

ISLA LINK



**February/March
2019**

Bendochy Parish
linked with
Coupar Angus Abbey
Church



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: 01250 876638
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

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***Featuring in this edition of your Isla Link:-***

- ◇ Thoughts From the Manse.
  
- ◇ Under Gallery Development
  
- ◇ East Perthshire Action of Churches Together
  
- ◇ A View From The Pew
  
- ◇ Life And Work

## ***Hope For The Future***

Life is rarely plain sailing and we can often find ourselves experiencing a mixture of emotions as we deal with the events of our own lives, whilst also providing support for our family and friends. It would be lovely if only good things happened all of the time, but unfortunately this is not always the case and it is when troubles come close to home that we show just what we are made of and where our faith lies.

Whilst attending a funeral recently, in support of a member of my family, I experienced a day of very mixed emotions. I was prepared to provide a supporting role on what could have been a very sad occasion, but instead I felt included in the warmth of the family who were celebrating the life of the person now gone from them and their belief that they will meet again.

I also felt a sense of pride as I watched the young people, whom I had watched grow from early teens into responsible young adults. They had travelled from far and wide, with some setting off before dawn, to provide support for their friend. They listened intently to the Minister during the service, and to the eulogy that was very eloquently delivered by their friend, and they added their voices when the Hymns were sung.

After spending some time with them over a cup of tea, and having enjoyed the good natured banter that they shared, I returned home feeling content that as parents we have shown our children how to respond to the challenges ahead. Although this age-group may not be attending our Churches on a weekly basis, there will be times ahead when they will have to deal with events that will make them ask their own questions, and I am hopeful that the words they heard on this occasion may start to hold meaning for them.

***Rachel Ewins***

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### ***Magazine Deadline***

***Deadline for the next issue: 12 May 2019.***

Please send articles to:-

Rachel Ewins - 01250 876638 - [rachel.ewins@btinternet.com](mailto:rachel.ewins@btinternet.com)



## ***Thoughts From The Manse***

***‘God is our refuge and our strength...’*** (Psalm 46:1), a few words only from the beginning of that Psalm, but ones which surely offer us so much comfort and reassurance, not only in times of distress, but as we seek to live out our faith each and every day.

During the month of January we have been thinking about how and why we should tell others the ***‘Good News’*** and what a difference it can make in their lives; and how we by our own actions, by all that we say and do, we can show people the difference God can and does make in our lives.

As part of this, it’s always good at the end of each day to take time to reflect on what has happened that day - to ask ourselves could we have done things differently or are we happy with our day and then to pray and thank God for the people and situations that He brought to us. The strength God gives us is something we should never forget or push to one side. Rather, we should embrace it and use it in God’s name, so that the next time we find ourselves in a situation where we think we are not strong enough to cope, we are reminded that God’s strength is with us, enabling us not only to get through that situation, but also helping us to continue to bear witness to Him and share the Good News as we do so.

And as we approach Lent and focus on the sacrifices that Jesus made for us, this is perhaps even more important. For as we focus on this we should be ever mindful of the freedom we have to make our own choices - but that these choices will be a reflection of our walk with God that other people will see.

So let us be ever mindful of God’s refuge and strength and let’s use that to show His love, grace and mercy each and every day, that in so doing, we continue to spread the Good News far and wide.

With Every Blessing,

***Andy***

## ***Easter Services***

We will be having a Maundy Thursday Communion Service in the Abbey Church at 7.00pm on the 18<sup>th</sup> of April and a Good Friday service in Bendochy Church at 7.00pm on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April. All are welcome to come and join us for these Holy Week services. Then on Easter Sunday, the 21<sup>st</sup> of April, we will have Easter Day services in Bendochy and in the Abbey Church at the usual times.

## ***Communion Services***

We will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion in Bendochy Church on the 14<sup>th</sup> of April and in the Abbey Church on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April.

## ***Prayer Group and Bible Study***

The prayer group and Bible study group has restarted and take place in the Abbey church each Wednesday 2.00pm for the prayer meeting and 7.15pm for the Bible study - and this session we will be looking at the letter to the Galatians. Both of these meetings are relaxed and informal and all are welcome to come and join us at either or both.

## ***Friendly Friday***

Friendly Friday continues to be a great time for all who come along to it and it's so good to hear the chat and buzz around the church as everyone is sitting enjoying their tea and coffee. If you've never been, then come along and join us on the first Friday of the month - anytime between 1.30pm and 3.00pm - a warm welcome awaits and I'm sure you'll have a good time.

