

# ISLA LINK



**June 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](http://www.bandcachurch.org.uk)

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Abbey Church Friendly Fridays**

Fridays —1.30—3.00 pm

7 June                      5 July                      2 August                      6 September

### **The Annual Stated Meeting of the Coupar Angus Abbey**

**Sunday Service, 9 June 2024**

**Followed by Soup & Sweet Lunch**

### **Bendochy Community Café**

**Wednesdays —10.30—12.00 noon**

12 June                      10 July                      14 August                      11 September

### **Abbey Church Charity Shop**

**Re-Use Shop, George Street, Coupar Angus**

**6-13 July 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)

**Coffee is served in Bendochy**

**Coach House**

**at the end of the service**

**on the first Sunday of each month.**



## ***From the Interim Moderator (IM)***

Presbytery has appointed me, the Rev. Donna Hays, as the Interim Moderator of Bendochy linked with Coupar Angus Abbey for the period of your vacancy. Your previous IM has now moved on to a new post in Blairgowrie. As I only took over at the beginning of April, I would ask for some time to get to know you and what is happening in both Bendochy and Coupar Angus.



A wee bit about who I am...

For the past 20 years, I have been the minister at Fowlis and Liff linked with Lundie and Muirhead and in 2021 I was appointed Interim Moderator at Auchterhouse. The Presbytery Plan however stated that these congregations should unite, and this was achieved in February 2024 with our service of Union taking place in April. So now I am minister of Sidlaw Parish Church of Scotland. The charge currently has three buildings - Auchterhouse, Muirhead and St Marnock's in Fowlis. Sadly, St Marnock's church is due to close by December 2024. We have two services each Sunday using all the buildings on different weeks and quite a number of joint services. A great way of getting to know each other and I'm happy to say that we are all very much invested in being members of Sidlaw Church.

My duties as Interim Moderator include moderating Kirk Session meetings and helping to guide you through the way forward. I hope to be able to come and lead worship on an occasional basis but will also take every opportunity to meet up and get to know you. A vacancy is usually a fairly long drawn-out process and we will not be granted permission to call a minister until the Presbytery have concluded some re-adjustment matters.

This is not an easy time either for the national church or for local churches, and here at Bendochy and Coupar Angus Abbey, you are also now in a vacancy. So I make a special plea - please be prepared to work together, supporting and encouraging one another, especially your Office Bearers who will inevitably be undertaking extra duties during the vacancy. Please look out for any ways in which you can be of service in helping your church to continue to show God's presence and to proclaim God's message both within the church and in your local community.

It is only with God's help that we can do anything well, so place your trust in God who blesses us with strength in adversity, comfort in times of trouble, vision in times of change and love at all times.

May you all know God's grace and peace in abundance.

***Donna***

## ***The Rev Andrew Graham***

Following the Rev Andrew Graham leaving us as Minister of Coupar Angus Abbey Linked With Bendochy Parish Church at the end of 2023, we can now advise that both Kirk Sessions are currently being guided by the Rev Donna Hays, who will act as Interim Moderator until a new Minister is appointed.

The Kirk Sessions were sad to receive notification of Andy's wish to relinquish his post, but fully understood that the health and happiness of both he and his family must be his paramount concern.

Members of both Kirk Sessions would like to re-iterate the messages of thanks and best wishes sent to Andy before his departure. Throughout his tenure, Andy supported the members of both congregations and delivered services, including the Christmas Carol service (and who can forget him leading the congregation's rendition of 'the 12 days of Christmas'). Andy led Bible Study Classes, Prayer Groups and Session Meetings; transferring these to Zoom during the Covid-19 Pandemic, and posted online Reflections on the church website to help keep our spirits up during this difficult time. These reflections can still be viewed at <https://www.bandcachurch.org.uk/category/reflections/> - see particularly May 7<sup>th</sup> and earlier (page 12).

Andy was instrumental in successfully securing grants to set up the Abbey Gateway, which as one Elder stated, is his legacy. Andy was also involved in setting up the monthly Friendly Friday afternoons at the Abbey Church where members of the community continue to attend for a social gathering, enjoying a chat with tea/coffee and tasty bites.

