Minister. How about making sure that you are back in your seat to welcome the Rev. Andy Graham at his Induction to the charge of Bendochy linked with Coupar Angus Abbey on Tuesday 29 November. I'll be there!

Your friend and Interim Moderator

Tom Tait

PS Many thanks to all who have made me so welcome! TWT



A Message From The Manse

A few weeks ago I was given a book called *A Very Different Christmas*; was it written for me! Well, not quite, but it will be a very different Christmas for me this year. As always, Christ will be at the heart of it, but different as I look forward to meeting and celebrating with a new family.

Christmas is a time when families come together, sometimes travelling great distances to be with one another. On that first Christmas many people travelled to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour, meeting in a place they had never been before, with people they had never met before, but a place God had led them to. God leads us all in different ways and at different times but always to a place where we find hope, peace, love and joy.

So as we come together this Christmas let us come in hope, peace, love and joy, sharing the Good News of our Saviour's birth with all whom we meet, ***...For unto us a child is born, to us a Son is given... and he will be called wonderful counsellor, mighty God, everlasting Father, prince of peace... (Isaiah 9:6).***

May the love of Christ be with you this Christmas and always.

Andy

It's what happens afterwards that really counts.....

Following the death of our dear son-in law, Peter, in February this year we did not know where to begin picking up the pieces of our shattered lives and those of our family. We had to start somewhere. After the funeral in Perth our daughter, Kirsty, returned to British Forces life in Germany with her two wee girls. Our job then was to try and help her sort out the mountain of paperwork that requires completing at these times. Business must go on and formalities, no matter how hard, have to be gone through. We soon discovered that some companies are more understanding, sympathetic and helpful than others. However, what did aid us over the next weeks and months was the support and help of personal friends and other individuals, including those from the Army assigned to help the family.

Kirsty and Peter had bought a run-down cottage in Burrelton that they planned to renovate and extend. This was to be their 'Forever Home' once they left Army life in 2018 after Peter had completed his 24 years of service. The appropriate plans were lodged and permissions obtained. Peter was to do much of the work but this now wasn't possible and our biggest challenge was to continue with the building plans in which he had invested so much time, talent and effort. Kirsty and the girls desperately wanted to fulfil this shared family dream and complete Peter's work. The task was enormous.

The cottage, dating from 1850, would have to be taken back to its bare structure and a substantial new extension built. It was at this point that a military charity, 'Outpost', got involved (www.outpostcharity.org). They offer support and practical help to service personnel, veterans and their families. In the summer, they began many of the tasks that Peter was going to do through the efforts of their team of professional volunteers. They have stripped out the internal features and are now rebuilding the new part. It was whilst the children were on their summer holiday with us that Kirsty had the idea of sinking a pair of Peter's army boots into the foundations of the new extension. Heather and Merry filled Peter's boots with concrete and his favourite snacks, a can of coke and a KitKat Chunky, ready for embedding them in the foundations.



The charity arranged for a local, retired Naval chaplain to bless the foundations and say prayers for all involved. It was a wonderfully creative and meaningful thing for them to do and it truly lifted the spirits of all, especially our two wee grand children who, for the first time since their Daddy died felt that, to quote one of the girls, "their house was really going to be built, and not just be something that was talked about".

Work continues and there is much left to be done. Without the commitment of the many volunteer tradesmen, all of whom are themselves ex Royal Engineers, it would not happen. We are also so thankful to the local village residents who rallied to the call put out by Outpost to offer accommodation, prepared meals and washing facilities to the volunteers on the project.

Having had our lives shattered by the loss of Peter we are now in the position of having our faith in life restored through the care and help of a lot of truly kind people in our community. Many of them we will never know, but they know who they are. Thank you so very, very much.

Jo Chinn



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.....

Bendochy Ladies Group

Our first meeting of the new session was on the 12th October when the Rev. Iain Bentley gave us a fascinating talk about Buttery Bank, with which he has been very involved. We all enjoyed hearing about other garden projects that have been very much part of his life.

The autumn Coffee Morning took place on the 10th November. Despite it being very poorly attended this year, we made the magnificent total of £375, due to the generosity of those who did support us and some very generous donations. A huge thank you to all of you who supported this event.

