ISLA LINK

September 2026

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 SERVICES & EVENTS

HARVEST THANKSGIVING At The Abbey Church, 20 September 2026

COMMUNION SERVICE At The Abbey Church, 11 October 2026

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY, 8 November 2026
Bendochy Parish Church 10.00am The Abbey Church 10.45am
Laying of A Wreath At Coupar Angus School Memorial
Leaving Coupar Angus Cross 12.30pm

THE ABBEY CHURCH MEMORIAL SERVICE
2pm, Sunday, 22 November 2026

QUIZ NIGHT
7pm, Wednesday, 9 September
Coupar Angus Abbey Church, £20 per Team of 4

NEW ARRIVALS—PARENTING GROUP
Coupar Angus Abbey Church
Every Monday 10.00 am—12 noon
For 0-5 Years During School Term-Time

BENDOCHY COMMUNITY CAFE
Bendochy Parish Church Coach House
10.30am to Noon
15 October 19 November 17 December

OPEN DOORS DAY AT BENDOCHY PARISH CHURCH
19 and 20 September 2026

From the Interim Moderator

Dear friends,

I was on holiday recently on a cruise up the river Main from Frankfurt in Germany. As we cruised up the river we passed many picturesque towns on the shores. Often there was a fairy tale castle on the hill above the town and in the town below you could see the church spires rising up. Many of these towns still had the remnants of city walls around them. In Rothenburg ob der Tauber the wall is still complete and it is possible to walk all the way around on the wooden ramparts near the top where the guards would have kept watch over the nearby countryside.

As we sailed slowly past these towns, with the impressive castle on the hillside, and the onion domes of the church spires towering over the houses down below, I realised that here was a powerful image of what the church is.

The Duke or Baron lived in luxury up in the clean air with the wonderful views, surrounded by servants and protected by his private army. Down on the banks of the river medieval life was very different. The open sewers ran down the middle of the narrow cobbled streets. Poverty and illness were common. The fear of strangers and enemies, and of plague meant the big wooden gates at each tower in the wall were shut and locked every evening to keep the baddies out. There was a rule that every house in Rothenburg had to have a year's worth of grain stored in the attic in case of siege. Life was hard down where the people lived. The chocolate box images today of the colourful half-timbered houses is nothing like what it was really like in those days.

But at the centre of every town or village was the parish church. The church was where the people lived. The Duke kept his distance. The priest or minister was part of the community.

John 1:14 normally reads "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us,", but Eugene Peterson in his paraphrase, The Message, puts it like this "The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood." Jesus moved into a world of poverty, disease, pain, war, crime, the real world. Psalm 34:18 says "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."Jesus is still in our midst, where we live, in the real world, and he lives in his church.

Your Interim Moderator
Klaus Buwert

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

COUPAR ANGUS ABBEY CHURCH

REGISTERED SCOTTISH CHARITY NUMBER [illegible]

MEMORIAL SERVICE

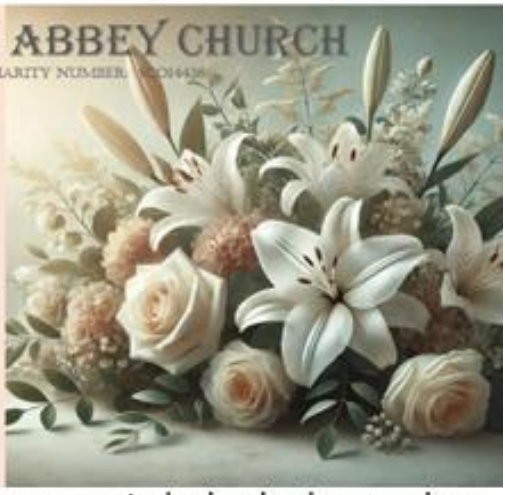
2.00 pm

Sunday, 22 November 2026

A Service to remember loved ones with joy & fondness.
You may display a photograph if you wish.

Tea/coffee will be available.

For more information please contact:
Rachel Ewins, Session Clerk
Email: rachel.ewins@btinternet.com or Tel: 07805953403



When we lose a loved one, there are many tasks involved; arranging a funeral, official paperwork, disposing of property and personal possession, to name just a few. All of which has to be dealt with in the midst of your grief and leaves little space in your emotions to enjoy memories of your loved one.