## ***Hospital Visits***

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

## ***Bible Study—Read The Book of Jonah***

### **Background Information :**

Jonah came from Gath Hepher in Galilee and was the son of Amittai. He is believed to have been a prophet during the reign of King Jeroboam II during a time of expansion in Israel (around 790 - 750 BC) and we read in 2 Kings 14:25 that he was a messenger of mercy to the King at that time. His deeds at that time were not fully recorded, nor indeed were any of his prophecies, save this one, probably written around the latter half of the eight century BC. But even in this book named after him there is only one line of prophecy, ***'Yet forty days and Ninevah shall be overthrown...'*** The rest of the book is a narrative of the preface to and the consequences of that prediction.

Ninevah was the capital of Assyria, a power that was rising in the Middle East at that time, an enemy of Israel that was for ever invading and raiding towns and villages in the North of Israel, an enemy that was to eventually overthrow Samaria and the Northern Kingdom of in 722BC. They were reputed to be utterly ruthless as a conquering army and although they were shown mercy by God on this occasion, the city was eventually destroyed in 612 BC and never again inhabited.

So what does the book tell us about Jonah and what lessons can we learn from this today?

**Lets look at what God asked Jonah to do and what he actually did.**

- God asks Jonah to go and preach repentance to the city of Ninevah on account of their wickedness.
- He asks him to go to a city 500 miles Northeast of Palestine, on a journey over fertile land, a journey on which God would be with him all the way.
- Jonah heads some 200 miles to the West, on a distasteful sea voyage, seeking to flee from the presence and power of God as far as He possibly could.

**Why would Jonah do this?**

- Was it simply fear? - Given the reputation of the Assyrians and the fact that they were considered to be enemies of Israel, perhaps this is understandable.
- However, we see later that Jonah was no coward as he was prepared to choose death himself rather than let the others on the boat drown on his account.
- Or was there something else? - Was it more a question of hatred rather than fear. Did Jonah despise and hate the Assyrians so much that he longed to see God destroy them?
- Later on, again we do have some indication that this might have been the case. Jonah knew that God would be merciful if the people of Ninevah did repent and he clearly didn't want that to happen.

**What does all this say about Jonah and what does it teach us?**

- Jonah wasn't just simply ignoring or avoiding God's will, he was deliberately opposing it as best as he could.  
However, God's will, will be done.

**What do we learn from the incident involving the sailors throwing Jonah overboard and him being swallowed by a large fish?**

- In all of this the foreign sailors came to know of the power of God and came to fear Him and so they asked for God's mercy, asking not to held accountable for the death of Jonah if they threw him overboard and offering a sacrifice to God.
- That God will hear the prayers of all who come to Him and will be merciful.
- Jonah himself came to know that it was God who had saved him from death - despite his sinfulness and offers Him a Psalm of Thanksgiving.

## What is relevant in the story of Jonah being swallowed by the fish?

- The idea of the three days in a dark place of death before being given 'new life'.

## What was the real significance of Jonah going to Ninevah at all?

- It shows that God is a God for all people, irrespective of race or nationality or background, and He will offer forgiveness and grant salvation to all who come to Him.

## What can we learn from Jonah's response to mercy being granted to the people of Ninevah?

- Jonah is still unable to fully comprehend the way of God and this displeases him.
- Sometimes there are things that happen in our lives or the lives around us that we cannot begin to understand. But we need to learn to accept that we are incapable of fully understanding all that goes on in the world today.
- Jonah has got things totally out of perspective. He is more angry about a bush which withers and dies than he would be about the death of all those in Ninevah if God had destroyed it.
- But deep down, in his Psalm of Thanksgiving, in verses 2:2, 6, 8-9, we see that Jonah knows he has been rebellious, that he deserved to be punished and that it is only by the grace of God that he was saved.
- We are all here today by the grace of God.

The spiritual implications of Jonah are powerful and obvious. In the author, a messenger of God, we clearly see how rebellious and stubborn we can all be at times in respect to the will of God. We also see the comparison between us as a judgemental, resentful people, and an all merciful, all forgiving God.

