

ISLA LINK

December 2017



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:	Robert Cormack	Tel: 01250 875449
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:	Robert Cormack	Tel: 01250 875449
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

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Featuring in this edition of your Isla Link:-

- ◇ Thoughts from the Manse.
- ◇ Remembrance Day Thoughts.
- ◇ Christmas Past—Christmas Present.
- ◇ Homecoming
- ◇ The Children's Ministry Nativity.

Stepping Into The Breach

At various times in our lives, situations arise when we have to step into the breach. Whether it is family or friends, or a group or organization that needs our support, or needs us to take on a role that we would not normally consider within our capabilities, most people will step forward and do whatever is required.

When these time occur, and we volunteer our services on a close family or friends basis, their thanks are often expressed in person and we are left in no doubt about how grateful they are for our help. But when we are filling a breach at a wider level, by taking on a job within a group or association, those that may actually benefit from our services may not even been aware of our involvement. Would this stop you from stepping up in the first place, or would you just be happy to know that your contribution had been useful?

In recent weeks we have commemorated Remembrance Sunday; taking a short time out of our busy lives in honour of those who sacrificed so much during both Word Wars, and those killed or injured in more recent conflicts. The poppies, parades, 2 minutes silence and church services are an important way for us to continue to express our gratitude to those who stepped up when our country needed them.

Within both our Churches, we have many unsung heroes who contribute both their time and energy on a regular basis; working away in the background in order that everything runs smoothly for all who attend our services and visit our buildings. Your diligence to detail, and vast selection of skills and experience are appreciated more than we ever say.

It is often said that you can always ask a busy person to take on a new task, but to those who are not already involved, will you feel able step into the breach when the next call for help comes?

Rachel Ewins

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Magazine Deadline

Deadline for the next issue: 4 February 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

Christmas has always been my favourite time of the year and not for the gifts!! I love listening to and playing Christmas Carols; they are so beautiful. The words we find in them are full of love, peace, joy and hope, and they bring us closer to God. Over this past year I have found so much love, peace, joy and hope in all that I have seen and done in and around the Parishes and I have found these things in all of you. Sometimes we don't realise just what we give to each other in the things that we say and do and it can be the simplest of things that mean the most. Of course all of these good things ultimately come to us from God through his Son and that's why we are celebrating, ***‘...joy to the world, the Saviour has come...’***

Throughout this Christmas we will be once again looking at those Bible readings and Carols that we all know so well. Yet no matter how well we know them, still we can find in them a new out pouring of God's love, joy, peace and hope. A love revealed in His Son and our Saviour, Jesus Christ. A love which brings such joy and peace into our lives, and a love that brings to us eternal hope. ***“For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord...” (Luke 2:11).***

As we look towards Christmas once again may the love, peace, joy and hope of Christ be with you and your family and may you all have a happy and blessed Christmas.

With every blessing,

Andy

Christmas Bible Study

During our Christmas celebrations in Church, there are traditional passages which are often read each year. The opening chapter of John's Gospel is one of those - often read on Christmas Day itself - and it presents Jesus to us in a way that no other verses in the Bible do. So why not take time over this Christmas period to reflect on this well-known chapter and discover afresh what these verses are saying to you.

Read John 1:1-18

What are the main three things that this opening prologue to John's Gospel touches on?

- It tells us exactly who Jesus is and why He came.
 - ◇ But who exactly is Jesus to us and what does it mean for us to know Him in our lives each day?
- It tells us of the relationship between Jesus and God.
 - ◇ How do we understand this relationship and where do we fit in to this?
- It hints that His mission will not meet with universal success.
 - ◇ Have we encountered and experienced this in our witness of our Lord and Saviour - and if so, how have we dealt with this?

What key themes are we introduced to in the verses, themes that will crop up again and again as we read through the Gospel?

- John speaks of Eternal Life - rather than the Kingdom of God
 - ◇ Why is this significant for John and what is the difference, if any, between Eternal Life and The Kingdom of God?
- The 'World' is used not only when speaking about the created order, but also used in a way to depict those who do not accept the revelation of Christ.
 - ◇ The term 'Worldly Things' is perhaps one we hear often, but what does it mean and is that what John is speaking about here?
- Here, Jesus Himself not only reveals this truth, we are told He is the very personification of truth.
 - ◇ But on a day to day basis, what do we understand by this and how does it impact on our faith lives?
- Unlike the Synoptic Gospels, Jesus' death is the supreme moment of glorification.
 - ◇ Why is it important that we know this now?