It is with this in mind that we would like to invite you, your family and friends to attend a Memorial Service at Coupar Angus Abbey Church, the purpose of which is to allow you to take some time to remember your own loved one as part of our Service. You may display a photograph if you wish.

The Abbey Church will hold memories for some families, and for others it may be your first visit, but the welcome will be equally warm and the atmosphere will be relaxed and comfortable, with tea and coffee available. Please join us for this opportunity to remember our loved ones together.

Rachel Ewins, Session Clerk

FUTURE ALPHA COURSE

Anyone interested in participating in the Alpha Course in early 2027 as participant, host/ess or group leader, please contact Paul Rice:

Email: avington2003@btinternet.com or Text 07794113510.

An enquiry is not taken as a definite commitment, but Paul is seeking to gain the sense of interest/demand. Should you be aware of people outwith the church who are interested please let them know and Paul will do his best to explain the course.

Paul Rice

DOES GOD EXIST?

I was listening to a comedy programme when the comedian said "I am a practising Christian. I have to practice a lot because I don't believe in God". His comment got a laugh but it made me think. Many people will tell you they don't believe in God and I don't know anyone who can prove beyond doubt that God does exist. Personally, I like to think there is a divine, spiritual being watching over us, showing concern and love for us, because the alternative of there *not* being a God just doesn't bear thinking about! If there is no God, then there is no Heaven, and that's a disturbing thought. I was attending the funeral of a devout Christian woman when the celebrant, paying tribute to her faith said "We all know that one day we will take our last breath on earth, but, as Christians, we believe we will take our next breath in Heaven". That thought should give us great comfort because death is not the end!

We may not be able to *prove* the existence of God but we can be certain that Jesus existed! Much is written about His life, His teachings, His mission to reconcile us with the God He acknowledged. It's difficult to dismiss the advice Jesus gives us. Who amongst us with a love for humanity can disagree with His appeal to show kindness, goodness, compassion, humility, forgiveness, patience, and love in our dealings with other people, and with our general approach to life in the world around us. In His sermon on the Mount Jesus encouraged us to treat others as we would like to be treated by them (Matthew 7:12, Luke 6:31). There is much to commend Christianity as we live our lives according to these virtues that Jesus espoused.

So, does God exist? I believe so, because Jesus believed so, and that's good enough for me!

David Chinn

We would like to send good wishes to all those who are unable to attend the Services at both Churches due to ill-health or other reasons. You are missed and we keep you in our thoughts and prayers.

PRUNING BY THE MASTER GARDENER

Just recently I have started pruning back my garden flowers and enjoying the sound of the birds, the cool morning weather, and the satisfaction of cutting back I started thinking about something I had heard in Church not too long ago. It was a talk about the pruning God does in our lives. Just as it's important for me to prune back the growth in my garden, it's important that God prunes us back too and that we allow Him to do this in our lives.

All of you know that pruning isn't just about keeping the shape of a bush or a hedge. Careful pruning encourages healthy growth and even more fruit or flowers. In John 15:2 we read "He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful."

When we look at our beautiful world we are reminded of the beauty of God's creation. He cares not only for the earth around us, but for us too. We are His creation, part of His garden, and He wants to take care of us. Maybe we are carrying around negative attitudes, old hurts, bad habits, fears and insecurity. Those are examples of the dead branches that God wants to prune from our lives. But, we need to be willing to allow Him to do the pruning. Just as a gardener trains flowers and plants to grow in a healthy way, we need to allow God to train us to grow in Him. In John 15:4 we read "Remain in me as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me."

My prayer for all of us is that we allow God to do the pruning we need in our lives and that we bear more fruit for His kingdom.

Joan Jones

FLOWER FUND

If you wish to donate to the Flower Fund or wish to nominate someone to receive the flowers following Sunday Service, please let me know. All donations are gratefully received.