As to the question as to whether or not these events are historically factual or simply serve as an allegory or parable, we will never truly know. ***However, the fact that Jesus refers to Jonah in Matthew 12 and Luke 11, highlights the importance of the lessons learned here.***

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## ***Congregational Roll***

### **Deaths**

|                             |                          |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Mrs Wikje Walker            | - Coupar Angus Abbey     |
| Mrs Catherine (Babs) MacNab | - Coupar Angus Abbey     |
| Mrs Cathy Fullerton         | - Bendochy Parish Church |



## ***A View From The Pew***

Recently I have read two books by Jim Cymbala, the Pastor of the Brooklyn Tabernacle in one of the most deprived areas of New York.

Nearly thirty years ago Jim and his wife Carol accepted this challenge given by Jim's father who had started this small church some two years before. It now had a congregation of around twenty. Jim had no theological training whatsoever, but his father said "You will just have to learn on the job!"

Now, two years later the congregation was still around twenty and they were needing to pay the rent, with nothing in the "till".

After praying about it with his wife, Carol, they decided they must meet with the whole congregation for a time of heartfelt prayer. This they did, with many tears. Do we close the church, sell the building, and pay the rent? Or do we cry out to God and see His guidance and perhaps be able to use this place His glory?

So, what was the outcome?

Now, some thirty years later the present congregation, spread amongst the 'planted' Churches number more than 6000, and there is constant prayer in the Church 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year. Jim and Carol and the Associate Pastor are in no doubt that it's the fervent prayers of the congregations that God has honoured.

The Abbey has a prayer meeting every Wednesday afternoon and the average number attending with Andy is four or five out of the congregation attending the Church on a Sunday of "around forty".

That's probably twice as many as there were in the first two years of the Tabernacle in New York before they started to take prayer seriously!

Do you think we all should and could learn something from this?

***Author's Name Withheld***



## ***Coupar Angus Abbey Treasurer's Report***

Once again finance time. An expensive few months with Architect fees, Planning and Warrants required for the development under the balcony of the church, and also work required at the manse.

We are also in the throws of the end of our financial year therefore books to be presented to the Church Session, Auditor, Presbytery, Edinburgh and OSCAR.

Bank Accounts stand at the following as of Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2019:

|                            |            |
|----------------------------|------------|
| General Account            | £10,680.84 |
| Fabric Account             | £1,370.06  |
| Reserve Account            | £2,790.16  |
| Development Account (ACRE) | £21,869.56 |
| Children's Ministry        | £2,784.70  |

Once again thanks to everyone who helps keep the income flowing.

***Peter Godfrey. Treasurer***

## ***Bendochy Church—Pew Cushions***

New pew cushions have been purchased and installed in Bendochy Church. If any member of the Congregation had a personal cushion and would like to reclaim it, please ask one of the Church Elders who will be delighted to help .

***Bernice Mackenzie***

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

The Children's Ministry Groups continue to run every Thursday evening in the church. We had a very successful Nativity when the children looked and sounded great. Many thanks to those who came along to support the children, it is very much appreciated.

Since the start of the year we have been learning about creation and God's love for all the world.

The groups will have a joint trip to the Compass Christian Outdoor Centre on Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2019 in the afternoon. Activities will include Archery, Low Ropes, Zip Wire and Wall Climbing. I'm not sure who is looking forward to it more.... the children or the leaders !!!!

As we move into Spring, we look forward to the warmer weather and the chance to have some outdoor activities on a Thursday evening.

## Are You An Elder Or Work With The Children's Ministry?

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Jo Chinn</b><br/>Safeguarding Coordinator</p> <p><b>Tel 01828 670234</b></p> <p><b>Email: mchinn982@btinternet.com</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <p>It is now mandatory for all Elders and volunteers to undertake and update safeguarding training. Many Elders and Children's Ministry volunteers have already attended a training session last year but there are still a few who have not.</p> |
| <p>Margaret Conroy has been appointed by Presbytery to provide the training required. The sessions last approximately two and a half hours. Further sessions will be planned for this year. If you are an Elder or work with our young people and have so far been unable to attend an updating session please contact Jo Chinn.</p> <p>We really do need <u>all</u> of our Elders and leaders to be updated so please try to attend a training session as soon as possible. New dates will be announced in due course but in order to plan ahead it would help to know how many still require training. Thereafter, refresher training will need to be every 3 - 5 years for all volunteers and Elders so it's not too onerous a task.</p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <p><b>Next training date:</b></p> <p><b>TO BE ANNOUNCED</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <p>If you have any questions please feel free to contact me:<br/> <b>Phone</b> —01828 670234 (please leave a message if I'm not in)<br/> <b>Email</b>—mchinn982@btinternet.com</p>                                                                |

