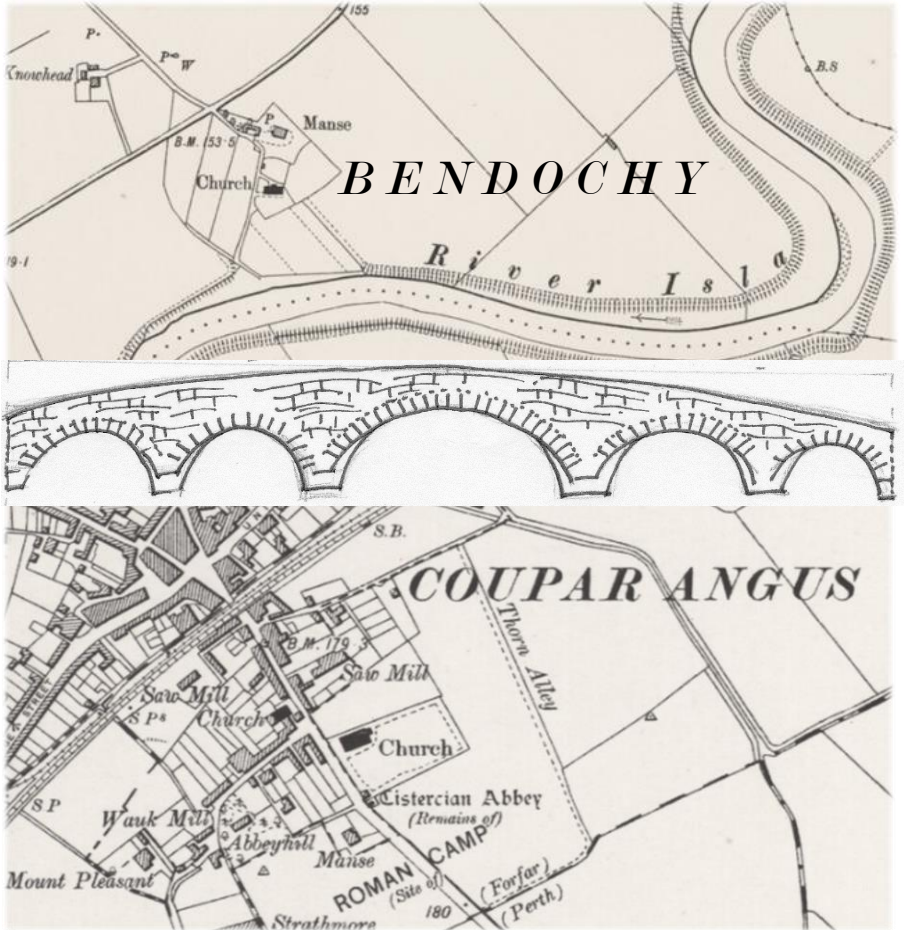


ISLA LINK



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

JUNE 2016

Interim Moderator:

Rev Tom Tait

Tel: 01250 874833



Bendochy Church

Sunday Service 10.00am

Session Clerk:

Mr Graeme McNeill

Bendochy House

Blairgowrie PH13 9HU

Tel: 01828 627751

Abbey Church

Sunday Service: 11.15am

Session Clerk:

Mrs Ellen McGibbon

4 Abbey Gardens

Coupar Angus PH13 9EN

Tel: 01828 628115

Website: www.bandcachurch.org.uk

Welcoming you at The Abbey today (subject to change)

June 5

B Anderson

I Henderson

J Rennie

June 12

E Crighton

R Ewins

H Pithie

June 19

S Turnbull

D Chinn

J Chinn

I Rodger

June 26

J Brewer

K Godfrey

E Jack

S Robertson

July 3

D Hindmarch

I Jack

M Patullo

W Patullo

July 10

A Easson

J Easson

E McGibbon

July 17

J Duncan

S Jack

A Legge

A Richards

July 24

B Anderson

I Henderson

J Rennie

July 31

E Crighton

R Ewins

H Pithie

Aug 7

S Turnbull

D Chinn

J Chinn

I Rodger

Aug 14

J Brewer

K Godfrey

E Jack

S Robertson

Aug 21

D Hindmarch

I Jack

M Patullo

W Patullo

Aug 28

A Easson

J Easson

E McGibbon

Sept 4

J Duncan

S Jack

A Legge

A Richards

Sept 11

B Anderson

I Henderson

J Rennie

Sept 18

E Crighton

R Ewins

H Pithie

Welcoming you at Bendochy today

June 5

D Donaldson
C Pate

June 12

R Cormack
S Grant

June 19

M Davidson
Cochrane

June 26

B Mackenzie
J Laburn

July 3

D Donaldson
G McNeill

July 10

D Grant
C Pate

July 17

C Cochrane
R Cormack

July 24

B MacKenzie
J Laburn

July 31

S Grant
W Pate

August 7

C Pate
D Donaldson

August 14

G McNeill
C Pate

August 21

J Laburn
B MacKenzie

August 28

D Grant
R Cormack

September 4

D Donaldson
C Cochrane

September 11

S Grant
G McNeill

September 18

R Cormack
W Pate

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

June

July

August

September

M Cormack and R Coracle

C Pate and W Pate

J Laburn and G McNeill

R Patterson and S Meldrum

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.