What else can we learn from these opening verses?

- In a sense they are like a 'mini-gospel'.
 - ◇ Verses 1-5 speak to us of the unity of Christ and God, a theme which we see throughout the fourth Gospel, focussing very much on the relationship between God and Jesus.
 - ◇ Verses 6-8 introduce us to John the Baptist, sent to prepare the way for Christ, fulfilling the prophecies and promises of the Old Testament

- ◇ Verses 9-13 speak to us of the coming of Christ into the world, the light of the world that not all would recognise, but a light that could never be extinguished.
- ◇ And finally, verses 14-18 speak to us of the incarnation and salvation, God becoming flesh and the salvation that this would bring those who accepted Him.

John's Gospel is unlike any of the other Gospels and in these opening verses we are offered a real glimpse of just who Jesus is in terms of His relationship with God, of why Jesus came and of what is to come, which is why it is such an important lesson for this time of year.

Christmas Services At Our Churches

Abbey Church

Sunday	17 December	7.00pm	Carol Service
Thursday	21 December	7.00pm	Youth Ministry Nativity (Tickets £3.00)
Sunday	24 December	11.15am	Morning Worship
Sunday	24 December	11.30pm	Watchnight Service
Monday	25 December	11.00am	Christmas Day Service
Sunday	31 December	11.15am	Morning Worship

Bendochy Church

Sunday	24 December	10.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday	24 December	7.00pm	Christmas Eve Service
Sunday	31 December	10.00am	Morning Worship



The Prayer Meetings will continue up to and including Wednesday the 13th of December at the usual time of 2.00pm. They will then stop for a few weeks and restart at 2.00pm on Wednesday the 17th of January.

Likewise, the Bible Study Group will continue to meet up to and including the 13th of December at the usual time of 7.15pm. However, it will not restart until Wednesday the 24th of January, with more details to follow in the intimations prior to this.

Hospital Visits

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

Remembrance Day Thoughts

We are all very familiar with the poem “**In Flanders Field**” by Lt. Col. John McCrae, written after the Battle of Ypres in 1915.

In Flanders Fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place, and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved. And now we lie
In Flanders Fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders Fields.

In 1917, on hearing of the death of John McCrae, R.W. Lillard wrote “**America’s Answer**”.

Rest ye in peace, ye Flanders dead
The fight that you so bravely led
We’ve taken up. And we will keep
True faith with you who lie asleep,
With each a cross to mark his bed,
And poppies blowing overhead.
When once his own life-blood ran
So let your rest be sweet and deep
In Flanders Fields.

Fear not that ye have died for naught;
The torch ye threw to us we caught,
Ten million hands will hold it high,
And freedom’s light shall never die!
We’ve learned the lesson that ye taught
In Flanders Fields.

I have found a third answer, entitled “**In Canadian Fields**” By Floyd Zurbrigg , the sentiments of which I feel must have found resonance with all those left at home both then and now.

In Flanders Fields the poppies grow
When I hear that famous poem I know
That our soldiers went to a far off shore
And gave their lives in an awful war.
I’m aware of the hardships they endured
So our peace would be assured,
But the poem that I can never find
Tells the stories of those left behind.
Of wives and sweethearts, kissed at the train
That never saw their men again.
Of parents, brothers and sisters too
Who worried, because they never knew
If their soldier was alive or dead.
Many tearful, heartfelt prayers were said.
To the ones at home, we owe a debt,
They suffered too, let’s not forget.
While in Flanders Fields, the poppies grew
The folks at home were heroes too.

Judy Long

EPACTS—East Perthshire Action of Churches Together in Scotland

At the November Committee meeting, members welcomed representatives of the local Social Work Department tasked with developing services in the community, particularly for adults with various forms of disability. Alongside the statutory duties, the Social Work Team is focusing on developing community links to target resources and services where they are needed most. The team are particularly addressing social isolation, one of the biggest challenges facing many of the people they work with.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity –29 January–2 February 2018

This annual event involves a series of lunch-time sessions on the overall theme of ‘*That all may be free*’. The programme for this event will be confirmed at the January meeting.

EPACTS 2018 Calendar

Copies of the 2018 planning calendar, with photographs taken by local amateurs in East Perthshire, illustrating a progression of Bible verses, can be obtained through Helen Pithie. Price— £3 each.