### Whats On

|            |                            |             |                 |
|------------|----------------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 1/3/19     | Friendly Friday            | 1.30-3.00pm | Abbey Church    |
| 16/3/19    | Children's Ministry Trip   |             |                 |
| 31/3/19    | British Summer Time        |             |                 |
| 5/4/19     | Friendly Friday            | 1.30-3.00pm | Abbey Church    |
| 14/4/19    | Communion Service          | 10.00am     | Bendochy Church |
| 18/4/19    | Maundy Thursday Communion  | 7.00pm      | Abbey Church    |
| 19/4/19    | Good Friday Service        | 7.00pm      | Bendochy Church |
| 21/4/19    | Easter Services            |             | Both Churches   |
| 28/4/19    | Communion Service          | 11.15am     | Abbey Church    |
| 3/5/19     | Friendly Friday            | 1.30-3.00pm | Abbey Church    |
| 18-25/5/19 | Christian Aid Charity Shop |             | Coupar Angus    |
| 7/6/19     | Friendly Friday            | 1.30-3.00pm | Abbey Church    |

## ***Under Gallery Development***

We now have our final plans and drawings, Building Warrant and Listed Buildings Consent in place to enable us to proceed with our planned development. All we are waiting for now is a new Servitude Agreement with the local Council in regard to the water supply and drainage pipes which will run to and from the Church. However, we are able to seek estimates for the various works that will need to be done and once we do so, look to apply for funding to assist us in this venture. That said, as a Church we will also be expected to fund a large amount of this project ourselves, so there will be various fundraising activities over this year to enable us to do so and I hope that you will support them, both prayerfully and financially, as we seek to move forward in this way.

## ***Foodbank***

I write once more to thank you all for your continued generosity to keeping the food bank box supplied with a such a variety of goodies for those in need



During the Christmas period some also donated children's clothes which were included in with their food parcel where appropriate. The list of the current greatest needs never varies that much but tinned meat, fish, vegetables, fruit and puddings would be appreciated also toiletries and sanitary wear. All donations are gratefully received..

This year 23 families in the area received Christmas dinners supplied and donated by local churches. The Abbey members supplied sufficient goods to make up 5 hampers which were very much appreciated by those who received them.

Many thanks to all.

***Helen Pithie***

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

On Thursday 13 December the Ladies Group and Friends met in Blairgowrie Golf Club for Christmas Lunch. We all enjoyed a lovely meal with time to chat and catch up.

Dates for the 2019 Session:-                      13 March 2019  
                                                                                 17 April 2019

Contact Judy Long, Tel No. 01828 632515 for further information.

## ***EPACTS – East Perthshire Action of Churches Together***

One of the aims of EPACTS is to collaborate on projects which may be suggested by members. One such project was put forward by the Social Care department in Blairgowrie. They asked for 23 Christmas hampers for needy families in the town.

After discussing this request the member Churches of EPACTS set about gathering the items suggested to fill the hampers. At the Abbey Church, I left a big box and a list and prayed that we might manage to get a few items especially as our members support the Foodbank so faithfully.

Of course, I needn't have worried as the steak pies, tins of ham, Christmas puddings etc came flooding in and we managed to fill FIVE instead of our allocated three hampers.

Thank you everyone.

The EPACTS Churches managed to provide all 23 hampers.



Thanks to John and Rose Wilson, the lovely EPACTS calendars are available again with beautiful photos and appropriate texts. Our own John Easson is featured together with little Esme who delights us each Sunday in the Abbey. There are a few still available if anyone would like one .

***Anne Richards***

***Forward notice*** - Christian Aid Charity Shop 18- 25<sup>th</sup> May 2019 in Coupar Angus charity shop, George Street. Please bring your unwanted items along.

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



The Lunch Club continues to take place once a fortnight on a Tuesday from 12 noon in the Church hall, Forfar Road Coupar Angus. Soup, toasties, coffee/tea and biscuits are provided for £3.

Everyone is welcome to come along and enjoy the company.

The next lunch club is on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2019 and continues fortnightly until 21<sup>st</sup> May 2019.