June

July

August

September

Jean Laburn

Rosemary Patterson

Shona Grant

Celia Cochrane

Bernice Mackenzie

Jean Laburn

Marie Cormack

Jane Davidson

Readers in the Abbey and Bendochy



The Abbey

Bendochy

June

| | |
|----|------------------|
| 5 | Jeff Brewer |
| 12 | Anne Richards |
| 19 | Margaret Patullo |
| 26 | Ellen McGibbon |

| |
|--------------------|
| Graeme McNeill |
| Nick Tulloch |
| Rosemary Patterson |
| Jane Davidson |

July

| | |
|----|--------------------|
| 3 | Catriona Henderson |
| 10 | Iain Bentley |
| 17 | Jacqui Duncan |
| 24 | Jo Chinn |
| 31 | David Chinn |

| |
|-------------------|
| Robert Cormack |
| Jean Laburn |
| John Morison |
| Margaret Davidson |
| Steve Cumming |

August

| | |
|----|-----------------|
| 7 | Irene Henderson |
| 14 | Peter MacNab |
| 21 | Anne Easson |
| 28 | John Easson |

| |
|--------------------|
| Sarah Tulloch |
| Graeme McNeill |
| Rosemary Patterson |
| Jane Davidson |

September

| | |
|----|------------------|
| 4 | Jeff Brewer |
| 11 | Anne Richards |
| 18 | Margaret Patullo |
| 25 | Ellen McGibbon |

| |
|------------------|
| Robert Cormack |
| Jean Laburn |
| John Morison |
| Margret Davidson |

Bendochy Flower Rota

June

| | |
|----|---------------|
| 5 | Ann Wilkie |
| 12 | Jane Davidson |
| 19 | Jane Davidson |
| 26 | Judy Long |

July

| | |
|----|-----------------|
| 3 | Judy Long |
| 10 | Jean Fairlie |
| 17 | Jean Fairlie |
| 24 | Bridget Lithgow |
| 31 | Bridget Lithgow |



August

| | |
|----|------------------|
| 7 | Bridget Lithgow |
| 14 | Bernice McKenzie |
| 21 | Bernice McKenzie |
| 28 | Marjorie Scott |

September

| | |
|----|----------------------|
| 4 | Marjorie Scott |
| 11 | Sheila Lindsay |
| 18 | Harvest Thanksgiving |
| 25 | Sheila Lindsay |

Finding Space

How often do we say to each other and to ourselves, if only I had more time, if only there was more space.....?

Over the years I have been a collector and hoarder of fabrics and all things creative and crafty. I often find myself saying that may come in useful for x, y, or z project. Its perhaps only when we come to move or spring clean that we reflect on how much extra baggage we have collected around ourselves. Seeing endless news bulletins of the refugees walking through Europe to unknown destinations carrying with them only one bag of what they have put together perhaps in a hurry has been quite shocking and thought provoking, given only a short space of time to gather together a few essential items what would we choose to take with us on an unknown journey?

All of us can relate to a whole spectrum of situations where we have had to clear out, spring clean cupboards, relocate and move house and these situations make us focus on decisions and a reassessment on what is needed in the “now of our lives”. Sometimes we need to let go of extra baggage.

Over the last couple of weeks, I travelled to the Isle of Cumbrae to have a few days away with a group from various churches. It was a time to find space amidst the rush and tumble of life and to switch direction for a few days. Being on an island immediately gives a sense of detachment and space. The sea surrounded us, the skyline was a silhouette of mountains reminding us of empty, rugged spaces.

It was good to be reminded of a quietness and restful space, to have no fixed agendas and to have the choice of doing nothing but just to “be” in the space.

Within the copy of this edition of the Isla link various people have shared at some depth from within their own personal spaces and I am very grateful for all who have shared something of their experiences.

Roz Arno-Button

Ella Ferrier – 1922-2016

Ella was the eldest of five Ferriers. Her father was a Gamekeeper on the Balnamoon Estate and the family lived in a cottage a mile from anywhere, with fields at the front, heather at the back and a glorious view of the Sidlaw Hills. There was no gas or electricity and water was delivered twice a week by Ken Gammack's grandfather and later his father.

It was a hard life for the family but their mother and father were very keen to do the best for their children.