John Wilson

Christmas Past — Christmas Present

Once upon a time Scotland was a very different place from what it is now. Very many country people lived in poor housing with a closet in the back garden. If the man of the house was out of work the family suffered as the only benefit (the Dole), from the Parish Council, was a pittance. If a member of a family “on the Dole” was seen to buy something that wasn’t deemed a necessity, the Dole would be stopped. Most families then lived on broth, made from the cheapest cut of beef and vegetables from the garden. Obesity was unheard of. The only meat many families had was rabbit which could have been snared (illegally) or acquired from the local Poacher who had a steady trade for his ill-gotten gains which he sold for a few pence.

The little village school I attended was wonderful with its earth playground. We had games for all seasons but I look back on the skipping rope time as my favourite and still remember the rhymes we sang—”Polly in the kitchen, doing some stitchin’in comes a bogey man and out goes she”. Then there was “House to let apply within, lady goest out for drinking gin. Gin you know is a very bad thing so out goes(Margaret) and (Betty) comes in”.

There was a crochet season—how we envied the older girls with their huge multi coloured blankets—and when the weather was good we went exploring for wild flowers and hidden treasure. We found the former but never the latter! We had much more freedom then but cars and paedophiles were thin on the ground so we were quite safe.

I lived near the school so went home for lunch, which we called dinner in those days, but some children lived quite a way off and as there were no school meals then, they brought what was known as a ‘piece’ - a large hunk of bread and jam without butter for butter and jam was considered by our elders to be a bit of a luxury and unnecessary even although the jam soaked into the bread.

In those far off days we regularly had Bible Studies. The very few Catholic children left the class-room but we accepted this and felt sorry that they were missing the Bible stories we loved. We never tired of hearing about the baby Jesus who was born in a stable, wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger. The Wise Men, the Star of Bethlehem, the Angels and Mary and Joseph were very real to us and we looked forward from one year to the other for baby Jesus’s birthday. Christmas was a wonderful time.

Of course we loved the parties and the delightful goodies which came in a paper poke (bag). In those days children rarely were given bought cakes and buns and the contents of the poke was a super treat and a great change from the girdle and potato scones which were the usual fare, baked at home on the big kitchen range.

At school we worked hard making decorations from crepe paper which we cut into fringes with very blunt scissors. We thought they made our classroom look absolutely beautiful. At school parties we sat at our desks and played games and sang carols which I still love— Away in a Manger— Silent Night—Once in Royal David's City. We loved our parties and we loved the baby Jesus whose birthday we were celebrating. Presents in those days were few, for money was not plentiful, but we were happy.

I grew up firmly believing the words of the Hymn "God is Always Near Me", which in later years was a great comfort to me when making my way home alone, on pitch black nights, during the black-out of World War II for I knew He could see me just the same as by mid-day light.

Christmas has changed greatly now with political correctness resulting in the Red Cross Charity shops no longer selling Christmas cards or having a Christmas display. 'Plastic' has allowed people to buy things they can't really afford and has replaced the need to save for a coveted item. Most young people have everything money can buy although 'time' and 'love' can be in short supply in many of their lives.

We have become a materialistic society encouraged constantly by the media to buy more and more. I wonder how many young people know what is written in Mathew 6 verse 24—'You cannot serve God and mammon'. (Mammon can now be interpreted as the 'idol of materialism').

The question isHow many of our young and not so young people look forward to Christmas as the celebration of the birth of Jesus and now many will live happily ever after?

A Former Member of Bendochy Church



On Sunday, 29th October 2017, Bridget Lithgow celebrated her 90th birthday.

The Members and Friends of Bendochy Church expressed their best wishes to Bridget on this special occasion with a rendition of "Happy Birthday", which was accompanied by Austin on the organ, and a presentation of a basket of fresh flowers by Bernice MacKenzie.

A “Word” About Christmas!

It was two days before the school broke up for the Christmas holiday.

Mrs Frost, the supply teacher, and the youngsters were tired; even the fairy atop their tree had toppled to one side.

Thank goodness, Mrs Frost thought. The class teacher had prepared a worksheet. This required the children to insert given words into meaningful sentences.

After ten minutes, during which Mrs Frost panicked about Christmas shopping, a shy, quietly spoken girl approached Mrs Frost and asked for help.

