

ISLA LINK



**February/
March 2018**



**The Magazine of
Bendochy
linked with
Coupar Angus Abbey**



Who's who at the Abbey

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

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

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

Minister:

Rev Andrew F Graham

Tel: 01828 627864

email: andrew.graham@churchofscotland.org.uk



Bendochy Church

Sunday Service 10.00am

Session Clerk:

Mr Graeme McNeill

Tel: 01828 627751

Abbey Church

Sunday Service: 11.15am

Session Clerk:

Mrs Ellen McGibbon

Tel: 07541009398

Website: www.bandcachurch.org.uk

Featuring in this edition of your Isla Link:-

- ◇ Week Of Prayer For Christian Unity.
- ◇ Thoughts from the Manse.
- ◇ Bendochy Church Gift Day Letter Of Thanks.
- ◇ A View From The Pew.
- ◇ The Snowdrop As A Symbol Of Hope.

Spring Approaches

Over the coming weeks we will see more and more signs of Spring. Days are becoming longer, tiny shoots are beginning to develop, and there's an underlying anticipation of a fresh season unfolding.

This month we have articles relating to the developments of the Booterbank woodland, reflections on putting faith into action and reminders of the celebrations for Easter. This month we have included the programme for the Snowdrop festival which is now celebrating its fifth year and has a few new activities.

Roz Arno-Button

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Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Over the five days from 29th January, the local churches in the area came together for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity when they held their annual hunger lunch. The daily lunches took place either in the Parish Church, Blairgowrie or in St Catharine's Centre, Blairgowrie.

On Tuesday, Coupar Angus Abbey, Bendocry and St Ninians, Alyth were responsible for providing the lunch of soup, bread, biscuits and cheese. Rev Andy Graham led a short service of devotions and this was followed by lunch. All appreciated the selection of soups on offer.

Each of the five services, led by a local church, were well attended and provided the opportunity for fellowship with members from other churches. An offering was uplifted in aid of needy children of the Yemen.

Helen Pithie

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Magazine Deadline

Deadline for the next issue: 13 May 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

As we begin the season of Lent perhaps we could do something different this year and instead of **giving up** something for Lent, maybe we could **give** something, by following the example and teaching of our Lord.

In His teachings Jesus told us to, '**Love your neighbour as yourself...**' (Mark 12:31) and remembering from the story of the Good Samaritan just exactly who our neighbour is, maybe this is a good place to start. We could love our neighbour by giving some of our time to them, paying them a visit to see how they are and having a chat with them. We could also give of ourselves in other ways, helping them out by doing a bit of shopping, helping out with the odd small job or maybe making a meal for someone who is ill.

Ultimately, of course, Jesus would go on to give Himself completely for all of us on the cross at Calvary, giving His life that we might live eternally through Him. So any small sacrifice we may make in the giving of ourselves in this kind of way during Lent pales into insignificance when compared to this - and yet to those to whom we do give to in some way, it can make all the difference.

'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord...' (Mark 11:9)
Let's not give something up during Lent, rather let's go in the Lord's name and give generously in the service of our Lord, as best we can emulating His love and compassion at all times.

With every blessing,

Andy

Easter Services

We will be having a Maundy Thursday Communion Service in the Abbey Church at 7.00pm on the 29th of March and a Good Friday service in Bendochy Church at 7.00pm on the 30th of March. All are welcome to come and join us for these Holy Week services. Then on Easter Sunday, the 1st of April, we will have an Easter Day service in Bendochy and a Family Easter Service in the Abbey Church at the usual times.

Bible Study - Esther

The book of Esther is a graphic narrative telling how the people of Israel were saved from destruction after an evil plot devised by Haman. The author is unknown, although some believe it could be the work of Mordecai, the uncle of Esther and the other main character in the book, or even Ezra. It is set around the Fifth Century BC during the reign of Ahasuerus (probably Xerxes I) sometime between 485 and 465 BC.

The Persians are now the dominant force in the Middle East having conquered the Babylonians. It is now about 50 years since Cyrus, the first King of that empire issued a decree allowing the Jews to return home (around 538 BC). The return home though was not the exodus many anticipated and over the next 25 years only around 50,000 return to Judah. During this time Ezra began the rebuilding work on the Temple, but opposition from non-Jews frustrated this from the very beginning down to the time of King Artaxerxes, the successor to Ahasuerus. After this, with the arrival of Nehemiah and more exiles, around 422 BC, the work began again during the reign of Darius II. (The prophets Haggai and Zechariah were also prominent around this time.)

