

ISLA LINK



March 2024

Bendochy Parish
linked with
Coupar Angus Abbey
Church



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

Easter Services

Maundy Thursday Service with Communion

28 March 2024—Rev Hugh Ormiston

7.00pm—Coupar Angus Abbey



Easter Sunday Services with Communion

Sunday 31 March—Rev Hugh Ormiston

10:00am

Bendochy Parish Church

11.15am

Coupar Angus Abbey

Upcoming Events

Abbey Church Soup Lunches - 12.00noon -2pm

Wednesday 13 March 2024

Wednesday 27 March 2024

Bendochy Community Cafe—10.30—12.00 noon

Wednesday 13 March

Wednesday 10 April

Wednesday 8 May

Wednesday 12 June

Churches Together Coffee Morning —Airlie Street Hall, Alyth

10.00—11.30am

Saturday 13 April 2024

Charity Shop—Re-Use Shop, George Street, Coupar Angus

3-10 August 2024

Proceeds will be shared between Christian Aid
and Christians Against Poverty (CAP)

Devotions



“It Is Well With My Soul.”

“When peace like a river attendeth my way
When sorrows like sea billows roll.
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say
It is well, it is well, with my soul.”

H. Spafford

That hymn has always brought me peace, especially when going through tough times or heartache. I really learned to appreciate it even more when I heard how the hymn came to be.

The city of Chicago was devastated by a fire in 1871. The Spafford family lived there at that time. Horatio, the father, was a Lawyer and Investor, and quite well-to-do. He was also a devout Christian. His wife, Anna (who was Norwegian by birth), raised their family of four daughters. They were almost wiped out financially because of the fire.

Mr. Spafford decided to send his wife and family to Europe for a holiday two years after the fire. He was to join them later. The family sailed for Europe but their steamship was struck by another ship while crossing the Atlantic and Spafford lost his four daughters. His wife was rescued and sent him a telegraph from London telling him of the loss of their daughters. Mr. Spafford immediately set sail for London to be with his wife.

The ship’s captain knew of the sad reason for the journey, and when they reached the area of the collision he pointed it out to Mr. Spafford. It was after reaching that area and seeing it that Mr. Spafford wrote “It Is Well With My Soul.” Despite everything he had gone through; the fire, loss of his children, he was able to pen a hymn that has given peace to so many people.

The Spaffords returned to Chicago and went on to have more children. They lost their young son to scarlet fever. They decided to move to Jerusalem and were instrumental in the development of the American Colony there. Mr. Spafford died in Jerusalem in 1888 of malaria. His widow lived there until her death in 1923.

The words of the hymn remind us that regardless of whatever hardships we face in life, with God by our side “It is well, it is well, with my soul.” Instead of trying to figure it out, ask God to work it out.

(Anonymous)

Joan Jones

Coupar Angus Abbey Church—Soup Lunch

We are almost at the end of our soup lunches for another winter season. We have been Blessed and delighted by the support we have received in this outreach to our community.

I would like to thank everyone who has supported us, it is appreciated.

**Soup, bread/rolls, biscuits,tea/coffee
Will be served between 12 noon and 2pm.**

Dates for your diary:

Wednesday	13 March
Wednesday	27 March



I would also like to thank all our team members, for making soup and providing all the necessities to accompany it.

A brilliant team working together.

Kathleen Godfrey

Signs Of The Times—From “Bloopers & Blessings - A Little Book of Church Humour”

Down In The Mouth? Come In For A Faith Lift.



Come To Church This Sunday. Avoid The Christmas Rush.

If Your Problem Is Long-standing, Try Kneeling.

Bendochy Church—Community Cafe

Our Community Cafe continues on the second Wednesday of each month. All are welcome to join us at Bendochy Coach House for tea/coffee, biscuits and a friendly chat.

**10.30am —12 noon
Bendochy Coach House**

Dates for your diary:

Wednesday	13 March
Wednesday	10 April
Wednesday	8 May
Wednesday	12 June



Service Cover

The Kirk Sessions and Congregations of both Churches would like to express their thanks to Rev Harry Mowbray, Rev Hugh Ormiston, Keith Redwood and Paul Rice for their willingness to take the services at both Bendochy and the Abbey recently. Thanks are also extended to Rev Brian Dingwall for his assistance as Interim Moderator.