Mrs Frost, trying to give her pupil inspiration said “Well I like blue cheeses! What sort of cheeses do you like?”

The girl looked even more confused. An unusually deadly hush fell upon the class.

One stalwart boy put up his hand. “Yes John?” asked Mrs Frost. “Miss, the word is Jesus not cheeses” replied John.

There was a rustle, slither and flop, as the fairy from the tree fell softly to the floor.

A Retired Teacher

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Flowers at Bendochy

A big thank you to all the flower arrangers who have helped decorate our Church in 2017. I hope you have all enjoyed creating the floral displays. A Special Thank You to Cathy Fullerton, who has decided to retire after many years of flower arranging at Bendochy, to Charlie and Celia Cochrane for the welcoming flower tubs at the top of the walkway, also Tom Small for the lovely seasonal tub at the front porch.

As usual, we will be decorating the Church for Christmas on Friday 8th December at 10.30am. If you would like to join in, bring 6 red flowers and as much greenery as you can find. The rest will be provided.

Christine Pate

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Congregational Roll

The Abbey—Death

August 2017 Marjory Thomson, George Street, Coupar Angus.

Marjory served the Lord Jesus Christ as an Elder in the Abbey and will be greatly missed by all who had the good fortune to know her.

Treasurer’s Report For The Abbey Church

It has been an expensive period since my last report. Expenditure has been £10,307.76, however £9,768.00 of this was for the new boiler. We have claimed 20% VAT back on this with new regulations on VAT for places of worship.

The Communion Sunday Retiring Offering was £162.63, which was donated to Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance. A letter of thanks has been received and a copy is on church notice board.

The Remembrance Sunday Retiring Offering was £86.90, this was donated to the Earl Haig Fund.

Our Accounts at present stand at ---

General Fund.	£15,289.92
Fabric Fund.	£ 1,337.02
Reserve Fund.	£ 2,788.41
Development Fund.	£32,028.81
Children's Ministry.	£ 3,340.27

A new Fire Alarm System needs to be put in place shortly, this will be our next big expense. Thank you to everyone for their generosity, it is your giving that makes it all possible.

Peter Godfrey. Treasurer

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Food Bank

It is marvellous how Sunday after Sunday an assortment of tins, packets, biscuits etc are donated to the food Bank box in the church. Everything donated is greatly appreciated and goes to help make up the many parcels donated to those in need.

A special appeal has gone out for Christmas presents for the children. Clothes are requested if possible in bigger sizes, jumpers, pyjamas, leggings, etc would be greatly appreciated. Also some games, toys etc or whatever you think the children would like, if possible the size & content should be written on the wrapper. They will be wrapped up by another team of helpers so just pass them on in a poly bag and that would be fine.

Thank you again for all your gifts of food, etc, and best wishes for a Happy Christmas.

Helen Pithie

St Anne's Ecumenical Lunch Club.

Great day every second
Tuesday of the month.
Really enjoy the soup.

At a recent meeting of St Anne's Lunch Club committee, it was agreed that the following sums of money be allocated to local young folks' organisations.

Coupar Angus Youth Group	£100	Brownies	£100
Guides	£100	Children's Ministry	£100
Cubs	£100	Beavers.	£100
POP	£50	St Anne's Church.	£150

Enjoy meeting everyone and
of course the soup is lovely!

Great that the
proceeds go towards
so many good causes.

The group is still going strong with an average of 20 adults meeting every fortnight.



**Our Christmas lunch will be held
on Tuesday 12th December.
Meeting at 12 noon. Cost as usual. £ 2.50.
There will be a raffle.**

We hope to see you all there. Best wishes from all the helpers.

Helen Pithie

Great value for money. Everybody is very
friendly and there's always tasty home made soup.

Children's Ministry

The three groups continue to thrive and recently enjoyed a successful visit from Fischy Music; a group who write and perform songs promoting the social, emotional and spiritual wellbeing of children and families. Both children and adults had a great evening of fun and enjoyment in the church.

The Children's Ministry Team bought a selection of resources, ie CD, DVD and teaching materials produced by Fischy which will in turn supplement programmes on Thursday evenings. Some of these are based on the Psalms, and some all age songs highlight the connection between God and everyday life.

We also enjoyed a very successful trip to Active Kids in Stanley at the beginning of the October and some of the children took part in the Harvest Celebration Sunday Service.