The book of Esther is set right in the middle of these troubled times, (around 483 - 471 BC) where the Jews, although now free to return home, were still seen by many as the enemy and a threat to their way of life. Their allegiance to God and their desire to rebuild the Temple lay at the heart of this fear. And so Haman devises a plot to destroy them.

Read Esther 4:1 - 5:8 and 7:1 - 8:8

What do we learn of Esther in these chapters?

- ◇ She was courageous - risking her life in coming before the King as she did.
- ◇ She was also selfless - realising that the safety of her people was more important than her own life.
- ◇ She was humble before God - realising that despite her position as Queen, she still needed God's help.
- ◇ She was faithful - despite the decree that had been issued, she refused to despair or wallow in self-pity. And she came to believe that perhaps God had placed her in that position for just this purpose.
- ◇ She gave God the honour He was due - worshipping Him by fasting for three days and nights before seeking to go and see the King.

What does the story of Esther teach us today?

- ◇ God is always in control - even when the situation appears dire, God is there and we need to trust Him and come to Him in prayer to seek His help and intervention.
- ◇ God will place people in specific places to help carry out His will. Deliverance comes only from God.

Interestingly enough, the name of God never appears anywhere within the book of Esther. Yet it clearly demonstrates the sovereignty of God and His loving care for His people and shows how, safe in the knowledge that God is in control, we can all exercise courage in difficult times. *It also shows that when we unite our purpose with the purpose of God, we can expect great things to happen.*

Hospital Visits

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

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Friendly Fridays

Next Friendly Friday –2 March 2018.
1.30–3.30 pm at Coupar Angus Abbey Church



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.

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Congregational Rolls

Deaths

Nov 2017	Robert Cormack- Bendochy Parish Church
Dec 2017	Hugh Fraser– Coupar Angus Abbey Church
	Phyllis Gardiner–Coupar Angus Abbey Church
	Annie Murray–Coupar Angus Abbey Church
January 2018	Margaret Gray–Coupar Angus Abbey Church

Butterybank Community Woodland Update Jan 2018

This is a good time to reflect on the past and plan for the future. 2017 was probably the best year so far on Butterybank, with several developments which have contributed to woodland establishment. With almost 800 trees; including oak, rowan, birch, larch and fruit trees, most have outgrown their collars and will be increasingly obvious - to traffic returning from Blairgowrie passing Couttie bridge!

In early spring enthusiastic volunteers planted 3000 sponsored bulbs near the Butterybank Road entrance and these will help provide undercover, encourage biodiversity and soften tree lines. Crocuses, snowdrops and daffodils also make the woodland more attractive, contributing to our annual February Snowdrop festival.

Later spring saw the installation of our first sponsored Information Panel at the top of the site alongside the cairn. Overlooking Strathmore, it provides an interesting visual display outlining the geology, geography and history of Butterybank. This goes back beyond the time when the Cistercian monks owned and managed the site, and the kirk is still called the Abbey! Even local visitors have little knowledge of this unique field, which offers a stunning panoramic view.

FCA's MAD squad also installed poles and fencing at the bottom of the cemetery on the path through to the old railway line, to ensure pedestrian safety since motor bikes have been a hazard from the beginning. Sadly this safety feature was vandalised and removed before Christmas, which again demonstrates anti-social behaviour. Butterybank has faced - and will continue to face - such issues, which challenge Coupar Angus and beyond. Community users will have to take more responsibility for managing Butterybank and monitor and report incidents to the Community Council or the Police.

Other problems include sign vandalism and destruction, tree theft, collar cane, branch breakage and removal, as well as anti-social dog fouling and litter - despite the presence of litter bins and notices at all 4 entrances. Approximately 50 trees have been inevitably lost to drought, waterlogging, or the unwelcome feeding by hungry rabbits and even more voracious voles. Between encouraging wildlife and minimising damage from weeds pests and diseases, it is a difficult balancing act on Butterybank. For example we had to wage war on weeds like (poisonous) ragwort, hogweed and docks, which threaten to smother vulnerable young saplings. Other than that, a wide range of flora and fauna is rapidly establishing already after only two seasons.