A fun keep fit afternoon was held on the 16th November.

On the 14th December, it is planned that we shall be having our Christmas Lunch at Rosemount Golf Club.

The members of the Group wish both congregations a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Meeting dates for 2016/17:

2016

14 December

2017

15 February

15 March

12 April

11 May - Spring Coffee Morning

Meetings are held in Bendochy Coach House.

Judy Long



Food Bank

Once again I write to thank all who have contributed to the food bank box within the church. Unfortunately the need for such a box is still very necessary. Quite a number of parcels are handed out to local people and it is good to know that in some small way we are helping families in the community who are in need.

So please continue to drop off as you feel able. It is all very much appreciated.

Helen Pithie



The Christmas Tree Fairy

I am a fairy on the Christmas Tree,
My wings are tattered and ripped.
My hair's gone grey, my wand is bent
And my golden halo has slipped.

They bought me back in '92,
And I come out every year.
“We can't throw her out!” is what they say
“She's such a nice old dear....”

They buy a new tree every year,
And they buy new flashing lights.
But the bulbs explode beneath my dress
So my knickers are now a sight.

Oh how I long for gold hair,
And shiny gossamer wings.
Dancing shoes with tinsel balls
And a dress that looks like bling!

But the top of the tree is a magical place
To see children laughing and jolly
Though it can be a pain looking down from above
When you're sitting on a sprig of sharp holly.



Glory to God in the Highest! May the blessings of God's special gifts be yours
this Christmas and in the New Year.

Jean Laburn

Treasurer's Report For The Abbey Church.

It has been an extremely busy and expensive month for the church, mainly due to the preparation of the manse for our new minister, and a good job has been done by all. There was also large payment to Mission and Ministry.

The retiring offering for April was £108.00 this went to Nepal Build a House.

The retiring offering for October was £100.45 this went to the Outpost Charity, a veterans' charity that helps ex-military and families.

The retiring offer from Remembrance Service November 13th went to the Earl Haig Fund (Scotland) this was £67.20

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

Mission and Ministry	£13,951.00
Edington and Neave Manse	£ 3,180.00
McNaughton's Manse	£ 4,956.72
J Easson refund on Manse cost	£ 243.09
Total	<u>£22,330.81</u>

Further cost which balance does not show as yet are: -

BT Connection	£ 70.90
Removals Howes	£ 1,524.98
Gas Report Manse	£ 115.00
Cunningham Carpets Manse	£ 2,493.99

I would like to thank Bendochy Church for their share of the manse upkeep for 2015. Many thanks.

The latest Treasurers Session Report is held by the Session Clerk.

Peter Godfrey
Treasurer

Poppy Scotland

The retiring collection after the short Remembrance Service at Bendochy on 13th November raised £162 for Poppy Scotland

Graeme McNeill

East Perthshire Action of Churches Together in Scotland

The East Perthshire Action of Churches Together in Scotland (EPACTS) is a group of local churches working together on various initiatives for the benefit of the congregations and for the community. On Thursday 27 October the Committee met and discussed matters of current interest.

The Committee welcomed Kate Gray of Tesco's who described the system which has been set up in connection with FareShare to make use of food which is close to its 'best before' 'use by' or 'display until' date. There is a formal procedure by which the items to be made available are listed daily and notified to groups or charities who apply and are accepted by FareShare for supply on a regular rota. These groups place orders for what they can use for the benefit of the community on the following day.

The committee members were also informed of a fund of over £20,000 that has been made available by the Health and Social Partnership for the benefit of three areas including Rattray. Application has been made on behalf of community provision in Rattray and a decision is awaited.

An attractive leaflet has been prepared describing the structure and work of EPACTS for distribution in the area, both through the member churches and also at other outlets. Copies will be available shortly and may be obtained by contacting the Secretary at secretary@epacts.org.uk or by phoning 01250 874903.

The Committee is due to meet next on 8 December 2016. Their meetings are open to church members and anyone else interested in the work of the churches. The website at www.epacts.org.uk is being updated and details the contacts and activities at each of the member churches

John Wilson, Secretary EPACTS

Would you like to sing in a Choir at Bendochy Church?