As the eldest Ella did more than her fair share in helping to look after the family with the the younger children enjoying the open moorland to get rid of their youthful energy. Her brother James showed considerable prowess as an entrepreneur on projects such as beekeeping and raising day old chicks. His most successful venture was swapping a pair of homing pigeons and sixpence for a nanny goat. The pigeons returning home!

The downside however, was the fact that the Angus Education Committee was dominated by farmers; school holidays were closely linked to farmers' need for cheap labour. Easter holidays coincided nicely with potato planting time at 9 shillings a day (45p in new money). Summer holidays were just right for raspberry picking at one old penny (approximately 0.4 new pence) a pound when plenty and three old pence a pound at the end of the season. Potatoes were picked in the potato holidays in October and November, again at 9 shillings a day and frostbite. Ella took part in all these activities.

She was however a bright girl, passed the qualifying exam at Menmuir School and then attended Brechin High where she showed particular ability in maths and science, being awarded the mathematics prize in her year group. In 1940 she enrolled at University College Dundee (then a college of St Andrews University) and in 1943 graduated with a MA degree in Maths and Science. She then did a year's course in Teacher Training and went on to teach in Forfar and Alyth. Ella is remembered positively by former students for being quite strict but motivated by a desire for pupils to do their best to make the best of their careers.

After the death of her father in 1970, Ella's mother came to live with her in Abbey Gardens where she was looked after by Ella until her death in 1978.

Ella enjoyed country dancing and had a large number of friends and acquaintances whom, particularly in retirement, she enjoyed meeting for lunch and a chat. Sadly, by the time she reached 94, she had outlived most of them.

In her retirement she became a very keen bridge player, was a member of the Scottish Opera Society, did the Scotsman Crossword every day and took no prisoners if she was challenged at Scrabble. She also did local voluntary work at the Loch of the Lowes Wild Bird Sanctuary.

On hearing of Ella's death a family member tweeted this message:-

"An old lady we cared about left us yesterday. She was always very good to us in summer holidays, etc when we stayed with her in Coupar Angus. I remember going to see the Ospreys at the Loch of the Lowes. She was a volunteer there and loved bird watching. I still enjoy looking for birds; you gave me a taste for it. You gave my parents a break from myself and 3 brothers as we were a handful. You seemed to be immortal living to 94 years old! You will be missed by us all! Thank you for the memories. We all loved you."

Duncan Ferrier, Ella's Brother

A Story From Ella's Teaching Days

During the last weeks of school term, Ella was introducing trigonometry to the students. One student said "Miss I am going to be a Farmer, I don't need to know this." Ella replied "You never know." Many years later she met him at a function and he reminded her of this and said "I had to give up farming and I am now a Quantity Surveyor using trigonometry." Our mother used to say "Knowledge is easy carried about with you." I think Ella believed that too.

Marjorie Keiller, Ella's Sister

Donations for the Isla Link

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

Children's Ministry

"The childrens ministry groups have had some changes. Crossover (P7-S1) has been "suspended" until after the summer holidays. Latterly we have had no children attend and it was felt best to suspend meantime and re-assess after the holidays.

Stepping Stones is thriving and now has approx 22 on the role, Compass regularly has 15 children attending. YF continues following a few weeks off for study leave and look forward to a "Come Dine with Me" evening to finish off the session.

Our normal "review" meeting will take place at the end of August to allow all leaders and helpers involved to reflect, evaluate and make any changes as necessary. Hopefully we will find that there are a few children moving into the Crossover age bracket and that we can re-commence that group.

Can I take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support for the groups. Special thanks to the "Monday team" who set up for us and the "Thursday few" who take it down ready for church!!!!

Have a great summer"

Irene Henderson



A post Easter thought heard in a service on Radio 4:

After Jesus died his body was placed in a tomb donated by Joseph of Arimathea. That evening Joseph returned to his home and told his wife "By the way, I've given away our tomb to that preacher from Nazareth." His wife was furious. "Why on Earth did you do that? I was going to be buried there, you were going to be buried there, even the kids were going to be buried there!" "Don't worry dear", said Joseph, "He only needs it for the weekend."

David Chinn

Bible Society Action Group

We were greatly saddened to lose Peter Barker from our Committee, and are currently praying for his replacement within the Abbey congregation; also Ella Smith feels unable to continue within Bendochy congregation, so if anyone feels God’s call to respond to this need, do please let me know. The commitment is not onerous, but does require a love for God’s Word and a desire to see the knowledge of it spread both locally and worldwide.

At our annual Coffee Morning held recently in Woodside there was a great mix of interested people and a lively atmosphere in Burrelton Church Hall. On the following evening, in the Abbey Church, we were privileged to have Adrian Armstrong - a staff member from Bible House in Edinburgh - share up-to-date news of the amazing growth of the church in China, and the need for Bibles for the children of Ukraine.