Rehearsals are now taking place for our "Nativity" which will be held at 7pm on Thursday, 21 December in the Abbey Church.

Irene Henderson

Homecoming

After many months of heartache our wee bruised but not broken family can begin to look ahead. Our daughter Kirsty is finally being repatriated from British Forces Germany. She will return home the week before Christmas to her 'forever home' in Burrelton that she and Peter planned with the girls.

It has been a long process and for many months their home stood empty, open to the effects of our weather and, at times it all seemed a lost cause. New builders were appointed to remedy the problems that arose due to initial work that failed to meet the standards required by the designer and building regulations. Plans were amended, submitted and passed by the Warrant Officers at the Council and work recommenced in August. The house is now wind proof and watertight. The roof has been redone. Inside, it has floors, internal walls, plumbing and electrics. The decorators are scheduled next with the fitting of kitchen, bathrooms and central heating. Our builders are confident that they can meet the deadline for moving in.

Heather and Merry have been along to monitor progress and were so excited when they were consulted about the siting of the power points in their bedrooms. They now could see they will have their own house with their own rooms and could choose where to put their bedside tables and TV!

Even better than that, Mummy will be coming home and they could be a real family again. They have done so well. They have settled in at school in a new country, away from the military lifestyle that they had known all of their young lives, and away from their mother. They have benefitted so much from the love and support they have received from so many at the Kirk. They enjoy attending with us on Sundays, look forward to seeing new friends young and old and enjoy the nibbles after the service. Both girls have enjoyed being able to 'help' with tasks around the Kirk, doing readings and, are now looking forward to their first Abbey Church Nativity.

As this year draws to a close I find myself thinking of how I felt this time last year. How would we cope with our first Christmas without Peter? Would the girls cope? Could we reorganise our family? The answer is yes to all of these and many other similar questions. But, we could not have done it without the love of God, the love and support of each other and,

the love and support of our extended family at the Kirk. Thank you all so very much for being part of our lives.

Wishing you all the peace, blessings and joy of Christmas.



In my very first article after Peter died I talked about the longing I had to be able to meet my grandchildren at the school gates and let them ride home as I had done as a young girl on my pony. Here are Heather and Merry enjoying 'school transport' my way before the half term holidays. I hope the girls will enjoy many more journeys home from school like this.

Joanne Chinn

Abbey Church Choir



I would like to thank the Choir for all their hard work and great voices during the course of the year. New members would be made very welcome. Choir practice takes place from 6-7pm at the Abbey on Wednesday evenings.

Austin Wilkie

Pride of Place

Six Pride of Place team members attended the Britain in Bloom Award Ceremony in Llandudno on 27th October and were very proud to be presented with the third Gold Medal from Britain in Bloom for Coupar Angus.



We have a great community which is shown in all the support PoP receive in many ways. That our community cares about their town is shown by keeping the streets cleaner, helping Paul, our street sweeper, who does a great job. The Make a Difference team, always ready to help, in the last few weeks they have not only helped us put up the Information boards for the Burn Project but put up the lights for the town as well! We always have wonderful support from the community in our fund raising events, without which we would not be able to purchase the plants needed for the floral displays and keep them watered.

Well done Coupar Angus.

Anne Easson, PoP Chair

Whats On

01/12/17 "Friendly Friday" at the Abbey 1.30pm - 3pm - All welcome.
03/12/17 Soup and Sandwich Lunch—The Abbey
12/12/17 St Anne's Ecumenical Lunch—12noon—St Anne's Church
17/12/17 Carol Service – 7pm—The Abbey

**Abbey Church Choir Singing
2pm on 19 December 2017
Balhousie Care Home
Coupar Angus**



**Christmas Eve Carols
7pm
Sunday, 24 December 2017
Bendochy Church**

21/12/17 Children's Ministry -
Nativity – 7pm The Abbey

24/12/17 Watch Night Service—11.10pm The Abbey
17/01/18 Prayer Meeting restarts—2pm the Abbey
24/01/18 Bible Study Group restarts—7.15pm The Abbey
29/01-02/02/18 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
02/02/18 "Friendly Friday" at the Abbey 1.30pm - 3pm - All welcome.
04/02/18 Deadline for Isla Link Magazine
24-25/02/17 Snowdrop Festival

Bendochy Church Ladies Group

We were delighted to welcome our Minister to be our speaker on November 8th. He chose as his subject "Memories" showing important they are and how they can bring people together, especially at difficult moments. We had a very interesting discussion, describing our own special memories and what triggers certain memories and how our lives can be affected. We hope that this will be the first of many visits to the Group.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, 13th December, when we have our Christmas Lunch.