***Anne Richards***

## ***Life And Work***

The advert for the Life and Work magazine says “packed every month across 60 pages with news, features and opinion on Christian life in Scotland and further afield”. This is a true statement and it is difficult to pick out just one or two things to encourage people to read it.

At the Abbey we are a close knit group who are happy in our Church life but the Church of Scotland is not just about the local community although that is, of course, important. We are part of a much wider Church and though we can't all go and visit other countries or even other Church of Scotland communities in Scotland itself, we can all be aware of some of the wonderful work being done.

January's Life and Work focussed on the 150 year anniversary of Social Care in the Church of Scotland, today known as Crossreach. It makes for interesting reading but there are also more personal stories about those who care and those they care for.

In the February issue is a profile of Dr David Frame, a retired nuclear physicist, now living in Pitlochry. He is now a World Mission Council member and he talks about his life and faith and his visit to an international conference about Korea's Peace and Reunification Programme.

If you would like read either of these issues you can borrow mine and there is an offer for new subscribers of 6 months subscription for £12.

***Anne Richards***

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## ***Soundbite From The Bible Society***

Pastor Tercerno from Honduras was in prison for 13<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> years. “I found Jesus in that place, thanks to being given a Bible. Now I am a Pastor and free, and every week I go back to the same prison to preach and reach prisoners for Jesus.”

The local Action Group has sadly - but understandably - lost Helen Pithie after many faithful years' service. Susan Meldrum represents the Society at Bendochy, so may we appeal to someone in the Abbey congregation to take Helen's place?

Watch this space for details of our annual Coffee Morning and Evening Service in April.

***Pauline Dolby***

## ***Butterybank 2018 Summary***

A New Year always gives us a chance to reflect on the past year of our lives. Butterybank Community Woodland is no exception. Both are unpredictable!

During 2018, virtually all the (800!) trees planted since December 2015 have now established and are into their 3<sup>rd</sup> season. Their tops now show well above the plastic collars which protect them from hungry rabbits. During winter, when the grass is not actively growing, herbivores chew bark at the tree bases. If the trunk is totally girdled, the tree will die during the next summer because of drought stress - notable during the hot 2018 summer.

Along with root rot diseases, about 50 trees on Butterybank have been lost since 2016 because of both rabbits and - surprisingly - voles, which have the cheek to burrow under the collars! Most losses have been in the central exposed sloping orchard and have been replaced. Generally c 5% loss of plantings can be expected and were allowed for - 50 out of 800 is acceptable.

Memorial trees continue to be planted in such a peaceful and beautiful landscape and there are now 21 on site for families to visit and remember someone special. Species chosen this year include apple, crab apple, pear, flowering cherry, hawthorn and whitebeam, which all add to the variety. It has been a privilege to co-ordinate these requests, and simple ceremonies combine both laughter and tears. Our Cistercian monks, who once owned the site and also planted fruit trees and willow, would surely approve.

The most recent was a pear tree planted by Coupar Angus Primary School pupils and staff as the finale of a 6 week autumn project. CAPS have been committed supporters to Butterybank from the beginning. Tragically, more are needed in 2019 after the recent horrific murder of one of my star P6 gardening pupils. Pupils and staff have shown admirable courage and fortitude.

The school will receive a prestigious John Muir award for cross-curricular activities on site. These included surveys, minibug hunts, art, poetry and reading as well as a fun day for all pupils. My highlights included 60 strong crocodiles of supervised P5 6 and 7 pupils along Bogside! The last session included the official opening of the new CAPS Information Panel, designed entirely by pupils. It was installed by the MAD squad near the side entrance on Butterybank Road. 650 copies of a map of the site and accompanying activity leaflet were sponsored by PKC and distributed to the school, Town Hall, High Street shop and local schools and villages. They have all been taken!

As with all projects, familiar problems continue to rear their head, notably antisocial vandalism, litter and dog fouling. The bottom pedestrian exit at the old railway end was totally removed & destroyed. The MAD squad came to the rescue - not for the first time - and installed a more robust entrance which has survived so far. Damage from motorbikes continued to be a problem and the Community Council dutifully record this and inform Police Scotland of all such incidents reported by residents and visitors. Safe pedestrian access, peaceful tranquility and wildlife preservation were also threatened by a Sustrans-linked cycle path through Butterybank. The proposal was withdrawn after residential protest.