Kirk Sessions

Are You “Pure in Heart?”

One of my favourite passages from the New Testament is the Beatitudes, Jesus’ sermon on the mount when He said “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God” ([Matthew 5:8](#)). But what did He mean by ‘Pure in Heart’ and what characteristics should we show to be considered pure in heart? I puzzled over this and sought some explanations on the ‘web’.

Firstly, the Greek word for ‘pure’ means to be clean, blameless, unstained by guilt. The Greek word for ‘heart’ can refer to both the organ and to the spiritual centre of a person’s life. Hence, anyone considered truly ‘pure’ has been declared ‘innocent’ and ‘blameless’. Other attributes listed as being associated with having a pure heart are being sincere, transparent, truthful, chaste, and, essentially, without evil intent.

From my readings it seems the consensus on developing a pure heart requires us to give our lives to Jesus, putting our faith in His blood, acknowledging our sins, seeking His forgiveness before God, and living our lives as Jesus would have us do. Jesus’ advice in Matthew 22:37 is to “love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment”. I suggest this is a good starting point! Next, by adhering to Jesus’ teachings, and through His resurrection and forgiveness of sin we can be redeemed by the love and grace of God. The reward then for being pure in heart is the joy of seeing God.

But it can be elusive if we do not strive to purify our souls, recognising our failings, seeking forgiveness, and promising to live a sin-free life, tough as that may be. It is not easy to be ‘pure-hearted’ for we all have failings and our commitment to God will slip from time to time. But we should take comfort in the knowledge that God is ever present in our lives. He knows us intimately but, despite our faults, He continues to have faith in us!

In our daily prayers we should remember King David’s plea: “Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me” (Psalm 51: 10). Repeat this request knowing that God is ever listening.

Finally, whenever you find yourself having ‘un-Christian’ thoughts about a person, or getting angry, ask yourself “Oh, dear, is this being pure in heart?” If the answer is ‘no’ re-double your efforts to achieve it, and seek forgiveness and guidance from God, remembering the words of Jesus in the Beatitudes.

David Chinn

Abbey Church Fabric

I am pleased to say that there has not been much of significance to do on fabric recently, the main item of interest being sorting out the sound system which started causing interference and necessitated readers having to hold a clip-on mic whilst reading. However, with the assistance of Keith Langelaan, we dismantled the system* and checked and retuned it, and managed to eliminate the fault.

As the system used a hand-held mic that had to be close to the mouth, this had still been causing inconvenience to readers. Keith recommended different mics, and it was agreed we would change to these. They pick up from a distance, one each side of the lectern (in case the speaker turns their head), and do not require batteries, reducing costs and the likelihood of poor sound from low battery power. They should be installed and working in the next week or so.

With the manse now empty, I am inspecting it periodically to check that there are no problems such as water leaks. At the last Kirk Session Meeting I put on record my thanks to Bill Patullo for his assistance and enormous amount of work over the years, keeping the paintwork and internal decoration up to scratch. We are required to redecorate a room each year and Bill liaised with Andy on this, sourced materials at no cost to us, and did the work, saving us a great deal. He was of course also Fabric Convener for many years before I took over.

John Easson

*This involved me climbing into the cupboard and into the organ, at points leaving my feet projecting out of the cupboard, but fortunately the post of Fabric Convener does not require a dignified appearance at all times. I also dropped my phone into the organ, but although the smallest member of the congregation was keen to go in to find it, we felt this was too much like employing child chimney-sweeps, and I was able to retrieve it with litter-pickers.

Pride of Place

Pride of Place had another successful year during 2023 to the benefit of our town, and we thank the Abbey Church Members for their support, in particular for allowing the Christmas Card collection box to be placed in the Abbey Church.



Our own church tubs were yet again beautiful and well attended to by our former Chairperson, Anne Easson, at her own expense. Thank you, Anne. POP were lucky to recruit 2 new volunteers who work hard and have been most welcome, and enjoy our company. The rest of us are a year older and some have stood down, whilst others have had to be ordered to safeguard their health during the bad weather months. Lots more could be done for our town by POP with more members and I can say that the members we have, punch well above their weight. Thank you for your support.