Dates for the 2018 Meetings are:- 4 February 4 March 11 April

The meetings will all be held in the Coach House at 2.15p.m with the exception of the Business Meeting on 11 April 2018 which will be at 10.30am.

Coffee Mornings: 10 May 2018

The annual subscription will be £6.00 and a charge of £2.00 per meeting being made to cover any costs.

Judy Long

Abbey Church Fabric

The major business over the last couple of months has been the replacement of the boiler for the heating system: this was completed successfully on schedule during the autumn break in children's activities, and the two large boilers installed some 18 years ago have been replaced by a smaller more efficient one that produces the same output as the two combined. At the same time the new flue replaced the two old incorrectly positioned ones, and an automatic safety gas cut-out system was included.

Meanwhile, we have been looking at the recommendations of the fire safety report prepared earlier in the year, with a view to putting them into effect, and whilst they cannot be all achieved in one fell swoop, the most important will start being seen over the next few months. Emergency lights in the church area are in hand, emergency exit signage will also appear shortly, and the back door will be altered to open outwards so that it can be used safely in an emergency. A ramp for wheel chair use at the kitchen door exit is also being investigated.

After all that, a fire alarm system is the major undertaking, and prices and recommendations are currently being sought – a system of light beams across the church body looks the optimal choice.

The church insurance company inspector recently called to check the state of the building, and raised no concerns. He was of course pleased to hear of the fire safety plans.

Members might be interested to know that we are required now to have annual certificates to show we have portable electrical appliances, gas equipment, and fire extinguishers checked, which does involve annual costs. We are also due a 5-yearly fixed electrical wiring check which will be done in January.

John Easson

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Silent Auction

This fundraising event proved to be a great success when a large number of people gathered at the Red House Hotel on Friday, 24 November. With a varied selection of goods and services to bid for, there was a great atmosphere, with many items generating good natured bidding battles.

The Rev Andy Graham announced the winning bids and extended thanks, on behalf of those present, to everyone involved in organising this event which raised the grand sum of £2,300.

Prayer

Father, as we go about our responsibilities this week,
Fill us with a sense of awe and wonder, as we think about what an amazing thing
it is, to have the Creator of all, beside us in every thing we do.

May we walk humbly but confidently with You Lord.

Knowing that You will not cast us aside,

Knowing that we are Your beloved children, in whom You take delight.

Help us not to waste our days, but help us to grow in our knowledge of You.

Help us Lord to draw on Your strength and to rely on Your power.

Help us overcome our fears, anxiety and worries,

and put our faith and trust in You.

Help us to focus on the blessings we have

and to trust You for the things that we need.

Thank you Lord for hearing our prayers, in Jesus' precious name we pray.

Amen

God is always there, always listening to us, always happy when we want to
talk to Him and make time for Him. Come along to the prayer group on a
Wednesday at 2pm in the church we are always looking for more people to
join us.

Endless Blessings.

Kathleen Godfrey

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Prayer Group Meetings

The Prayer Group meetings will resume on Wednesday the 6th September
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.

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Prayer Request

Please pray for

.....

.....

Name.....



Abbey Flower Rota

December 2017

3
10
17 *Christmas*
 Decorations
24
31

February

Co-ordinator: K Pirie
627754

4 Mrs K Pirie
11 Mrs K Godfrey
18 Mrs M Pennycook
25 Mrs V Grayson

January 2018

7
14
21 *Silk*
 Flowers
28

March

Co-ordinator: S Robertson
627365

4 Mrs M Pattullo
11 Mrs M Matthews
18 Miss P Campbell
25 Mrs J Haddow



Bendochy Flower Rota

Decemver 2017

3
10 *Christmas*
 Decorations
17
24 Ann Wilkie
31 *Christmas Decorations*

February

4 Jean Laburn
11 Jean Laburn
18 Margaret Donaldson
25 Margaret Donaldson

January 2018

7
14 *Silk*
 Flowers
21
28

March

4 Margaret Donaldson
11 Christine Pate
18 Christine Pate
25 Christine Pate

Bendochy Cleaning Rota

<i>December 2017</i>	Mrs R Patterson and Miss S Meldrum
<i>January 2018</i>	Mrs J Davidson and Mr M Davison
<i>February</i>	Mrs M Cormack and Mr R Cormack
<i>March</i>	Mrs C Pate and Mr W Pate

