

ISLA LINK



June 2025

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 Rachel Ewins

Tel: 07805953403

Website: www.bandcachurch.org.uk

UPCOMING EVENTS

Abbey Church Friendly Fridays

Fridays — 1.30—3.00 pm

6 June 4 July 1 August



Bendochy Community Café

Resumes Thursday, 18 September 2025

10.30—12.00 noon

Abbey Church Soup Lunches

Resumes October 2025

12 noon—2.00 pm



Abbey Church Stated Annual Meeting

Coupar Angus Abbey Church

Following The Sunday Service, 29 June 2025

A Soup & Sweet Lunch Will Follow Thereafter



HARVEST SERVICES

Coupar Angus Abbey Church

Bendochy Parish Church

10.00am

Coupar Angus Abbey Church

Sunday, 5 October 2025

11.15am

COMMUNION SERVICES

Bendochy Parish Church

10.00am

Coupar Angus Abbey Church

Sunday, 26 October 2025

11.15am

From the Interim Moderator

Dear friends,

The Kirk Sessions of Bendochy and Coupar Angus Abbey met with the Planning Committee of the Presbytery of Perth recently. It was a very positive and productive meeting and we hope to report the outcome and plans as soon as the other partners in the discussion are on board.



Like ourselves, the committee is keen to progress matters as quickly as possible so that we can begin the process of calling a minister and starting the next chapter in the life of this congregation.

The overall plan, begun a few years ago now by the General Assembly is called a Mission Plan. With membership declining, fewer ministers around, and money tight the need to do something is obvious. But I wonder if the emphasis on mission is the right one.

You might ask, what can be more important than mission given our situation?

But ask, what would constitute successful mission? More members, ministers and money perhaps. A revitalisation of the Church of Scotland. In fact, we would be doing just what any secular business or organisation would do in similar circumstances. The books have to balance. We have to reach more customers. We want our organisation to have a future. But is that the most important thing we do? Is it about keeping the Church of Scotland afloat? What is the church actually for?

The old catechism began with the question “What is the chief end of man?” and the answer “To glorify God and enjoy him forever.” When we gather on a Sunday morning we are called to worship. What would a successful service of worship look like? One where God is glorified and worshipped in Spirit and in truth. One where the gathered worshippers felt they had met with God and he with them.

That emphasis doesn’t replace mission. It is the motivation and heart of mission.

The apostle Paul wrote to the church in Corinth in order to bring some order into their chaotic worship and if they get it right, and put God first, he imagines an unbeliever or enquirer coming into the service and they will be convicted by the Spirit. “So they will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, ‘God is really among you!’” When a stranger comes into our services of worship, is that what happens?

If someone who is not a church goer asks us on Monday what we did on Sunday and we say we went to church and they then ask us what is it like, how do we answer? Is it going to be the kind of answer that makes them want to come and see for themselves? If we experience the love, joy and peace of knowing God it will show and without trying our lives will attract others. That is mission.

It is good to meet with one another when we gather for worship. But let's also make sure that we meet with God too.

***Your Interim Moderator
Klaus Buwert***

Contact Details: KBuwert@churchofscotland.org.uk - Tel 07519756437

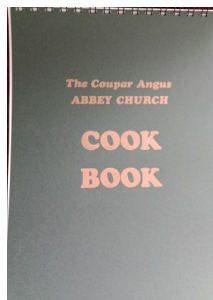
Joining Together In Worship

This Easter Bendochy Church and The Abbey Church Congregations joined together to celebrate Easter. On the evening of Maundy Thursday, a communion service was held in the Abbey Church, and on the evening of Good Friday, the service was held in Bendochy Church.

Both Churches were very well supported. We are so lucky to have such an enthusiastic group of people leading our services. Not just at Easter but all year round.

Bernice Mackenzie

“The Updated Abbey Church Cook Book



Welcome to the re-issue of the Abbey Church Cook Book. Those of you who are familiar with previous issues will see that it differs in shape and layout, but most of your favourite recipes can still be found within the pages along with a few new ones.

It has taken time to get this typed up, and I take my hat off to those who compiled the original version, as they did not have the benefit of computers as we have now.

In addition to all those who have contributed recipes, and there are many names I remember from the distant past, I would like to thank Mrs Joan Jones for her patience and diligence in proof-reading my drafts. Being a non-cook or baker by nature, I would not notice if a main ingredient was missing. Having said that, I must admit to looking at many of these recipes and thinking “Even I could make that.”