Andy responded to the messages and gifts he had received with a Thank You card which was read out at a Sunday Service in the Abbey in December. This card is posted on the Abbey's notice board and is reproduced here for those who were not at that particular service.

to Abbey Church Congregation 4 Dec 2023

Thank you all for the leaving card and gift of money that you so kindly gave to me. We left the Manse for the last time on Tues 28th Nov to start a new beginning and chapter in our lives. I did manage to visit or phone quite a few of you before I left, but to those I did not manage to speak to I would like to pass on my good wishes and blessings for the future.

I hope you all have a joyful Christmas and a peaceful New Year.



God Bless  
Andy

### ***To Abbey Church Congregation***

Thank you all for the leaving card and gift of money that you so kindly gave to me. We left the Manse for the last time on Tues 28 Nov to start a new beginning and chapter in our lives. I did manage to visit or phone quite a few of you before I left, but to those I did not manage to speak to I would like to pass on my good wishes and blessings for the future.

I hope you all have a joyful Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

God Bless,  
Andy

## ***A Personal Tribute To The Rev Andrew Graham***

Andy was a great preacher and he was also a huge source of comfort and support in his role of pastoral carer.

We will never forget him coming to the house when Hamish/Dad was alive. Deep into his battle with Alzheimer's, he always enjoyed playing the piano but his ability to cope with two hands became less. Andy sat beside Dad and provided the left hand while Dad played the right.

Andy visited Dad in hospital, said a prayer at the bedside then he visited us as a family after Dad's passing. We know Andy visited many others in their times of sadness or difficulties - whether these people attended the church or not.

During Lockdown, Andy regularly phoned members of the congregation who lived on their own. This was very much appreciated.

Andy also enjoyed visiting residents in Balhousie Nursing Home in Coupar Angus. The residents and staff enjoyed these informal services and appreciated a wee chat with Andy afterwards.

Andy and his wife Margaret are huge losses to both churches and the parish as a whole. Our loss is another community's gain.

***Isobel and Esther Jack***

### ***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—3.00 pm**

**Coupar Angus Abbey Church**

***Dates for your diary:***

Friday	7 June
Friday	5 July
Friday	2 August
Friday	6 September



## Blessed Assurance

59 **Blessed Assurance.**  
Fanny J. Crosby. COPYRIGHT, 1873, BY JOSEPH F. KNAPP. Mrs. J. F. Knapp.

1. Blom-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glory divine!  
2. Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, Vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight!  
3. Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest, I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest;  
Watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove,  
Born of His Spir-it, washed in His blood.  
Sub-son of mat-ter, white-gown of love.  
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love. This is my sto-ry, this is my  
song, Prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long; This is my sto-ry,  
this is my song, Prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long. A-men.

*“Blessed Assurance, Jesus is mine!  
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God  
Born of His spirit, washed in His blood.”*

These words were written by Fanny Crosby in 1873. But, who was Fanny Crosby?

She was born in 1820 in New York state and was raised by her mother and grandmother as her father died when she was about 6 months old. Fanny had problems with her vision from the age of just a few months and at the age of three her mother was told that nothing could be done and Fanny would be blind for the rest of her life.

Fanny never allowed her blindness to burden her. Fanny’s mother and grandmother schooled her in Christian values, lifestyle, and principles. Fanny started memorising Bible passages at around ten years of age, learning chapter after chapter, book after book. She started writing poetry at around eight years of age, and then hymns.

In 1873 Fanny was visiting her friend Phoebe Knapp. Mrs. Knapp played a tune she had just written and asked Fanny what the tune said to her. Fanny immediately said “Blessed Assurance, Jesus is mine” and proceeded to write the rest of the hymn. This lady who had no memory of ever seeing anything wrote “Visions of rapture now burst on my sight”. She went on to say “Watching and waiting, looking above, filled with His goodness, lost in his love.” The whole hymn is filled with faith and a happiness that our future is secure in Jesus.