Altogether we were able to send £470 to the Scottish Bible Society, and thank most sincerely all who contributed to this, both by their gifts, presence and prayers.

Pauline Dalby

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.....



Ecumenical Lunch Club



It seems incredible that St Ann's Ecumenical Lunch Club has been running for approximately 24/25 years. It was all started by a group of local church ladies who thought it would be a good idea to provide a light lunch for members of the community, giving people a chance to meet and enjoy some fellowship.

It was decided that the lunches would be held in St Anne's Church hall, Forfar Road, starting in September and going through till May, meeting every second Tuesday in the month. Each church took it in turns to provide the lunch on a Tuesday and it has continued over the last 25 years.

The luncheon club took off to a good start attracting 25 members of the community and local churches, coming along to meet up with friends and enjoy fellowship. It was a lively gathering and everyone enjoyed themselves. Over the years the numbers have dropped off a little. We lost some good friends through illness and death - but others have come and swelled the numbers. On May 10th there were 28 for the lunch and there was a lovely friendly welcome from the volunteer staff and delicious homemade soup and a toasty.

At present the kitchen staff welcome around 16 regulars who enjoy coming along and catching up on news and just generally chatting with others at their table.

On May 19th which was the last lunch of the season £200 was raised through donations and a raffle for the work of CHAS. Every second year any funds raised from the lunches is split between local organizations which is much appreciated.

The Luncheon Club welcome new members so why not come along and enjoy a homemade bowl of nourishing soup along with a cheese toasty.

12 noon at St. Anne's Hall, Forfar Rd, Coupar Angus.
£2.50 for lunch
ALL WELCOME

Starting again Tuesday, 13 September 2016

Helen Pithie

Taize Style Services.

A Taize style service is one inspired by the Taize community in France founded in 1940 by Brother Roger, a Reformed Protestant. The community's ecumenical outlook is encouraged to live a Christ centred communal life together emphasising kindness, simplicity and reconciliation. The service is simple with chants based on the Psalms, interspersed with Bible readings, a reflection and times of silence to encourage personal prayer.

Taize services have been held in St Anne's Church Coupar Angus once a month and the services will commence again in September and held over the winter months.

Fiona Munro made this comment recently when she attended the service. "One of my favourite reflective quotes is "in solitude and silence we find both self and God". This for me sums up Taize, the focus is on quiet, often repetitive singing, scripture and prayer, but mostly it's about the moments in between. The space we allow for God to speak, for the Holy Spirit to lead and for ourselves to be changed. It is for me one of the most simple and authentic ways to worship"

Roz Arno-Button

Musical Update

Its been a great month for me with regards to the organ with a recent visit to Summerlee Industrial Museum. Forth Organ Builders (who now tune our fine Wadsworth) have rebuilt a beautiful 3 manual Compton Cinema Organ and installed it in the museum. Hopefully, I will arrange to meet with them soon as they have requested I play something on it for their website.....exciting! Let's get the "Waddie" on a hydraulic lift I say!!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the choir for all their hard work...we certainly are making some lovely sounds and all efforts are paying off.

Finally, we thought it might be a good idea to place a suggestion box at the back of the church for requests to be played at the end of the service....I aim to please!!

Austin Wilkie



Bendochy Ladies Group

At the Business Meeting held on 13 April, 2016, it was reported that there was a healthy balance in the Bank. The following donations had been made during the year - £800 to the Church, £100 to Rachel House and £75 to Hope Park Home.

The dates for 2016/17 are:

| 2016 | 2017 |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 12 October | 15 February |
| 10 November - Autumn Coffee Morning | 15 March |
| 16 November | 12 April |
| 14 December | 11 May - Spring Coffee Morning |

The Annual Subscription remains at £6 and contributions towards teas at £2 each meeting.

Judy Long

Dear Friends,



It has been my privilege, for well over a year now, to act as, and take a responsibility for the duties of ministry within the Parishes of Bendochy and Coupar Angus Abbey while efforts are made to find a new leader for the flock. I have been well received - I think, by the members of the congregation who appear Sunday by Sunday. But I ask myself, "Where are the many whose names are listed on the Communion Roll?" I'm missing you!

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 perhaps it is worth looking at some familiar reasons for going to church.

There are certain things in life which gain a great part of their value and of their impact from being experienced together. However well a great orchestra might play, the experience of listening to it would lose something if the listener was the only person in the concert hall. A football match would lose far more than half its excitement and its thrill, if you were the only person present in the stadium.

There are many things which can be perfectly well done and experienced alone, but which have an infinitely greater impact and effect when they are done and experienced in the company of others.