Antisocial midsummer solstice partying resulted in about 20 trees, collars & stakes being damaged. POP volunteers rescued them in time for the Keep Scotland Beautiful visit in summer, which includes Butterybank in the judging route through Coupar Angus. Another POP gold award made it worthwhile!

Similar antisocial incidents occur in Larghan Park and elsewhere, reflecting a mindless minority. These do not - or should not - distract from our overall progress and increasing use of the woodland by responsible visitors. The side entrance kissing gate was also vandalised recently but quickly repaired. I try to avoid either social and moral judgements, which is easier said than done. Responses to these antisocial abuses on Butterybank should be proportional and preventative. From my point of view, all damage requires repair or replanting, regardless of the cause. Realistically, such antisocial behaviour anywhere is beyond our own control. Having invested so much of my own time into establishing the woodland, this is still particularly frustrating.

During the season, only POP volunteers responded to my open offers of mower and pruning training, which gives some hope for future maintenance. Seasonal tractor mowing the field by Peter Grewar and path cutting by myself are very time consuming. So is site monitoring. Have you ever considered who bothers to do this? The problem remains that few town residents contribute to site maintenance, which is the overall responsibility of Forward Coupar Angus via a Butterybank User Group. My days as site supervisor are supposed to be over - it's your woodland!

Wishing everyone a very Happy New Year

***Iain Bentley aka Woodland Willie***



## ***Pride of Place***

As the 6th Coupar Angus Snowdrop Festival approaches the Poppers have been out harvesting snowdrops and now, as and when the weather is kind to us and ground soft, we are planting them up, adding to the thousands now planted in our town. If you look you will see that snowdrops are already beginning to appear along the road sides, in the park, on the Common and along the Burn. We have been planting alongside Clyde and in the Community Woodland.



This past week we started to tidy the polytunnel ready to receive the plug plants that will be planted up to grow on for the hanging baskets and boxes in town. The polytunnel needs to be 'bug' free so the new plants are not attacked. Some of the winter and spring plants in the boxes have not grown well so we will be tidying these before the festival. It is this time of year that we order the compost to be used for the baskets and boxes, the order for the plugs went to the suppliers before Christmas. Important work that cannot be seen but if not done no baskets or boxes.

Our Pollinators Bed by Clyde does not look very tidy at all at the moment but as it is the middle of winter the birds and are still looking for food, the seed heads can provide this and insects vital for our planet can find shelter here. As the weather warms in spring we will tidy up the flower bed, feed the soil and split the plants, with some replanting.



In the week before the Festival we will be out and about ensuring the town looks its best for visitors. We will be collecting any litter we find, so you could help by us by ensuring all litter goes in the bin please.

PoP will be having a Stall in the Abbey Church Snowdrop Fair on 23rd Feb. from 10am until 2pm, so come and see what Tracy has for you to try your hand at.

The date for our Family Ceildih has yet to be announced, so don't miss out and please look out for the date to be announced. Hope to see you there and do not forget we would love a few more folk to come and join us, be a Popper and help to keep our town looking great, meet on Thursday mornings at 9.30am at the Town Hall. A New Year, a New Start, so come and find out just what we do.

Park Watchers will have noted that the very tall Willow Trees behind the play area have been cut down to the size that they were originally intended. Our Green Ranger had advised there would soon be a danger of bending, and possibly breaking. Contractors, curtesy of Perth and Kinross Council, have cut them down to the intended height.

Our Green Ranger and a colleague are advising on plans to turn the area into a special play area for children. Long pieces of suitable Willow will be made into a fence and a ‘dome’ with tunnel will be made in the middle of the trees.



Any shortfall of Willow will be supplemented from our stock growing alongside the Coupar Angus Burn which we must also manage properly. We are grateful for the help and expertise of the Green Rangers and the volunteer work parties they have brought to help us; Wisecraft and Young Police Scotland. Management of this resource will enable us to have a regular fresh supply of Willow which can be used in craft work. Our PKC Green Rangers have already suggested amateur classes for making Christmas items later in the year, once we have cut a proper supply.

*Anne Easson*

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***Abbey Church - Fabric Report***

Work at the manse is now completed with a new garage door in place. However the Presbytery has just done a quinquennial Survey, and although this has not raised any major issues, we will be looking to replace the rear garden wall decorative screen, which has deteriorated.