Fanny Crosby wrote thousands of hymns including: “To God Be The Glory” “Praise Him, Praise Him, Jesus our Blessed Redeemer” and “I Am Thine O Lord”.

Fanny never described herself as a poet or a writer of hymns, rather she said, she had done mission work. She died in 1915. In 1975 she was posthumously admitted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame.

**Joan Jones**

## ***Annual Stated Meeting of the Coupar Angus Abbey***

The Annual Stated Meeting of the Coupar Angus Abbey  
will be held on Sunday, 9 June 2024,  
followed by  
a soup and sweet lunch



The Interim Moderator will lead this service and it is hoped that there will be a good attendance for both the service and the lunch.

### ***The Mystery Of The Chair***

A chair has recently been left in Bendochy Church Vestry The Kirk Session are keen to know who left the chair and why There is a plaque on the chair which reads “The Rev Alex Miller DD. From his Congregation June 1908.”

Can the person who left the chair please make contact with any member of the Kirk Session who are listed on the back cover of this newsletter.

***Bernice McKenzie***



### ***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	12 June
Wednesday	10 July
Wednesday	14 August
Wednesday	11 September



## Pick a number ..... any number?

I'm sure we all have our favourite hymns but how are they chosen for our Sunday service? Does the Minister or person leading the service just choose their favourites or open a hymn book and select a hymn at random. Recently, along with two other Elders from Abbey Kirk I attended a course held over three days to learn how to put together a service of worship should our Kirk need extra help in covering Sunday services.

Little did I, possibly we, know what we were letting ourselves in for! After the first full day I was left in no doubt. Having gained a little, though mind boggling tour of the time line of the Old and New Testaments, we embarked upon how to set about pulling together a theme for a service based upon the timing of the service in the Christian calendar, an event, a specific or chosen scripture(s), or season. Easy? No! First, choose which bible you are going to use. Stick with what is familiar or try something new? How about a bible written in Scots? Maybe try the Doric version, or a street version? The choice is vast.

The worship section on the Church of Scotland website provides an amazing starting point to finding out just how wide the choice is. Within these pages also lies the lectionary. This is a brilliant starting point or even the complete guide for a service on any Sunday of the year if you prefer to follow a more prescriptive route to preparing your service. The lectionary provides suggestions for sermons/reflections, hymns, and prayers. It also provides the more adventurous of us with hyperlinks to all sorts of resource ideas. WARNING: this, however can lead you down a path that takes you into the wee, sma' hours, at the end of which you still haven't written much because you have become so distracted!

Week one done we were sent on our way to think about prayers and hymns for the next study day with our homework set of course!

This was where the fun really began. There is a wealth of resource available online and in books **about** prayer. There are, of course, certain rules to follow. No surprise there then but, are prayers written or chosen at random? They need to be relevant to what is happening in our own community at the time. Is it a special time of year? Is there a major event happening in our world that needs our support in prayer? Perhaps a war, a disaster, or death of a world leader? Prayers should also reflect the message of the chosen scripture, ask for forgiveness, mercy, help and convey thoughts for others who are ill, struggling to survive or oppressed. The list is long.

Having prayers sorted, we now turned our attention to hymns, and or psalms. Now, if I thought prayers presented a challenge, choosing hymns took me to another level! More wee, sma' hours in searching, and in deep contemplation! The trick here is to know what is at the back of your hymnary. The indexes which, to be honest, I have paid very little attention to in the past can help direct you to hymns, psalms and other things musical through indexed subject entries listed under headings such as 'topical', 'biblical', 'tunes', 'composers or arrangers'. Have a wee look the next time you get your hands on a CH4 hymnary; it is fascinating. A bit geeky, but fascinating.

Having bamboozled us all with the above over the two study days that we had so far survived, we were paired up into 8 teams and sent away with the task of compiling our first service of worship to a theme and scripture readings set by the course organisers and examiners. All we had to do was bring all the aforementioned elements together in a service that we would deliver to the course leaders and fellow course members. We were also asked to provide our service in a powerpoint presentation. The final study day saw us all sit through eight services! Everyone rose to the challenge and peer support was plentiful and encouraging. The services differed in the style and content demonstrating the variety of ways in which worship can be delivered.