Worship is like that. Of course we can worship alone and of course there are times when we must worship alone. But the fact remains that togetherness is an essential part of worship.

In the earliest days the Creed began not, "I believe", but "We believe". There are times when it is a very great comfort to remember that Christian faith and belief depend not on my acceptance of any part of it, not on my ability to understand any part of it, but on the faith of the whole Church.

There is a togetherness without which even worship becomes a colder and an 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. I look forward to seeing you in Church - and even to welcoming you back!

Your friend and Interim Moderator

Tom Tait

Dear Friends,

Data Protection Act

We are required by the Presbytery and the General Assembly to draw this matter to your attention.

The purpose of the Data Protection Act 1998 is to ensure that any personal data an organisation holds about an individual is stored and used in an appropriate way. Bendochy Parish Church and Coupar Angus Abbey through Dunkeld and Meigle Presbytery is registered with the Information Commissioner and strives to comply fully with data protection law. The Information Commissioner's website provides in-depth information regarding the requirements of the Data Protection Act:

Bendochy Parish Church and Coupar Angus Abbey are committed to protecting your privacy and safeguarding your personal data. We shall use the information you have provided us with as a point of contact while you are a member of each Congregation and will only keep the data for **as long as you retain your membership of the Congregation stated**.

The Privacy Policy within the Act covers the way in which the congregation of Bendochy and Coupar Angus Abbey Churches of Scotland will use and disclose personal information that members, employees, volunteers, donors and other associates may provide us with. Personal information includes any information that identifies you personally, such as your name, address, email address or telephone number.

The Congregation recognises the importance of your privacy and personal information and we have therefore outlined below how the Congregation collects, uses, discloses and protects this information. We are registered with the Information Commissioner through the umbrella registration of Dunkeld and Meigle Presbytery. The Congregation receives and stores personal information provided by members, employees, volunteers, donors and other associates. This information can be supplied to us:

- in writing or via email, by telephone conversation or on our website (eg when an individual is becoming a member); or

- by otherwise associating with the congregation or its organisations, (eg by enquiring about our work, activities, employment and volunteering opportunities); or
- when donating money to the congregation or its organisation.

How We Use Information

We may use the information we collect:

- in connection with membership records, for pastoral care purposes or in relation to your participation in our activities;
- in order to communicate with you (eg by letter, email or telephone) for example to provide information relating to our work or new developments;
- in order to further our charitable aims, eg such as for fundraising activities;
- for internal administration, such as for accounting purposes, or for analysing how we may better advance the Kingdom of God.

Disclosure of Information

The congregation may require to share personal information held for a number of reasons including to provide pastoral or other assistance, process donations or carry out any other contractual obligations. This data may be disclosed to:

- the relevant Presbytery;
- other bodies within the Church of Scotland;

The congregation does not permit these parties to use such information for any other purpose than the foregoing.

The congregation may also need to disclose your information if required to do so by law.

Should you require fuller information please contact your District Elder.

Your friend and Interim Moderator.

Tom Tait
(The Rev. T E Tait MBE BD)

Church, Just A Place To Go On Sunday?

I have always taken great comfort in knowing that my church is not just somewhere to go on a Sunday. It is a community of folks some of whom I know quite well and others, not so well. Even some who I don't know at all, and it saddens me to admit that.

At the beginning of February my life was shattered. It was teatime on Friday. I had just finished up at the stables. I was putting my hens in for the night. Next it would be feeding dogs, cats and finally, ourselves. Everything was normal and routine. My youngest daughter, Kirsty, phoned from Germany. "Peter is dead Mum. He just collapsed at work and they couldn't revive him". I was confused, Peter, my son-in-law, was 40 years old, had served in the Army for 22 years, had been deployed on many occasions in many dangerous places, and, through God's grace had come home each time. How could he just drop dead? He was fit, active and healthy. He didn't smoke or drink much and wasn't in bad shape. It didn't make sense. We had worried about him when he was deployed, or on exercise, as both these areas of service are dangerous and stressful. Peter himself, and the Army did try to prepare us in how to cope with things should he return home injured, or not at all. However, we were not prepared for this!

It just wasn't fair! He had returned to us every time he had been away. He was now helping the Army in their "draw down" from British Forces in Germany. This last tour of duty would take him to the planned end of his service in 2018 and, when they withdrew from Germany he would be home to live with us here in Perthshire. He had bought his house locally and was planning renovations. Work had started. He had bought his family two highland ponies and was looking forward to learning how to ride and care for them with his two daughters. What about them? They were only five and eight years old. They were excited at the prospect of going to our local village school, popping in to Grannie's for tea and maybe even being brought home from school on horseback, as I had done as a girl. So what now? Nothing would be the same.