The report also noted no major items at the church, although it found a crack at the rear of the Session House (but no signs of subsidence). It recommended a planned maintenance of the external wall be considered. The recent leak in the roof has been sorted, and gutters etc checked.

Legal permissions etc for the development under the gallery are almost complete, so we are about to look for quotations for the work. If all goes to plan, actual work should be happening over the summer.

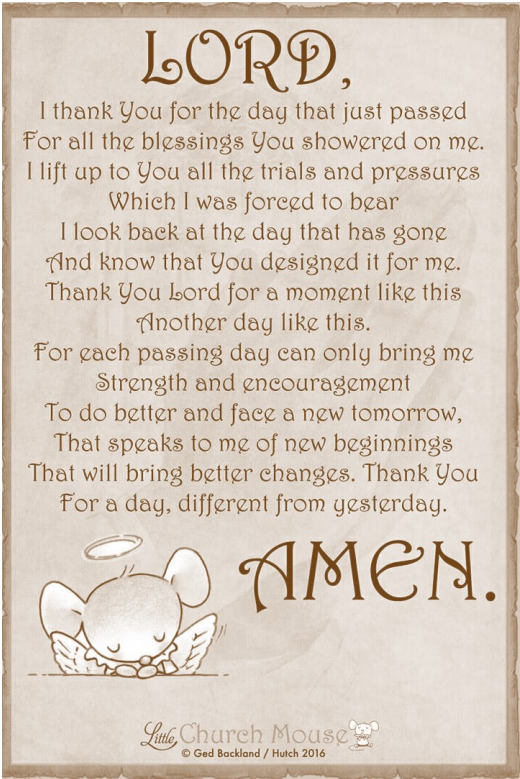
*John Easson*

**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.

*Kathleen Godfrey*



**Prayer Request**

Please pray for

.....  
Name.....



## ***Abbey Flower Rota***

### ***March 2019***

***Co-ordinator: S Robertson  
627375***

**3** Mrs M Pattullo  
**10** Mrs M Matthews  
**17** Miss P Campbell  
**24** Mrs J Haddow  
**31** Mr & Mrs J Easson

### ***May***

***Co-ordinator: H Pithie  
627365***

**5** Mrs S Jack  
**12** Ms S Thomson  
**19** Mrs M Pattullo  
**26** Mrs H Pithie

### ***April***

***Co-ordinator: S Robertson  
627375***

**7** Mr & Mrs J Easson  
**14** Mrs M Ferguson  
**21** Mrs S Legge  
**28** Mr Ian Neill



### ***June***

***Co-ordinator: I Rodger  
627703***

**2** Mrs A Richards  
**9** Mrs B Crighton  
**16** Mrs I Rodger  
**23** Mrs P Donaldson  
**30** Mrs I Jack

## ***Bendochy Flower Rota***

### ***March 2019***

**3** Margaret Donaldson  
**10** Christine Pate  
**17** Christine Pate  
**24** Christine Pate  
**31** Sheila Lindsay

### ***May***

**5** Margaret Graham  
**12** Margaret Graham  
**19** Jean Fairlie  
**26** Jean Fairlie

### ***April***

**7** Sheila Lindsay  
**14** Sheila Lindsay  
**21** Rosemary Patterson  
**28** Rosemary Patterson

### ***June***

**2** Ann Wilkie  
**9** Ann Wilkie  
**16** Jane Davidson  
**23** Jane Davidson  
**30** Judy Long



## ***Bendochy Cleaning Rota***

***March 2019***

Mrs R Patterson and Miss S Meldrum

***April***

Mrs J Davidson and Mr M Davidson

***May***

Mrs M Cormack and Mrs B Mackenzie

***June***

Mrs C Pate and Mr W Pate

## ***Coach House Hostesses***

***March 2019***

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***

### ***2019 March***

|           |                    |
|-----------|--------------------|
| <b>3</b>  | Anne Easson        |
| <b>10</b> | John Easson        |
| <b>17</b> | Rev. Andrew Graham |
| <b>24</b> | Jeff Brewer        |
| <b>31</b> | Anne Richards      |

### ***April***

|           |                    |
|-----------|--------------------|
| <b>7</b>  | Margaret Pattullo  |
| <b>14</b> | Ellen McGibbon     |
| <b>21</b> | Catriona Henderson |
| <b>28</b> | Joanne Chinn       |