A solid bench seat and a couple of picnic tables are now installed at the flatter top of the field, where trees have not been planted and the grass is shorter. This is an important provision for visitors who either want to sit and relax or who are unable to walk down the slope safely. These were installed by Perth & Kinross Council who still own the field and have leased it to Forward Coupar Angus for 99 years at a nominal rent. These facilities extend the use and availability of Butterybank to a wider range of visitors and encourage families to enjoy the woodland as a leisure facility. Summer picnics in the sun and off-piste safe sledging in midwinter snow.

A new farm gate and stile were installed in mid-summer at the bottom entrance. This is due to the continued generosity of local farmer Peter Grewar, who also mows the field seasonally while I cut the paths. This reinforces the need for pedestrian safety, since all site visitors should have the right to walk through the woodland without fear of wheeled transport. Butterybank is a steeply sloping woodland not an off-road cycle & motorbike track, or park!

We had a visit from judges representing Scotland's Finest Woods during June, who enjoyed looking around Butterybank with us, but it was an unexpected surprise when they decided to award us a Commendation. Rona McKinnon and I were presented with a wooden plaque and certificate at the Royal Highland Show. Both plaque and certificate are now permanently housed in Coupar Angus Heritage Centre, where they belong. Although I have been professionally involved in agricultural and horticultural science for over 45 years, alongside my kirk ministry, this award meant a lot to me and is a personal highlight, as it was unexpected to be both regarded & awarded by professional woodland experts.

Another gratifying and unexpected development has been requests to plant memorial trees on Butterybank. Hidden secretly among the trees are now 13 trees which have provided comfort for grieving families in a quiet peaceful and reflective place. You can imagine both the tears and laughter involved in these simple but moving ceremonies and of course these special trees will continue to grow and be a living memorial. This was not part of the original plans, but illustrates how communities can contribute creatively and improve any project.

During the autumn term we continued to develop links with Coupar Angus Primary School, who have been enthusiastically involved in the project from the beginning. We set a competition for the 4 houses to design draft display boards for our second sponsored Information Panel, which will be more tree based, visual, interactive and child-led. The 4 houses presented their boards just before Christmas and Rona and I were delighted with their commitment, effort, and competence. Balgersho was the prize winner but our draft will incorporate as many of the imaginative ideas as possible, with completion and installation later this year. This leads us to the future of Butterybank - which will be largely in their hands as they grow up!

On this note, we have thought ahead for the next few years by preparing a detailed and financially sound Sustainability Plan, which we presented to a group of Butterybank enthusiasts in autumn. Whenever I have used the term 'we' I mean my fellow elves Rona McKinnon (aka Tinkerbelle) and Bill Ronald (aka Tinkerbill) since we 3 have largely guided Butterybank site preparation, planting and maintenance. Their unflagging support optimism energy and enthusiasm have kept me going. However, last year we reflected on our own futures and concluded that a community woodland must be supported and maintained by the community, and not rely on elves alone.

User Groups supporting Butterybank include Forward Coupar Angus, Pride of Place, Coupar Angus Primary School, Perth & Kinross Council, Woodland Trust, Local Councillors, Scotmid, Mushroom Trust, Make A Difference, Gannochy Trust, Dundee Lions, Peter Grewar Farming and other valued sponsors. These groups are among the army of supporters without whom Butterybank Community Woodland would never have been developed. Continuing sponsorship will be needed to fund any future developments. Our sponsors to date have been wonderfully generous with both cash and in-kind offers, and we are appreciative of their essential contributions. Woodlands are not free. Woodlands are hard work. Paths need cutting. Trees need maintaining and replacing.

As Butterybank Project Convener I have overseen, directed and managed the preparation and establishment of the site since 2014. I have now stepped down as Convenor since my work is complete, though I shall obviously continue to contribute if needed. To that end, another User Group meeting was held in January to clarify their future plans, tasks and inputs. The future of Butterybank will be safe and secure providing these groups co-operate and communicate and I have every confidence they will.

Iain Bentley aka Woodland Willie

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Bendochy Church Gift Day

In response to the donation of toys gathered at the Gift Day held in Bendochy Church in December, a letter has been received from P Kidd of Perth Salvation Army Church and Community Centre. The letter reads as follows:-

Dear Friends,

May I thank you on behalf of all those who received gifts that were donated by your congregation for Christmas 2017.

We are constantly amazed by the generosity of the local community for those less fortunate.