Joyce Beattie

THE ABBEY CHURCH SOUP LUNCHES

Abbey Church, Wednesdays 12 - 1.30pm

7 and 28 October 11 and 25 November 9 December

We are delighted to say we start our soup lunches again in October through to March. We are looking forward to seeing all our regulars, but we always have room for more. Just come along to the Abbey Church on these dates to a warm, safe space for chat, fellowship and delicious home made soup and goodies. There is no charge, but donations are always gratefully received to help with heating costs.

The Soup Lunch Ladies

THE ABBEY CHURCH CHOIR

The Choir are enjoying their summer break and a well earned rest! We finished the session with dinner at my house cooked for us by a caterer from Tealing. The Choir and other halves all had a most enjoyable evening, which we will probably repeat next year. Congratulations go to two of our members, David Chinn and Kathleen Godrey for becoming accredited Worship leaders.

I have been able to acquire more music for the Choir from a Church in Broughty Ferry where the Choir has disbanded, in addition to some music from the Angus Choral Society which has also finished. The Choir look forward to learning this new music for you.

The Choir were invited to sing at both the Organists' Annual General Meeting and the Organists' Garden Party and many compliments were received by Alison on behalf of the Choir. We already have an outreach booking to sing for the Auchterhouse Guild's Christmas meeting. This will involve congregational carols, items from the Choir and a humorous Christmas monologue about people in their nighties coming to tell the shepherds about the birth of Jesus.

Alison Malcolm

7pm, Wednesday, 9 September 2026

Coupar Angus Abbey Church

£20 PER TEAM OF 4

BOOKINGS – rachel.ewins@btinternet.com Tel: 07805953403

REFRESHMENTS SERVED DURING INTERVAL

FABRIC

Fortunately there is little to report at the moment: eventful Fabric Reports usually mean headaches for the Treasurer. However, I had indicated last year that I was intending to step down and am pleased to say that there is not only a replacement but amazingly a willing one!

David Pithie has already dealt with several minor issues, is excellently qualified to take on the role, and has been appointed by the Kirk Session from the start of September. With the new mergers looming, there seems at least the possibility that resources may become available for better long-term planning of regular scheduled maintenance work, so he comes at a very appropriate time as the Abbey Church looks forward to a new chapter in it's activities.

I would like to record my thanks to the numerous people who provided help in many ways while I was Fabric Convener, especially Peter Godfrey, but also both Bendochy Fabric Conveners John Morrison and the late Robert Cormack, Bill Patullo, Keith Langalaan, and David Chinn. I would add that local tradesmen have also been excellent and very helpful especially McNaughton's, Clarke's, Drummond's and Eddington and Neave's. The ease of dealing with everyone is a credit to the friendly spirit of Coupar Angus.

John B Easson.

BENDOCHY COMMUNITY CAFÈ AT THE COACH HOUSE

The café resumes in October and is open to anyone who would like to meet in the Coach House for a chat and a cuppa.

10.30 am to noon
15th October 19th November
17th December

Paul Rice

OUR WORSHIP TEAM

We would like to extend our thanks to our Worship Team for all the work they undertake in preparing and leading our Services. We are fortunate to have such talented people and we would like to congratulate David Chinn and Kathleen Godfrey for their recent accreditation as Worship Leaders.

Kirk Session

OPEN DOORS DAY AT BENDOCHY PARISH CHURCH

19th and 20th September

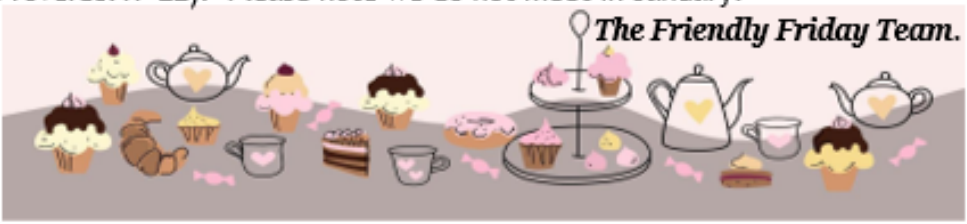
Tea and coffee will be available in the Coach House up to 30 minutes prior to closing. Opening will be listed in the Open Doors Programme nearer the time.