Within a few hours of this terrible news I was en route to Germany. The Army had organised things to get me there as soon as possible. My daughter was still at the local hospital with her Minister (the Padre) and the Military Police. A friend and colleague of Peter had the girls for a sleepover. They did not know about their Dad at this point.

I just upped and left. Work that I had been doing with a friend for the church was dumped in a bag and left for her to carry on. It was a huge imposition on her and I felt so bad just leaving the task unfinished.

I returned some six weeks later to learn that my church community had been so supportive to my husband who also was just left to pick up and run with whatever I normally dealt with on a daily basis. Kirsty's own Minister from Newtyle also gave the family much support. She liaised with the Army and the local Funeral Director to repatriate Peter and send him off with a full military funeral in Perth.



Peter's family, friends and colleagues were astounded at the support shown by our two local church communities. So many of you from the Abbey, Bendochy and Newtyle sent messages of love, care and prayers for the family. Many of you came to Peter's service to share our sorrow, honour Peter's service to his country but most of all show how much love is in our church communities for two wee grand-daughters who have attended the Abbey church since they were babies.

Kirsty is also blessed by having a wonderful caring church community enfoldng her and the girls on base in Germany. It has been and still is a devastating time for us all. I do not know how we would have coped without the love and kindness that has been so freely given through our churches.

I know there is a long road ahead but knowing my three girls can come back to a loving and supportive community in our local churches is a great comfort when I feel the waters overwhelm me. Thank you. Your love, prayers and support is greatly cherished. So for me and my family, church is definitely not just a place to go on a Sunday!

Jo Chinn

Vision Express!

You don't have to look hard as you walk through Perth or Dundee to notice glass-fronted shops emblazoned with a slogans advertising free eye and ear tests. Even our TV screens highlight the frailty of football & cricket referees and cricket umpires, sponsored by Specsavers and Vision Express! This certainly helps us avoid taking ourselves too seriously and the ability to laugh at our own weaknesses is a rare gift.

Many people need both of these tests regularly, especially for those of us who have already reached three score years and ten. Unless you either wear contact lenses, 'invisible' hearing aids, or live in denial, then perfect hearing and 20:20 vision is a rarity. Our two congregations witness this truth!

I have worn glasses since I was seven years old, and have had trouble with my ears all my life, so I readily acknowledge my poor senses, notably common sense as my late father used to regularly remind me. Some of us here attend regular Lip Reading classes in Blair, which provide a great opportunity to learn such a helpful new skill in a relaxed atmosphere and share our common frustrations in communications.

In case you are wondering where I'm going in this article (like my sermons?!) well.... they say there's none so blind as they who cannot see and none so deaf as those who will not listen. For 2000 years the Church has demonstrated its astonishing blindness and deafness in implementing God's Word, despite valiant attempts to follow in the footsteps of our Lord and his first apostle St Paul.

How about us here in Coupar Angus & Bendochy? How many folk drop in, in order to make an appointment with us to have their spiritual eyes and ears checked? As Chairman of the Nominating Committee I am following in the worthy footsteps of the late Peter Barker. A tough act to follow you'll agree. We are accountable to everyone - the elders, the members and the presbytery, in our 'democratic

theocracy' which the kirk rightly cherishes. The Nominating Committee has been meeting prayerfully during the last year and while the details must remain confidential for obvious reasons, you can be assured that we are making as much progress as we can to fill the vacancy by our largely unseen work.

We are fortunate to be wisely guided by Tom in presbytery matters, and last year we declared and proactively advertised the vacancy twice in Life and Work, having re-drafted our Church profile. Any responses by interested potential applicant ministers are largely beyond our control. Above all we are seeking guidance from the Holy Spirit and we remain confident that God will move an appropriate candidate to post - in His own time, not ours. It is important to be realistic and not panic - we must appreciate that we face the same problem as hundreds of other churches across the denominations - shrinking aging congregations and shrinking aging ministers! While I'm sure we would all feel more comfortable with a new captain of the ship - to steer us away from choppy waters, prevent us sinking, or send out for lifeboats - I'm not convinced that our own comfort is a good criterion for any future minister.

Please pray for us as we strive to do His will and remind yourself that we have a tradition of a ministry of all believers - so we do have ministers - all of us! Do we really know our vision? Do we really know what we expect from a new minister? Where the people have no vision (express!) they shall perish. (Proverbs 29 v 18)

***Iain Bentley,
Chair Nominating Committee***

Magazine Deadline

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

Deadline for the next issue: 21 August 2016.