May God bless you and keep you in His care this coming year 2018.

Yours Gratefully,

P Kidd

A View from the Pew

Recently, my readings in the morning have been from the letter James wrote to “The twelve Tribes scattered among the Nations”.

Its now accepted that James was Jesus’ younger brother, together with Joseph, Simon and Judas (not Iscariot) and his sisters.

James later became ‘Bishop’ of Jerusalem and presided over the first Council of Jerusalem and leader of the first Christian church. He was martyred in AD 61.

I find this letter a great challenge with its strong emphasis on “good works” that, he says, must follow on from putting our faith in the person of Christ. On a lighter note, I do wonder how James introduced Jesus to his friends or others?

Probably no problem while Jesus was working away as a carpenter with his “father” Joseph. But now his brother was performing miracles around the countryside, forgiving people their sins, teaching and leading a small band of disciples around the country. Could this brother be the promised Messiah?

“I’d like to introduce you to my brother Jesus, he’s actually the Messiah, God’s son!”

What sort of reaction would that produce over a cup of ewe’s milk! Just a thought.

Anyway, we know Jesus came from a large family and He has now made it possible for us to join His family too, and then we can also introduce others to Him. He would like that!

Author’s Name Withheld

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Strathmore Men’s Shed



Strathmore Mens Shed would like to thank the organisers of the Abbey Church Spring Fair for the invitation to demonstrate at the Spring Fair.

We look forward to meeting with you all and take your enquiries.

Keith Langelan

LIFE AND WORK

I think this magazine of the Church of Scotland is sometimes seen as not very relevant to the church life in our own community, but each month there is something which grabs your attention and sometimes is close to home too.

This month (February), has an interesting article about the Saints of Scotland.

We seemingly have quite a lot of saints in Scotland and, of course, the best known and well documented is St Andrew who travelled widely and is also the patron Saint of Ukraine, Romania and Russia! St Andrews was, at one time, the main pilgrim destination in Europe. Closer to our own area, at Collace Church it was discovered in the 1990's that they had their own patron saint, St Ucan.

In this month's magazine there is also a profile of Professor Gordon Dickson who is the outgoing chair of CHAS. He is also a Church of Scotland elder which, by his own admission, is a very important part of his life. He viewed his work with CHAS as a real act of service. Faith into Action.

Are we able to put our own faith into action?

If you would like to read more and order the monthly magazine, please contact Anne Richards at the Abbey.

Anne Richards

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Publication Discount

The Life and Work Team are delighted to announce that readers of Life and Work can enjoy a 10% discount on Saint Andrew Press publications.

Orders can be placed online at www.standrewpress.co.uk or by phone to 01603 783925 (9am-5pm Mon-Fri) using promotion code LWOFF17. This offer is available until 31 May 2018.

Marie Cormack

Coupar Angus Abbey Treasurer’s Report

Hello again. It is now the end of the Financial Year and the team have all the relevant paperwork with the auditors ready for their audit. Many thanks to Ellen, Kathleen and Andy for their help in this process.

It has been a busy year and a lot of work has gone into the support and fund raising to help ensure the good running and our church’s upkeep. New boilers have been fitted and the process of bringing the fire system alarms, signage etc is well on its way. Therefore, I would like to thank all who have helped to raise funds and donate no matter how small to the passed support and hopefully to the future.

A full financial report will be given at the AGM in March and copies of the audit will be available to all.

The accounts as at 2nd February 2018 presently stand at the following:-

General Account	£15,406.12
Fabric	£1,369.37
Reserve	£2,788.76
Development	£33,860.55
Children’s Ministry	£1,822.28

So once again many thanks to all for their support.

Peter Godfrey. Treasurer

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Food Bank

A letter of thanks has been received from the local organiser of the Perth & Kinross FoodBank in appreciation of the generosity of all who donated to the church box. They also expressed their thanks for the gifts of clothes received at Christmas. Leading up to big day, eight families in the area received a food hamper with a good selection of Christmas fare. These were supplied by local churches and much appreciated by the families who received them.

Please keep the donations coming in, all are well received.

Helen Pithie

EPACTS—East Perthshire Action of Churches Together in Scotland

Helen Pithie has served as our Member on EPACTS for a good number of years and she is now retiring, and we as a congregation thank her for all her hard work on this committee on our behalf.