### ***May***

|           |                 |
|-----------|-----------------|
| <b>5</b>  | David Chinn     |
| <b>12</b> | Irene Henderson |
| <b>19</b> | Anne Easson     |
| <b>26</b> | John Easson     |

### ***June***

|           |                    |
|-----------|--------------------|
| <b>2</b>  | Rev. Andrew Graham |
| <b>9</b>  | Jeff Brewer        |
| <b>16</b> | Anne Richards      |
| <b>23</b> | Margaret Pattullo  |
| <b>30</b> | Ellen McGibbon     |

### ***Bendochy***

J Laburn  
J Morison  
M Davidson  
S Cumming  
R Patterson

G McNeill  
J Davidson  
J Laburn  
J Morison

M Davidson  
S Cumming  
R Patterson  
J Davidson

J Davidson  
J Laburn  
J Morison  
M Davidson  
S Cumming

## ***The Abbey Beadle Duty***

| <b><i>2019</i></b>  | <b><i>Sunday<br/>Services</i></b> |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b><i>March</i></b> | Sheila Robertson                  |
| <b><i>April</i></b> | Bill Pattullo                     |
| <b><i>May</i></b>   | Helen Pithie                      |
| <b><i>June</i></b>  | Irene Rodger                      |

| <b><i>Other<br/>Services</i></b> |
|----------------------------------|
| Ellen McGibbon                   |
| Ellen McGibbon                   |
| Irene Rodger                     |
| Ellen 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.

|                                                      |                                                    |                                                    |                                                   |
|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| <b><i>March 3</i></b><br>S Grant<br>D Grant          | <b><i>March 10</i></b><br>J Morison<br>D Patterson | <b><i>March 17</i></b><br>W Pate<br>C Pate         | <b><i>March 24</i></b><br>J Laburn<br>B Mackenzie |
| <b><i>March 31</i></b><br>R Patterson<br>D Donaldson | <b><i>April 7</i></b><br>D Grant<br>S Grant        | <b><i>April 14</i></b><br>D Patterson<br>G McNeill | <b><i>April 21</i></b><br>C Pate<br>J Morison     |
| <b><i>April 28</i></b><br>B Mackenzie<br>J Laburn    | <b><i>May 5</i></b><br>R Patterson<br>D Patterson  | <b><i>May 12</i></b><br>D Donaldson<br>W Pate      | <b><i>May 19</i></b><br>J Morison<br>G McNeill    |
| <b><i>May 26</i></b><br>S Grant<br>D Grant           | <b><i>June 2</i></b><br>C Pate<br>D Patterson      | <b><i>June 9</i></b><br>J Laburn<br>B Mackenzie    | <b><i>June 16</i></b><br>G McNeill<br>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.

|                                                |                                                    |                                                  |                                                    |
|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| <b><i>March 3</i></b><br>J Easson<br>A Easson  | <b><i>March 10</i></b><br>B Anderson<br>A Richards | <b><i>March 17</i></b><br>E McGibbon<br>I Rodger | <b><i>March 24</i></b><br>S Turnbull<br>J Brewer   |
| <b><i>March 31</i></b><br>H Pithie<br>E Jack   | <b><i>April 7</i></b><br>K Godfrey<br>S Robertson  | <b><i>April 14</i></b><br>D Hindmarch<br>I Jack  | <b><i>April 21</i></b><br>M Pattullo<br>W Pattullo |
| <b><i>April 28</i></b><br><br><b>Communion</b> | <b><i>May 5</i></b><br>S Jack<br>A Legge           | <b><i>May 12</i></b><br>I Henderson<br>J Rennie  | <b><i>May 19</i></b><br>B Crighton<br>E Ewins      |
| <b><i>May 26</i></b><br>D Chinn<br>J Chinn     | <b><i>June 2</i></b><br>K Godfrey<br>P Godfrey     | <b><i>June 9</i></b><br>J Easson<br>A Easson     | <b><i>June 16</i></b><br>B Anderson<br>A Richards  |

COUPAR ANGUS AND  
BENDOCHY CHILDREN’S MINISTRY



Groups meet on Thursdays during school term time:

| 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 snowdrop crafts.



*The Abbey Church*



10am - 2pm on Saturday, 23rd February 2019

Entry £2.50 - 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 of Dunkeld and Meigle (SC036630) which is itself a component element of the Church of Scotland (SC011353).