Paul Rice

First Friday of Each Month
1.30 – 3.00pm
Dates for your diary:
4 September 2 October 6 November 4 December

Friendly Friday continues to meet in the Abbey Church the first Friday of the month. We have been delighted to see our numbers rising over the last few months. There is lots of fun and laughter, (good for the soul, Proverbs:17-22). Please note we do not meet in January.

The Friendly Friday Team.



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY POPPIES

Thank you to everyone who has been busy knitting or crocheting poppies to make our display in the church for Remembrance Sunday. We would appreciate if we could have them all collected in by the beginning of October. This gives us time to actually get the display put together. Thanks also go to those who provided wool, needles and buttons to help with the project. All your efforts are very much appreciated

Kathleen Godfrey

A Chat with God.

Me God, can I ask You a question?

God Sure,

Me Promise You won't get mad.

God I promise.

Me Why did You let so much stuff happen to me today?

God What do you mean?

Me Well, I woke up late,

God Yes

Me My car took forever to start

God Okay

Me At lunch they made my sandwich wrong and I had to wait

God Huummm

Me On the way home, my phone died just as I answered it

God All right

Me And on top off all that, when I got home, I just wanted to relax with my new foot massager, but it wouldn't work!! Nothing went right today! Why did You do that??

God Let me see, the angel of death was at your bed this morning and I had to send one of My angels to battle him for your life. I let you sleep through that.

Me (humbled) OH

God didn't let your car start, because of the drunk driver on your route who would have hit you at that time

Me (ashamed)

God the first person who made your sandwich today, was sick, I didn't want you to catch their bug, I know you can't afford to miss work

Me (embarrassed) Okay

God Your phone went dead, because the person that was calling you, was going to give false witness about what you said on the call. I didn't let you talk to them.

Me (softly) I see God

God Oh and the foot massager, it had a faulty connection. it would have caused a power failure and left you in the dark. I didn't think you would like that!

Me I'm sorry God, please forgive me.

Welcoming You At The Abbey Church

2026				
September	*6*	Betty Crighton	*13*	Barry Anderson
	20	David Chinn	*27*	Joanne Chinn
October	*4*	Jeff Brewer	*11*	Esther Jack
	18	John Easson	*25*	Anne Easson
November	*1*	Rachel Ewins	*8*	Isobel Jack
	15	Peter Godfrey	*22*	Kathleen Godfrey
	29	Sandra Jack		
December	*6*	Anne Richards	*13*	Mandy Chinn
	20	Irene & Esme	*27*	Betty Crighton

Readers In The Abbey Church

2026				
September	*6*	Mandy Chinn	*13*	David Chinn
	20	Jeff Brewer	*27*	Joan Jones
October	*4*	Joanne Chinn	*11*	John Easson
	18	Mandy Chinn	*25*	Anne Richards
November	*1*	David Chinn	*8*	Jeff Brewer
	15	Joan Jones	*22*	Joanne Chinn
	29	John Easson		
December	*6*	Mandy Chinn	*13*	Anne Richards
	20	David Chinn	*27*	Jeff Brewer

Abbey Church Beadle Duty

2026	*Sunday Services*	*Funeral / Wedding*
September	Betty Crighton	Betty Crighton
October	Kathleen Godfrey	Kathleen Godfrey
November	Barry Anderson	Barry Anderson
December	Jeff Brewer	Jeff Brewer

Abbey Church Sunday Morning Tea & Coffee Rota

Tea and coffee is served in the Abbey Church each Sunday after the service. Please stay to enjoy this period of friendship and if you feel able, please add your name to the Tea & Coffee Rota on a date that suits 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: 07805 953403
Treasurer:	Peter Godfrey	Tel: 01828 627028
Roll Keeper:	Rachel Ewins	Tel: 01250 876638
Gift Aid:	Peter Godfrey	Tel: 01828 627028
Fabric:	David Pithie	Tel: 07748 774068
Churches Together:	Anne Richards	Tel: 01828 628138
Presbytery Elder:	Jeff Brewer	Tel: 01828 628126
Organist:	Alison Malcolm	Tel: 01382 320287
Isla Link Editor:	Rachel Ewins	Tel: 01250 876638
Safeguarding Co-ord	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.

Next Deadline: 15 November 2026 - rachel.ewins@btinternet.com.

Bendochy Parish Church of Scoland ((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).