We are now looking for a replacement to represent the Abbey on EPACTS and if you feel you would be interested in this, please speak to Helen.

EPACTS is a group of members representing local churches within this area, who organise events to bring all the community together.

Rev Andy Graham

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Bendochy Church Ladies Group

Dates for the 2018 Meetings are:- 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

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St Anne's Ecumenical Lunch Club.



St Anne's Tuesday lunch club continues to meet every second Tuesday with the next one falling on the 6th February. The last lunch will be held on 15th May and will be in aid of CHAS. There will be the usual soup lunch, followed by cheese toasties and other goodies at a cost of £3.50. A raffle will be held with all funds going to CHAS.

Do come along and enjoy the fellowship of the group.

Helen Pithie

Robert Cormack

The members and friends of Bendochy Congregation were shocked to learn of the death of Rob Cormack on the 28th November 2017.

Rob was an Elder, Fabric Convenor and Health and Safety Convenor at Bendochy and he played an important and valued role in the life of the church. His boyish enthusiasm and commitment were infectious and his support for others unwavering. He performed all tasks with meticulous attention to detail and exemplary thoroughness. Rob had a strong faith.

He was a highlander, born in Wick in 1940, where his father was a vet. He attended Wick High School and George Heriot's before studying engineering at Edinburgh University, where he graduated with honours. Rob worked as a civil engineer until he fully retired aged 68. He specialised in the demolition of buildings and bridges, recycling and land reclamation. Rob initially worked in the public sector with Ayr and Argyll District Councils and Strathclyde Regional Council before moving to the private sector.

He met Marie in 1963 at a students' charity dance and they married in 1966. They had three children; Peter, Jamie and Dorothy but, sadly, Jamie died in an accident. Rob was loved by his children and grandchildren.

Rob and Marie lived in the west of Scotland until they moved to Blairgowrie 11 years ago. Rob enjoyed living in Perthshire and he participated in local activities. He was a cheerful and effective president of Blairgowrie Probus Club and a very diligent church elder. He was a knowledgeable gardener and a keen reader, particularly of history. He enjoyed country dancing and travel and in early life was an enthusiastic cyclist.

Rob was a kindly, modest and thoroughly good man.

Graeme McNeill

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Abbey Church Choir

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

Austin Wilkie

Pride of Place

Thursday morning 23rd November saw the opening event of the Coupar Angus Burn with the Provost and the P7s from Coupar Angus Primary school. This was not only an opportunity to give a focus to a project that has evolved over the last 3 years, but also for the whole community to work together. The area was fast becoming a dumping ground and now has the potential to become a fabulous wildlife area in the middle of Coupar Angus.



When the Britain in Bloom judges visited Coupar Angus in 2013 they spotted the Burn and challenged Pride of Place to see if we could improve the biodiversity of the area, the variety of plants and to encourage more wildlife.

With the help of funding from Perth and Kinross Council, the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Leader Fund, plans were drawn up and work finally started in February last year. Pride of Place worked with the school children; encouraging them to make posters asking the community for sightings of wildlife along the burn, identifying the vegetation and learning about the historical links Coupar Angus has with the Clydesdale horses. The information gathered was displayed on the three Information Boards. The children then moved on to assist in writing a leaflet to encourage the community to realise what a fantastic resource they have in their town and encourage visitors to come and see. These are available from the library, Town Hall and the Heritage Centre.

The Men's Shed constructed the bench in the seating area and the bat and bird boxes that can be seen in the trees and already in use. The Make a Difference (MaD) Team set in place the bench and the three sign boards; the Wildlife Board in the seating area, the Vegetation Board along the burnside and the Clydesdale Board on the wall in Cuddy's Wynd. They also removed all the fly tipping from along the burn. We have had assistance from Community Greenspace and the Rangers working with the children.

Pride of Place have since been busy harvesting snowdrops and replanting around town; adding to those on the Common, at the Standing Stone and by



the seating area along the Burn. In addition, our volunteers have been litter picking and tidying up the spring bedding in the boxes and planters, getting the town ready for the Snowdrop Festival that starts on the evening of Friday,16th February with the Pride of Place Snowdrop Family Ceilidh in the Town Hall. Full details are in the Snowdrop programme. This is always a very fun evening, come and join us.

Anne Easson, PoP Chair

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Children’s Ministry

We had a lovely evening on Thursday 22nd December 2017 at our Nativity. The children were excellent (as always) and the new microphone system helped with the sound. The audience were very appreciative of the children and also had great fun joining in with Andy’s “12 days of Christmas”.