Jeff Brewer

Choir

The Choir has now reformed on a permanent basis after Covid, and Choir practices are now 6-7.00PM on Friday evenings. Everyone is welcome, reading music fluently is not required to join, just enthusiasm. The small regular choir sing an introit every Sunday and provide a strong lead for the hymn singing.



At Major festivals; Easter, Harvest and Christmas, more people join us to swell the numbers. It is understood that a commitment to every week is impossible but why not come and join us when you can?

Alison Malcolm
Choir Director and Organist
ARCO(DIPTCR)

PRAYER



Dear God, please untie the knots
that are in my mind, my heart and my life.

Remove the have nots, the can nots the do nots,
that I have in my mind.

Erase the will nots, may nots, might nots,
that find a home in my heart.

Release me from could nots, would nots, and should nots,
that obstruct my life.

And most of all Dear God, I ask that You remove from my mind,
my heart and my life, all of the 'am nots' that I have allowed to
hold me back, especially the thought, that I am not good enough.

Amen.

Author known to God

Coupar Angus Abbey Church—Friendly Fridays

Our Friendly Friday afternoons continue to be a great success with a real sense of fellowship being enjoyed in coming 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.

1.30—3.0

0 pm

Coupar Angus Abbey Church

Dates for your diary:

Friday 5 April
Friday 3 May



Craft Corner

In addition to all the jobs she helps with in Church on a Sunday morning, Esme has been getting creative in the craft corner whilst learning about Bible Stories. So far she has covered “How The World Began”, “The First Sad Day–Adam & Eve” and “Rain, Rain, Rain–Noah’s Ark”



Churches Together – Christians Against Poverty (CAP)

CAP is a Christian charitable company in the UK which offers debt counselling for people in financial difficulty. They work with local churches to deliver this service.

Poverty can destroy lives and rob people of hope. People find themselves with mounting debt and CAP has found that 1 in 2 of their clients have contemplated suicide. Debt counsellors can help with the management of that debt.

CAP want to see transformed lives, thriving churches and an end to poverty in the UK. I think we would all like to help achieve these aims.

Contact CAP free on 0800 328 0006 or the website www.capdebthelp.org.

Anne Richards

Bendochy Parish Church

Leaflets have been distributed to homes throughout the parish to raise awareness of the beautiful, ancient Bendochy Parish Church .

It is hoped to further increase awareness by placing a Bendochy Church direction sign in the field beside the Bendochy Crossroads on the A923 Coupar Angus to Blairgowrie Road.

Graeme McNeill



Church of Scotland Guild – Changing Lives

Following on from our previous Isla Link, and the article regarding Prison Fellowship Scotland, our first donation of crocheted baby blankets, ladies headbands and baby hats has been passed over to a volunteer from a local Church to take to the Visitor Centre at Perth Prison.



Should anyone from within the congregations of either Church, or in the local community, wish to make contributions to this programme, I would be happy to receive these and pass them on.

Rachel Ewins

Many thanks for all submissions for this edition of the Isla Link.

Deadline for the next issue: 26 May 2024.

Please send articles to:-

Rachel Ewins - rachel.ewins@btinternet.com

Church Bulletin Bloopers—From “Bloopers & Blessings - A Little Book of Church Humour”

Don't be surprised to find mistakes on your Church notice sheet. We print something for everyone and some people love finding mistakes.

Next week's Fasting and Prayer Conference includes meals.

The third verse of Blessed Assurance ill be sung without musical accomplishment.

Diana and Don request your presents at their wedding.





Churches Together

CHRISTIAN AID COFFEE MORNING



Airlie Hall, Airlie Street, Alyth

10.00-11.30am

Saturday, 13 April 2024

**There will be a variety of stalls including
baking, plants, bottle stall, raffle etc.**



Our Stamp Collection

Having recently packaged up and posted off our latest collection of over 3,200 stamps, I thought you may be interested to know how it was made up.



As we have just come through the Christmas period, one third of the stamps were Christmas themed but half of those must have been held over from previous years as they did not have the new barcode that was introduced in 2023.