So whether you are experienced in the kitchen, or a reluctant cook like me, we hope that you take the opportunity to try out some of these tasty treats and also to take a moment to remember those names within the pages. This cook book is testament that some may be gone, but they are not forgotten.

They are available for £5 in the Church but can be posted out with the additional cost of £2 for postage. Please get in touch with me if you would like a copy. Email: rachel.ewins@btinternet.com Tel: 07805953403.

The Women Who Attended Jesus' Tomb

What do we know about the women who attended Jesus' tomb on Easter Sunday? They had bought spices which they were taking to the tomb to anoint Jesus' body and are referred to as the 'Myrrh-Bearers'. In some respects, it's like us bringing flowers to a grave today. We do not know much about them as there is inconsistency between the different Gospel accounts as to who was present. The account of Jesus' resurrection is covered in Matthew 28:1-7, Mark 16:1-8, Luke 24:1-12 and John 20:1-10. All four accounts mention Mary Magdalene. Matthew includes 'the other Mary,' believed to be the wife of Clopas, or Jesus' aunt, the mother of James and John. Mark includes Mary the mother of James, and Salome. Luke includes 'Joanna, Mary the mother of James and the others with them'. John mentions only Mary Magdalene.

When reading about the resurrection I wanted to learn more about Joanna (my namesake), so did some digging. She was the wife of Chuza, a highly regarded member of the community who managed the household of Herod Antipas, the ruler of Galilee. Chuza was wealthy, but so was Joanna in her own right. She, amongst others, helped support Jesus and His disciples in their missionary work. She was one of many women, including Mary Magdalene, who Jesus cured of 'evil spirits and diseases'. Joanna was a married woman of high regard, and it was unusual, given the social norms of the day, for her to be able to follow Jesus and his disciples. She witnessed first-hand Jesus' ministry along with the apostles and some other followers, including the other Marys already mentioned. Joanna is also believed to have been present in the upper room along with Mary, mother of Jesus, and his disciples the night of the last supper.

Joanna is regarded as one of the earliest female disciples. She is mentioned in Paul's letter to the Romans when planning his visit to Rome. He wrote ahead of his visit to ask that the Romans give 'favourable greetings' to many of his 'co-workers in Christ Jesus'. In Romans 16: 7 we read, 'Greet Andronicus and Junia, my fellow Jews who have been in prison with me. They are outstanding among the Apostles, and they were in Christ before I was'. It's believed that Paul was referring to Joanna by her Roman name, 'Junia,'

So, Joanna, though not mentioned much directly by name is referred to as an active member of the group of men and women associated with Jesus and his ministry. Later, she was canonised as Saint Joanna, the Myrrh-bearer, in the Catholic, Eastern Orthodox and Anglican traditions. She was canonised 'pre- congregation', which is a rare event in which the Pope declares a person a saint based on their piety, but without going through a formal canonization process.

Just from this small glimpse, we can see that Jesus was ahead of his time in recognising the role of women in ministry. We are still learning how Christ's encounters with women gave them a new, and greater identity, outside the social norms expected of them in their own day, living as they did in a very patriarchal culture. In conclusion, Joanna, and the others present with her at the tomb, have much to teach us about strength, perseverance, and faith.

Joanne (and David) Chinn

Coupar Angus Abbey Church—Friendly Fridays

Friendly Friday is held the 1st Friday of the month at 1.30-3pm in the Abbey. If you haven't been along yet, please come as you will be very welcome. Tea/coffee and goodies, lots of fellowship and chat. We also try to help with knitting, crochet, mobile phone problems, we try!!

Looking forward to seeing you soon.

1.30—3.00 pm

Dates for your diary:

Friday	6 June
Friday	4 July
Friday	1 August
Friday	5 September



Loving Heavenly Father

We see that to help our church to explode with growth, we must be obedient. If You give us direction we must follow Your lead.

There have always been hungry people, hurting people and lost people. Help us not to be afraid or ashamed to proclaim the Gospel.

It was in a commandment to follow, not a suggestion just if we felt like it. The Bible says that you added to the church daily, "such as should be saved", but you never meant for us not to do our part.