Overall, the course was a very enjoyable experience demonstrating the complexity and intricacies involved when creating the 'jigsaw' of a service, so that all the elements fit together. Finally, I obtained a new appreciation of the work involved by our ministers and all those who deliver our Sunday services. It was fun, and I gained a lot from it but, I may think again before volunteering for yet another role within our Kirk!

*Joanne Chinn*

### ***Coupar Angus Pride of Place Plant Sale***

*Congratulations to the volunteers who worked hard in preparation for, and in staffing the recent Plant Sale. The grand sum of £1,197 was raised and this will be used to maintain the lovely displays around the town.*



## ***Coupar Angus Abbey Church***

### ***CHARITY SHOP***

Re-Use Shop, George St, Coupar Angus

**6 –13 July**



Raffle prizes and Tombola gifts will be gratefully accepted.

All donations for the Charity shop should be handed into the shop in George Street on Saturday 6 July.

If you require items to be uplifted  
Phone Kathleen on 07935728634 or Ellen on 07541009398.

# **CHURCHES TOGETHER**

## **CHARITY SHOP**

**Re-Use Shop, George St, Coupar Angus**

**3-10 August 2024**

*All donations will be gratefully received.*

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



### ***A Prayer for Life's Seasons***

Loving Heavenly Father,  
Help us to remember that there is a time and a season for everything  
Nothing remains the same.

Life is all about change.  
The only thing that remains the same is You Lord,  
and we are glad that in this life,  
You are the anchor that keeps us steady when the winds of change come.



Some seasons are of calm, peacefulness and joy,  
where everything seems right in our world.  
In other seasons of adversity and loss,  
we find heartache, suffering and things we would rather not face.  
Help us Lord, to get through these hard times....  
especially when they are extended seasons.

We thank You, that we have Your promise  
that You will turn our weeping to laughter....our mourning to dancing,  
and that You are with us through every season of our lives Lord.  
In Jesus Precious Name we pray.  
Amen

***Author known to God***

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

***Deadline for the next issue: 18 August 2024.***

Please send articles to:-  
Rachel Ewins - [rachel.ewins@btinternet.com](mailto:rachel.ewins@btinternet.com)

**Welcoming You At The Abbey Church**

2024				
June	2	Betty Crighton	9	Barry Anderson
	16	David Chinn	23	Joanne Chinn
	30	Jeff Brewer		
July	7	Esther Jack	14	John Easson
	21	Anne Easson	28	Rachel Ewins
August	4	Isobel Jack	11	Peter Godfrey
	18	Katheen Godfrey	25	Sandra Jack
September	1	Joyce Beattie	8	Ellen MGibbon
	15	Anne Richards	22	Allan Legge
	29	Irene & Esme Rodger		

**Readers in the Abbey**



2024				
June	2	David Chinn	9	John Easson
	16	Joan Jones	23	Anne Richards
	30	Jeff Brewer		
July	7	Ellen McGibbon	14	Joanne Chinn
	21	David Chinn	28	John Easson
August	4	Joan Jones	11	Anne Richards
	18	Jeff Brewer	25	Ellen McGibbon
September	1	Joanne Chinn	8	David Chinn
	15	John Easson	22	Joan Jones
	29	Anne Richards		

**Abbey Church Beadle Duty Rota**

2024	Sunday Services	Funeral / Wedding
June	Irene Rodger	Irene Rodger
July	Sandra Jack	Barry Anderson
August	Anne Richards	Kathleen Godfrey
September	Betty Crighton	Betty Crighton

## ***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***

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

#### **Churches Together**

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

### ***Who's who at Bendochy***

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



### ***Postage Stamps***

Please keep popping your used stamps in the box at the front door of the Abbey. The 2024/25 Stamp Appeal charity has not been listed yet, but I will let you know once it has.

***Rachel Ewins***

Bendochy Parish Church of Scotland ((SC004358) and Coupar Angus Abbey Church of Scotland (SC014438).