We started back after the holidays and have been looking at the “early church” and Peter’s adventures with Tabitha, and Cornelius. The children have enjoyed a number of both messy and edible crafts and played quite a number of “challenging” games!!! The leaders also enjoy these activities and in some cases it’s debatable who enjoyed it more !!!

We are now looking forward to Easter and beginning to think about what we can bring to the Easter Sunday Service when we hope to have some of the children coming along.

Irene Henderson, Co-ordinator

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Whats On

- 16/02–04/03/18 Snowdrop Festival— Event details in Snowdrop Festival Guide
- 24/02/18 The Abbey Church Snowdrop Fair—10am-2pm in the Abbey
- 02/03/18 “Friendly Friday” at the Abbey 1.30pm - 3pm - All welcome.
- 14/03/18 Abbey Church Session Meeting—7.30pm
Any items for the Agenda to the Clerk or the Moderator before the meeting.
- 18/03/18 Coupar Angus Abbey Church Annual Stated Meeting following the morning service in the Abbey.
- 25/03/18 British Summer time begins—clocks move forward 1 hour.
- 22/04/18 Communion—Bendochy Pariish Church
- 29/04/18 Communion—Coupar Angus Abbey Church
- 13/05/18 Deadline for the next edition of the Isla Link.

Fabric Report

The sudden death of Robert Cormack has deprived us of a very good colleague in our partnership with Bendochy looking after the Manse. His expertise, good humour, and helpfulness will be sadly missed.

Otherwise currently there is only continuing work on the fire safety measures and routine maintenance to report. Andy needed an o-ring for a manse tap, kindly donated anonymously at a cost of roughly 1p.

John Easson

The Snowdrop As A Symbol Of Hope

Over the last couple of weeks, I've noticed the snowdrops beginning to flower. Such a tiny flower- very understated, but one that seems to symbolize a sign of hope penetrating through last year's debris. I haven't always taken much notice of this flower, but that all changed, when I moved to live near Coupar Angus, and during the first Spring I was here I noticed along the verges these tiny flowers appeared like a white ribbon stretching from Campmuir into the town. When I heard the story of how they'd been lovingly planted by Mr French several years ago, I seemed to notice them more and more and became fascinated by their delicacy and beauty.

Several weeks ago, while I was looking online at other Snowdrop festivals around the UK, I came across an organization called the Snowdrop Project based in Sheffield. They have adopted the snowdrop as a symbol for what their charity represents. The charity works with people who've been caught up in human trafficking, which is a form of modern day slavery. The Snowdrop Project was born in May 2012 and became the first charity in the UK to specialize in long term support.

Why the Snowdrop Project?

A Snowdrop must overcome the harsh, cold realities of winter to bloom. Like the first flower of Spring, survivors of trafficking have demonstrated incredible strength and resilience to overcome the abuses they have endured and have the chance to start afresh.

Perhaps we don't experience results of trafficking here in Coupar Angus, but the message of the snowdrop emerging through such a harsh environment can perhaps speak to us all in our own individual lives.

Roz Arno-Button

A Prayer For When I Feel Thankful

Oh beloved Father,
My words cannot express the full depth of my thanks to you,
But still I try to show You how I feel,
To show You how the Spirit has moved in me,
To love You, to thank You, to praise Your Holy Name,
Thank you Lord, for You alone can open my heart,
You alone can cleanse my soul.
You fill my deepest need, You heal my deepest hurt.
Thank you Lord, for I am loved by Jesus.
My heart belongs to Him, the owner and author of my faith.
I am so grateful to You in the Name of Your Glory,
In the Name of Jesus.
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 take place on Wednesdays at 2.00pm in the Abbey Church. All are welcome to come along and spend some quiet time in prayer before the Lord.

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

.....

Prayer Request

Please pray for

.....

.....

Name.....