May we continue in our prayers for church growth. We know someone prayed for us, burden our hearts for the lost around us.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Author known to God

I thought this prayer most appropriate in light of the challenges and changes ahead.

Kathleen Godfrey

Helen Steiner Rice

I love reading and I love looking at old books. At our Spring Fayre at the end of April I hit pay dirt* - a book called "Loving Promises" by Helen Steiner Rice. She was born at the turn of the last century and grew up in Lorain, Ohio, and became famous as a writer of inspirational poetry, often with a strong Christian theme. Her works were especially well known, and still are today, on greeting cards. And it was in that way came to appreciate her writing.

My Mum and Dad would visit us in Texas every year and Mum always came with her "shopping list". Invariably one of her visits was to the Hallmark shop where she could spend hours looking for different cards. She would buy "all I need" for the coming year, and most of them had a work by Helen Steiner Rice on the front. Opening my birthday card in November, that had been bought in Texas much earlier that year, taken home to Scotland, written and mailed from there by Mum always meant so much, especially reading the words she had chosen so thoughtfully for me, written by H S Rice.

After all the services were over for my husband I had to go and pick up paperwork from the funeral home. Tucked inside the multitude of forms was a beautifully presented copy of his obituary with a lovely poem on the back. It was entitled "When I must leave you." I had no idea who wrote the poem but I could hear my husband saying those words to me, and through the past ten years they have often brought me much comfort. Well, in that book of poems that I bought at our Fair, fourth poem from the end I read "When I must leave you." Tears? Oh yes, they flowed that evening.

Helen Steiner Rice may never have known the joy and comfort she brought to millions of people the world over, but I know the joy and comfort she has brought to me. I hope you enjoy the poem below, written by Helen Steiner Rice.

*Pay dirt means ground with something valuable, eg gold, oil, etc.

Joan Jones

"It Takes the Bitter and the Sweet to Make a Life Full and Complete."



Life is a mixture of sunshine and rain,
Laughter and teardrops, pleasure and pain -
Low tides and high tides, mountains and plains.

Triumphs, defeats and losses and gains -
But ALWAYS in ALL WAYS God's guiding and leading
And He alone knows the things we're most needing -
And when he sends sorrow or some dreaded affliction.
Be sure that it comes with God's kind benediction -

And if we accept it as a GIFT OF HIS LOVE,
We'll be showered with blessings from OUR FATHER ABOVE





Bridget Lithgow.

It is with great sadness that we learnt of the death of Bridget Lithgow, peacefully at Northland Care Home, Rosemount, on 14th May 2025.

Wife of the late Brigadier Tony Lithgow, Black Watch, she was a very loyal and regular supporter of Bendochy Church despite, latterly, her frailness and lack of mobility. She loved Bendochy, where her late husband is buried and her daughter and granddaughters were married.

After her husband retired from military service, where she told me that she had had 35 moves all over the world, they set up home at Garrymore, Rosemount. She made this into a lovely welcoming home and beautiful garden. When things became too much for her at home she moved to the care home next door and, in her bright sunny room, she had a memento from each one of their 34 postings, as a reminder of her happy and varied life.

A most charming lovely lady who will be missed not only by her family but by all who knew her and especially us here at Bendochy Church.

John Morison



Recent Fundraising Activities

Since the last issue of the Isla Link, several Church fundraising activities have taken place.

The Kirk Session of the Abbey Church, would like to express their thanks to everyone who donated or attended the Spring Fair in April which raised over £802 towards the general upkeep of the Church. Indeed a good part of it has been used to pay for having the carpet cleaned in the Abbey.

Churches Together, which comprises representatives from Churches in Coupar Angus and the surrounding area, would also like to thank those who donated or bought from their Christian Aid Charity Shop. The wonderful total of £1905 was raised from this venture.

Events such as these take a bit of organising and require many willing hands, so it is with grateful thanks that we acknowledge all the volunteers who give their time and energy, and use whatever their skills and gifts to make these events so successful.

Rachel Ewins

Bendochy Church—Community Cafe

The Bendochy Church Community Cafe has ceased for the summer months. We plan to resume on Thursday 18th September, 10.30 to 12 noon. It is open to anyone wishing to share in social, friendly chat with tea/coffee and a modest choice of biscuits and home baking.

Last winter's donations (no expenses are taken from the money gifted) was given to SCAA. A letter acknowledging the sum of £100 is currently on the notice board outside Bendochy.