Would you like to be involved with a Choir at Bendochy Church? I would like to start one, with rehearsals being held at The Abbey Church on Wednesday evenings from 6pm - 7pm. If this would be of interest to the Congregation, please contact me with your name and number.

Austin Wilkie DipLCM

Abbey Church Fabric Report

Work on the manse was completed in time for Andy to move in on the 15th November, with only a couple of minor items awaiting tradesmen to call in to sort. Among the last items dealt with were the laying of twelve tons of shingle to rejuvenate the driveway, spread with the generous assistance of the MaD team led by Joe Richards, and clearing the worst weeds from the patio by Ian Bentley. Several members of the congregation came and helped clear the garage of platforms and scenery from the children's shows, with the most useful items now stored at the church and others disposed of. However, fitting the new eaves revealed that the rear flat roofs will need attention next spring.



Further bad news came with the annual servicing of the church boilers. A new firm had to be called for this work, and they reported that the boiler and flue positions no longer met safety regulations. This may well involve expensive work to move them, but as yet I do not have any details of options or costs. The placing of an order prohibiting their use is likely if this cannot be resolved, which would be a serious problem.

John Easson
Fabric Convener



MAD Group – The Manse Garden

The congregation of Coupar Angus Abbey would like thank most sincerely the MAD Group (local volunteers) who have come to our rescue and helped us to get the manse garden in a reasonable order for the arrival of our new Minister, the Rev Andy Graham, on Tuesday 29 November 2016. The manse garden had barely been touched since Bruce and Kathryn left in November 2014 so it was no mean task getting the it all their hard work on our behalf.



Ellen McGibbon
(On behalf of the congregation)

Pride of Place News

This coming Spring the top of the Common will have a wonderful ribbon of purple crocuses flowing across it. 5000 were planned to be planted as part of the Purple for Polio Campaign, being promoted by RHS and the Rotary, raising awareness that children still need to be protected from this but also, more importantly for Coupar Angus, as a memorial to Harlow Edwards, the lovely 2 year old toddler who was so tragically killed in a road accident close to the Common. 5000 were planted on Saturday 29th October, which was a lovely sunny day made extra special as many of Harlow's family and friends came to help. As this only stretched half way across the Common another 5000 were purchased by us, which included a donation from Fiona Edward's Zumba class, and planted across the second half of the Common, again with the help of Harlow's family two weeks later. Harlow's mum wants Harlow remembered in colour. Her family will be able to see this from their house which overlooks the Common.



Christmas Cards

PoP will again be offering a Christmas card postal service

Collection Boxes in the Abbey Church and C&W Wests

4-18th December 2016

25p a card



Please ensure all cards have the name, number or house name and street clearly written on the envelope to guarantee delivery. Only cards within Coupar Angus town can be delivered.

Anne Easson, Chair

Abbey Flower Rota

December 2016

4
11
18
25

***Christmas
Decorations***

February

Co-ordinator: Kathleen Pirie
Tel: 627754

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

January 2017

1
8
15
22
29

***Silk Floral
Arrangements***

March

Co-ordinator: Sheila Robertson
Tel: 627375

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



The Abbey Beadle Duty

	<i>Sunday Services</i>
2016	
December	Margaret Pattullo
2017	
January	Joanne Chinn
February	Irene Henderson
March	Sheila Robertson

***Other
Services***

Ellen McGibbon

Helen Pithie
Irene Rodger
Sheila 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	Tel: 01828 628728
Children's Ministry	Irene Henderson	

Safeguarding Co-ordinator	Mrs Joanne Chinn Bridge Cottage Little Keithick PH13 9NB 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:	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
Beadle/EPACTS:	Susan Meldrum	Tel: 01828 628209
Health & Safety:	Robert Cormack	Tel: 01250 875449
Organist:	Austin Wilkie	Tel: 01250 876104

Bendochy Parish Church



This picture of Bendochy Church has been produced from a printing block given to John Easson by Scott Hamilton of Blairgowrie Printers, just before the sale of their premises.

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).