Abbey Flower Rota

March 2018

Co-ordinator: S Robertson
627375

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

May

Co-ordinator: H Pithie
627365

5 Mrs S Jack
12
19 Mrs M Pattullo
26 Mrs H Pithie

April

Co-ordinator: S Robertson
627375

1 Mr & Mrs J Easson
9 Mrs M Ferguson
16 Mrs S Legge
23 Mr I Neill
30 Mrs S Robertson

June

Co-ordinator: I Rodger
627703

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



Bendochy Flower Rota

March 2018

4 M Donaldson
11 C Pate
18 C Pate
25 C Pate

May

6 M Graham
13 M Graham
20 J Fairlie
27 J Fairlie

April

1 S Lindsay
8 S Lindsay
15 R Patterson
22 R Patterson
29

June

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

Bendochy Cleaning Rota

March 2018

Mrs C Pate and Mr W Pate

April

Miss J Laburn and Dr G McNeill

May

Mrs R Patterson and Miss S Meldrum

June

Mrs J Davidson and Mr M Davidson

Coach House Hostesses

March 2018

Jean Laburn

Jane Davidson

April

Bernice Mackenzie

Margaret Donaldson

May

Erica Espley

Sheila Lindsay

June

Jean Laburn

Bernice Mackenzie

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



Used Stamps

A big THANK YOU to all the members of both Congregations who donate their **used stamps / postcards**. Your continued support is greatly appreciated. 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>March</i>		
4	Catriona Henderson	Jane Davidson
11	Joanne Chinn	
18	David Chinn	Jean Laburn
25	Irene Henderson	John Morison
<i>April</i>		
1	Robert Farquharson	M Davidson
8	Anne Easson	S Cumming
15	John Easson	R Patterson
22	Rev Andrew Graham	G McNeill
29	Communion—Jeff Brewer	J Davidson
<i>May</i>		
6	Anne Richards	
13	Margaret Pattullo	J Laburn
20	Ellen McGibbon	J Morison
27	Catriona Henderson	M Davidson
<i>June</i>		
3	Joanne Chinn	S Cumming
10	David Chinn	R Patterson
17	Irene Henderson	G McNeill
24	Robert Farquharson	J Davidson

The Abbey Beadle Duty

	<i>Sunday Services</i>	<i>Other Services</i>
<i>March</i>	S Robertson	S Robertson
<i>April</i>	W Pattullo	E McGibbon
<i>May</i>	H Pithie	I Rodger
<i>June</i>	I Rodger	E McGibbon

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.

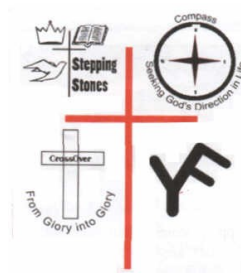
<i>February 25</i>	<i>March 4</i>	<i>March 11</i>	<i>March 18</i>
D Patterson	S Grant	J Laburn	
G McNeill	W Pate	B MacKenzie	D Donaldson
<i>March 25</i>	<i>April 1</i>	<i>April 8</i>	<i>April 15</i>
J Morison	C Pate	D Patterson	G McNeill
C Pate	D Donaldson	S Grant	R Cormack
<i>April 22</i>	<i>April 29</i>	<i>May 6</i>	<i>May 13</i>
W Pate	B MacKenzie		D Patterson
J Morison	J Laburn	J Morison	G McNeill
<i>May 20</i>	<i>May 27</i>	<i>June 3</i>	<i>June 10</i>
D Patterson	S Grant	J Laburn	
G McNeill	W Pate	B MacKenzie	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.

<i>February 25</i>	<i>March 4</i>	<i>March 11</i>	<i>March 18</i>
S Jack	I Henderson	B Crighton	D Chinn
A Legge	J Rennie	R Ewins	J Chinn
<i>March 25</i>	<i>April 1</i>	<i>April 8</i>	<i>April 15</i>
K Godfrey	J Easson	B Anderson	E McGibbon
P Godfrey	A Easson	A Richards	I Rodger
<i>April 22</i>	<i>April 29</i>	<i>May 6</i>	<i>May 13</i>
S Turnbull		H Pithie	S Robertson
J brewer	COMMUNION	E Jack	E McGibbon
<i>May 20</i>	<i>May 27</i>	<i>June 3</i>	<i>June 10</i>
D Hindmarch	M Pattullo	S Jack	I Henderson
I Jack	W Pattullo	ALegge	J Rennie

COUPAR ANGUS AND BENDOCHY CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



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

SNOWDROP FAIR

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



The Abbey Church

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



Entry £2 - includes refreshments - accompanied school children free

Soup and roll will be on sale at lunchtime.

Stalls: Crafts £10 Charity £5

Contact: Anne Easson 01828 628001

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).