Coach House Hostesses

<i>December 2017</i>	Jean Laburn	Bernice MacKenzie
<i>January 2018</i>	Rosemary Patterson	Susan Meldrum
<i>February</i>	Shona Grant	Marie Cormack
<i>March</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.***



Friendly Fridays

Our Friendly Friday afternoons continue to be a great success with a real sense of fellowship taking place as folk come together for tea/coffee and tasty bites. The friendly chatter and laughter is wonderful to hear. Thank you to all who contribute to make this such a happy time and to all who support it. There will be no Friendly Friday on the first Friday in January but they will restart in February.

Next Friendly Friday –2 February 2018. We hope to see you there.



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.

Harry Walker

Readers in the Abbey and Bendochy

	<i>The Abbey</i>	<i>Bendochy</i>
<i>December</i>		
3	Catriona Henderson	Margaret Davidson
10	Margaret Pattullo	Steve Cumming
17	Joanne Chinn	Sarah Tulloch
24	David Chinn	Graeme McNeill
31	Irene Henderson	Rosemary Patterson
<i>January</i>		
7	Robert Farquharson	Jane Davidson
14	Anne Easson	R Cormack
21	John Easson	Jean Laburn
28	Rev Andrew Graham	John Morison
<i>February</i>		
4	Jeff Brewer	Margaret Davidson
11	Anne Richards	Steve Cumming
18	Margaret Pattullo	Rosemary Patterson
25	Ellen McGibbon	Graeme McNeill
<i>March</i>		
4	Catriona Henderson	Jane Davidson
11	Joanne Chinn	R Cormack
18	David Chinn	Jean Laburn
25	Irene Henderson	John Morison

The Abbey Beadle Duty

	<i>Sunday Services</i>	<i>Other Services</i>
<i>December</i>	M Pattullo	E McGibbon
<i>January</i>	J Chinn	B Anderson
<i>February</i>	I Henderson	I Rodger
<i>March</i>	S Robertson	S Robertson

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.

December 3

C Cochrane
W Pate

December 10

D Grant
R Cormack

December 17

B MacKenzie
J Laburn

December 24

D Donaldson
G McNeill

December 31

J Morison
C Pate

January 7

C Pate
D Donaldson

January 14

D Patterson
S Grant

January 21

G McNeill
R Cormack

January 28

W Pate
J Morison

February 4

B MacKenzie
J Laburn

February 11

R Cormack
J Morison

February 18

D Patterson
G McNeill

February 25

D Patterson
G McNeill

March 4

S Grant
W Pate

March 11

J Laburn
B MacKenzie

March 18

R Cormack
D Donaldson

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.

December 3

A Easson
J Easson
E McGibbon

December 10

S Jack
A Legge
A Richards

December 17

B Anderson
I Henderson
J Rennie

December 24

B Crighton
R Ewins
H Pithie

December 31

S Turnbull
D Chinn
J Chinn
I Rodger

January 7

J Brewer
K Godfrey
E Jack
S Robertson

January 14

D Hindmarch
I Jack
M Pattullo
W Pattullo

January 21

A Easson
J Easson
E McGibbon

January 28

S Jack
A Legge
A Richards

February 4

B Anderson
I Henderson
J Rennie

February 11

D Hindmarch
I Jack

February 18

M Pattullo
W Pattullo

February 25

S Jack
A Legge

March 4

I Henderson
J Rennie

March 11

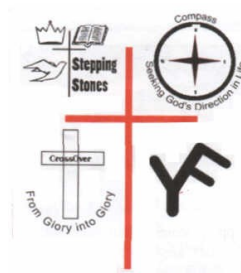
B Crighton
R Ewins

March 18

D Chinn
J Chinn

COUPAR ANGUS AND
BENDOCHY CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Presents



“I Dream Of Christmas”

7.00 pm on Thursday, 21 December 2017

The Abbey Church

Tickets – £3.00



Weekly groups restart on Thursday, 11 January 2018:

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 Dunkeld and Meigle (SC036630) which is itself a component element of the Church of Scotland (SC011353).