In addition to the 2560 stamps donated by our Church congregations, there was an additional 706 popped into the collection box in the Computer Shop in Blairgowrie. There were 841 first class, 1945 second class, 9 of each being the new King Charles stamps, and the remainder were individually priced, themed or from overseas.

From the Church collection there were 110 stamps from 18 different countries, with another 337 from the Computer Shop (almost half of those donated) were from 28 countries, 11 of which were also in the main collection. The stamps therefore came from 35 countries including the UK.

Rachel Ewins

Coffee is served in Bendochy

Coach House

at the end of the service


on the first Sunday of each month.



Welcoming You At The Abbey Church

2024				
March	3	John Easson	10	Anne Easson
	17	Rachel Ewins	24	Isobel Jack
	31	Peter Godfrey		
April	7	Kathleen Godfrey	14	Sandra Jack
	21	Joyce Beattie	28	Ellen McGibbon
May	5	Irene & Esme Rodger	12	Anne Richards
	19	Allan Legge	26	Irene & Esme Rodger
June	2	Betty Crighton	9	Barry Anderson
	16	David Chinn	23	Joanne Chinn
	30	Jeff Brewer		

Readers in the Abbey

2024					
March	3	John Easson	10	Joan Jones	
	17	Anne Richards	24	Jeff Brewer	
	31	Ellen McGibbon			
April	7	Joanne Chinn	14	David Chinn	
	21	John Easson	28	Joan Jones	
May	5	Anne Richards	12	Jeff Brewer	
	19	Ellen McGibbon	26	Joanne Chinn	
June	2	David Chinn	9	John Easson	
	16	Joan Jones	23	Anne Richards	
	30	Jeff Brewer			



Abbey Church Beadle Duty Rota

2024	Sunday Services	Funeral / Wedding
March	David Chinn	David Chinn
April	Rachel Ewins	Peter Godfrey
May	Peter Godfrey	Peter Godfrey
June	Irene Rodger	Irene Rodger

Safety Measures Currently In Place

In accordance with guidance provided by the Church of Scotland, measures continue in both Churches to reduce health risks to our Congregations. Please make contact with a member of your Kirk Session to discuss any issues that may be impeding your return to Sunday Service.



Who's who at the Abbey

Treasurer:	Peter Godfrey	Tel:	01828 627028
Roll Keeper:	Ellen McGibbon	Tel:	07541009398
Gift Aid:	Ellen McGibbon	Tel:	07541009398
Fabric:	John Easson	Tel:	01828 628001
Life and Work/:	Anne Richards	Tel:	01828 628138

Churches Together

Presbytery Elder:	Jeff Brewer	Tel:	01828 628126
Organist:	Alison Malcolm	Tel:	01382 320287
Isla Link Editor:	Rachel Ewins	Tel:	01250 876638
Safeguarding Co-ordinator	Mrs Joanne Chinn	Tel:	01828 670234

Who's who at Bendochy

Treasurer:	Jo Durran	Tel:	
Session Clerk:	Graeme McNeill	Tel:	01828 627751
Fabric:	John Morison	Tel:	01828 627223
Presbytery Elder:	David Donaldson	Tel:	01828 640017
Churches Together:	Susan Meldrum	Tel:	01828 628209
Hall Convener:	Jean Laburn	Tel:	01250 872945
Organist:	Alison Malcolm	Tel:	01382 320287

Postage Stamps

By popping your used stamps in the box at the entrance to the Abbey Church, you can help to support the Church of Scotland Stamp Appeal. Funds raised from your stamps are used to finance projects such as the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP) - Firmly Planted.



This project aims to establish self-sustaining tree nurseries to nurture and protect the environment and protect livelihoods for households and communities, create youth employment, and mitigate the impact of the climate crisis.

A new charitable project is announced each financial year and an update for 2024-2025 will be in the next issue of the Isla Link.

Bendochy Parish Church of Scotland ((SC004358) and Coupar Angus Abbey Church of Scotland (SC014438) are component elements of the Perth Presbytery (SC014528) which is itself a component element of the Church of Scotland (SC011353).