Please send articles to:-

Roz Arno-Button - 01828 628 728 - roz.arno@btinternet.com

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

News from Pride of Place

On Saturday 23rd April a very successful Community Litter Pick was held in Coupar Angus, organised by Popper Sylvia Brewer, with a total of 20 people collecting litter around town. The event was sponsored by Greggs, who supplied the participants with caramel slices when they returned with their bag of litter. Sylvia and Jeff were very pleased to announce that in fact when they went out on the Friday to plan routes, they found very little litter lying around. This shows that not only does our new street sweeper do a great job, but towns folk are becoming more litter conscious. Sadly there are still problems with cigarette butts being just thrown down rather than put in a bin and irresponsible dog owners not picking up their dog's 'poo'! Thank you to those who do.

3048 plug plants have been received by us and now planted on, ready to be planted into the baskets, mangers and boxes in June when the weather permits. Look out for the PoP Market Day Café in the 'Y' on Market Days, starting on 21st May. Come and visit us as you finish your shopping. Don't forget our Plant Sale in the Town Hall on Saturday 28th May, entry £2 including refreshments. Come and buy your bedding plants for the garden.

At our AGM on 3rd May we announced that we will be entering Keep Scotland Beautiful (KSB) and Take a Pride in Perthshire Bloom competitions. It is KSB's 50th Anniversary this year so watch out for that extra special display to celebrate this.

Finally we have been nominated for an Award, together with Perth and Kinross Community Greenspace for working in partnership. The Awards night is on Tuesday 17th May, so watch out for the results.

Anne Easson, Chair

Congregational Registers

Deaths - The Abbey

Bob Benzie, Easter Bendochy
Ella Ferrier, Abbey Gardens, Coupar Angus

Bob Benzies - 1931-2016

Bob Benzies was a weel-kent member of the Abbey Church. He latterly attended Bendochy because of its proximity to his home and he was much loved by both congregations. Bob died in Beech Manor Nursing Home on 23 April 2016 having endured declining health in the recent past. He was 85.

Bob was born at Denhead, Coupar Angus and educated at Coupar Angus Primary School and Fettes College. He graduated in Printing from Heriot Watt College, as it was known at that time, before joining Culross the Printers in Coupar Angus where he spent his entire working life. In the 1920s it had been bought by Bob's father from the Culross family.

Bob had enormous enthusiasm and many interests. When bronchial asthma necessitated care in a sanatorium in Switzerland during childhood he learned to ski and maintained his interest in skiing when he returned home. He became a director of the Glenshee Ski Company and Chairman of the Scottish National Ski Council. Photography was a lifelong passion and he supported cricket; he was Honorary President of Meigle Cricket Club. Bob enjoyed the theatre and while a student, participated in the Edinburgh Fringe. He was a member of the Coupar Angus Drama Group and he supported theatrical productions in church.

Bob had a placid nature and a warm gregarious personality. He was an erudite man with an infectious sense of humour which we shall miss.

Bob is survived by Ella, his second wife of 48 years and by son Frank and daughter Pauline, as well as seven grandchildren. His other son Douglas died tragically in a road traffic accident.

Graeme McNeill

Life and Work report for Isla Link

The May edition of Life and Work focuses on the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland which meets in Edinburgh.

Very often this meeting is viewed as boring, stuffy and too steeped in unnecessary tradition so the "Big Question" feature this month asks "What is the biggest change you would like to see to the General Assembly?"

One of the main issues raised was to see the Assembly moved around the country to allow greater participation and to change the perception of the Church of Scotland being very Edinburgh centred. Would this maybe help modernise it and appeal to more Church of Scotland members?

This year's Assembly will see the introduction of the new Moderator the Rev Dr Russell Barr (who comes across as very forward thinking) and who is the fifth Moderator since the millennium to have been educated at Kilmarnock Academy! Dr Barr puts it down to a combination of the ministers in the town during the 50's and 60's and the Boys Brigade nurturing the fledgling faith of the pupils.

In his ambassadorial year Dr Barr plans to adopt two themes - homelessness (which he is already involved in) and to support the recruitment and nurture of people into the ministry of the Church of Scotland. I only hope we don't have to wait for those people to come through the system!!



Anne Richards

Whats On

- 4-16.7.16 The Abbey Charity Shop, George Street, Coupar Angus
- 7.8.16 EPACTS Songs of Praise - 3pm at the Wellmeadow, Blairgowrie
- 20.8.16 Bendochy Walk and BBQ - Further details will be made available nearer the time through the Order of Service.
- Sept Harvest Thanksgiving Services in both churches
- Sept

The 3 “F’s”

I was brought up in a Christian family, attended Sunday School, became a helper there from the age of 13 and then joined the Abbey Church in 1980 when I was 16. I always had a faith but as I have grown older and events in life, like the death of my dad in 1979 and my mum in 2006, have tested my faith, none has tested more however than the situation I found myself in at the end of September last year which many of you will be aware of.