Thank you to everyone who supported the cafe.



Paul Rice

Choir



I would like to thank everyone in the Abbey Church Choir for making me feel so welcome at the Friday evening practices for the Easter services.

Alison our Organist had great patience with us all, making it an enjoyable experience. I'm looking forward to joining everyone again for the next "occasion".

The Abbey Church has a fantastic Choir and it is a privilege to be part of it if only for a short time Thank you all again

Bernice Mackenzie

Coupar Angus Abbey Church CHARITY SHOP

5-12 July 2025

Reuse Shop, George Street, Coupar Angus

Donations of goods for the shop, raffle and tombola will be gratefully recieved.

Volunteer helpers would be made very welcome.

Please contact Anne and Joe Richards on 01828 618138 for uplift.



Church of Scotland Stamp Appeal 2025-2026

Please donate your used stamps to support the work of the Al Zhli Hospital in Northern Gaza. (Collection box in the vestibule of the Abbey Church.)



The hospital is the only Christian hospital in the Gaza Strip and Gaza's only cancer hospital. It serves in time of calm during the occupation and despite all, and through all the bombing since October 2023, the hospital has continued to serve the population in whatever way they can with the small resources they have and with staff working for hours under difficult conditions. The hospital is run by our partner church, the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East.

The appeal has previously raised over £18,000 for environmental projects and continues to support various initiatives.

Rachel Ewins



“New Arrivals” is a free, drop-in space for expectant or new parents, grandparents and carers.

We know that looking after your baby can be hard work, and you may feel overwhelmed or isolated, especially if you don't have family and friends close by to offer advice and assistance.

By chatting with the others, you will be able to share experiences and possibly learn a few tips to help make your days and nights a little easier. We would be very pleased to welcome you to join us for a coffee and a chat, or a bit of your time while our volunteers keep an eye on the little ones.



Coupar Angus Abbey Church
Queen Street, Coupar Angus
Mondays, 10am—noon
Tea/Coffee and Biscuits
A Warm Welcome Awaits



For more information, please contact Rachel Ewins—Tel: 07805953403

Welcoming You At The Abbey Church

2025				
June	1	Isobel Jack	8	Betty Crighton
	15	Barry Anderson	22	David Chinn
	29	Joanne Chinn		
July	6	Jeff Brewer	13	Esther Jack
	20	John Easson	27	Anne Easson
August	3	Rachel Ewins	10	Isobel Jack
	17	Peter Godfrey	24	Kathleen Godfrey
	31	Sandra Jack		
September	7	Joyce Beattie	14	Irene & Esme Rodger
	21	Anne Richards	28	Allan Legge

Readers in the Abbey



2025				
June	1	Ellen McGibbon	8	Joanne Chinn
	15	David Chinn	22	John Easson
	29	Joan Jones		
July	6	Anne Richards	13	Jeff Brewer
	20	Ellen McGibbon	27	Joanne Chinn
August	3	David Chinn	10	John Easson
	17	Joan Jones	24	Anne Richards
	31	Jeff Brewer		
September	7	Ellen McGibbon	14	Joanne Chinn
	21	David Chinn	28	John Easson

Abbey Church Beadle Duty Rota

2025	Sunday Services	Funeral / Wedding
June	Irene Rodger	Irene Rodger
July	Sandra Jack	Barry Anderson
August	Anne Richards	Kathlee Godfrey
September	Betty Crighton	Betty Crighton

Abbey Church Tea & Coffee Rota—Volunteers Wanted

Tea and coffee is served each Sunday by a small number of volunteers and some help would be appreciated. Please speak to Irene Rodger if you would like to add your name to this rota. You can choose which date(s) would suit you best.



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

Session Clerk	Rachel Ewins	Tel:	01250 876638
Treasurer:	Peter Godfrey	Tel:	01828 627028
Roll Keeper:	Rachel Ewins	Tel:	01250 876638
Gift Aid:	Peter Godfrey	Tel:	01828 627028
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



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

Who's who at Bendochy

Session Clerk:	Graeme McNeill	Tel:	01828 627751
Treasurer:	Jo Durran	Tel:	
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

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

Deadline for the next issue: 14 September 2025.

Please send articles to:-

Rachel Ewins - rachel.ewins@btinternet.com

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).