At a time when, for many, their faith may have fallen by the wayside, mine grew to a level that it has never reached before. I knew that, despite the events of that awful time, it was God’s will that this had happened in my life and that with continued faith in Him I would get through the storm. That storm has still not passed, but day by day I get a little bit stronger and learn to cope with how I feel and prepare myself for what lies ahead.

Faith isn’t the only “F” that has helped me through this difficult time. There are another 2: Family and Friends! Without my blood family and my “church family” along with my much valued friends I most certainly would have struggled to make sense of any of what life has thrown at me. I firmly believe that things happen for a reason and whilst, right at this moment in time, I don’t know what that reason is, I know that I can rely on God’s timing in everything.

I hope that if you are going through any difficult times that you too can rely on “The 3 F’s”. God bless

Johann Rennie

Missionary Partners – Nepal Appeal

A recent retiring offering in The Abbey raised the sum of £108 which will be used in the house building project in Nepal. Each new home costs £500 and all donations are most gratefully received.

Ellen McGibbon

Abbey Charity Shop

I expect because we have had some sunny days lately folks have been doing a spring clean of their houses.

Remember the Abbey's Charity Shop will be held from Monday 4 July to Saturday 16 July 2016, so if you have had a clear out and wish to donate items, please bring them to the shop on Sunday 3 July 2016 or contact Ellen McGibbon on 07541009398 or emcgibbon@sky.com and arrangements could be made to pick up any donations.

Raffle prizes and tombola prizes are also required and home baking is always appreciated, so ladies/gentlemen get those aprons on.

Ellen McGibbon



Fabric Report : Abbey Church

In the church, Bill Patullo painted the screen areas for the new projectors, and at the same time removed cobwebs and retouched various cracks and the patches under the war memorials, all at no cost to the church. The old choir chairs have now all been disposed of (mostly to a renovator for resale, but some were no longer useable), clearing some space in the rear room. The memorial plates on them have been kept in case they are requested, one having been passed on to the relevant family so far.

At the manse, the plumbers have now replaced the cloakroom fittings, and the next stage of work is DIY replacement of the ceiling with an access hatch, and then redecoration. A quote for replacing the rotten eaves needs Presbytery approval (and a second quote for comparison) so this work is still pending.

John Easson
Fabric Convener

Abbey Flower Rota

June

Co-ordinator: Irene Rodger
Tel: 627703

- 5** Mrs A Richards
- 12** Mrs V McIntosh
- 19** Mrs I Rodger
- 26** Mrs P Donaldson

August

Co-ordinator: Isobel Jack

- 7** Mrs J McNaughton
- 14** Mrs C Todd
- 21** Mrs Isobel Jack
- 28** Mrs I Henderson/Mrs J Rennie

July

Co-ordinator: Anne Richards
Tel: 628138

- 3** Mrs K McKinney
- 10** Mr & Mrs H Walker
- 17** Mrs Sandra Jack
- 24** Mrs J Duncan
- 31** Mrs I Jack

September

Co-ordinator: Helen Pithie
Tel: 627365

- 4** Mrs R Ewins
- 11** Esther Jack
- 18** Mrs I Rodger
- 25** Mrs A Farquharson



The Abbey Beadle Duty

| | <i>Sunday</i> | <i>Other</i> |
|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>2016</i> | <i>Services</i> | <i>Services</i> |
| <i>June</i> | I Rodger | E McGibbon |
| <i>July</i> | S Jack | S Robertson |
| <i>August</i> | A Richards | E McGibbon |
| <i>Septemer</i> | K Godfrey | H Pithie |

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

BENDOCHY WORK PARTY

I've heard about a little kirk,
And also o' its manse;
The boys hae heard about them tae
Although "somewhere in France."

I've heard about its Minister,
And his good lady tae,
They always lend a helping hand,
There's plenty aye tae day.

I've heard about the ladies
Who come frae near and far;
On Monday gaither at the Manse,
To help to win the war.

For soldier lads and sailor boys,
Braw woollies they do knit;
A glorious victory we've to gain,
They must be warm and fit.

Now to the Rev, Wylie Smith,
And his lady, I'd like to say;
A Bendochy there will always be,
Tho' Hitler his best will pray.

So here's to Bendoch Work Party,
Just one little word of cheer;
As you sit and knit, you're doing your bit,
I wish you a prosperous New Year.

8/1/40

B G Robertson

This poem was received from Adele Wayman, daughter of Marjorie and the late Raymond Scott of Eastwood. It was found at Eastwood when the house was being cleared to be sold.

Charlie Cochrane

Who's who at the Abbey

| | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Treasurer: | Peter Godfrey | Tel: 01828 627028 |
| Roll Keeper: | Johann Rennie | Tel: 01828 628283 |
| 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 |
|----------------------------------|---|

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



Front Cover – Scotland OS Map 1892-1960

Back Cover – OS Explorer Map 381 - 2001