

# ISLA LINK



**September 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)

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***Upcoming Events***

***Abbey Church Friendly Fridays***

Fridays —1.30—3.00 pm

6 September 4 October 8 November 6 December

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***Harvest Thanksgiving Services - 6 October 2024***

At both Churches with the inclusion of a Baptism at the Abbey

Donations to Blairgowrie Food Bank

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***Bendochy Community Café***

Wednesdays —10.30—12.00 noon

11 September 9 October 13 November 11 December

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***Abbey Church Coffee Morning***

10am—12noon, Saturday 14 September 2024

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***Churches Together—Songs of Praise***

Bendochy Parish Church

3pm on Sunday, 15 September 2024

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***Blueberry Pick Fundraiser—16 September 2024***

10am to 1 pm

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***Communion Services—20 October 2024***

At both Churches

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***Remembrance Sunday Services Sunday, 10 November 2024***

Bendochy Parish Church—10am

Coupar Angus Abbey Church—10.45am

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

***Deadline for the next issue: 17 November 2024.***

Please send articles to:-

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

## ***From the Interim Moderator, Donna...***



I was reading a collection of the late Archbishop Desmond Tutu's thoughts, prayers and writings and I would like to share one particular piece with you:

“Have you seen a symphony orchestra? They are dolled up and beautiful with their magnificent instruments, cellos, violins etc. Sometimes dolled up as the rest, is a chap at the back carrying a triangle. Now and again the conductor will point to him and he will play a ‘ting’. That might seem so insignificant, but in the conception of the composer, something irreplaceable would be lost to the total beauty of the symphony if that ‘ting’ did not happen.”

Archbishop Tutu used this to illustrate our importance in God's eyes - no matter how small we are, no matter how seemingly small our worship, our service, our prayers may appear to us, they are irreplaceable to God.

As the summer passes by so quickly, I am aware that some of you have travelled to distant places, others have explored closer to home and some have spent their time at home enjoying the company of family and friends. Whatever you have done, wherever you have been, I do hope that you have managed to have some time to relax and feel refreshed both in body and spirit.

Many of the activities and organisations going on around the church will be starting up again. For many it will be a hectic, but hopefully, very fulfilling time. Please start to plan now how you might be involved in whatever is happening over the next few months. Think how you can live out your faith in a day to day and week to week basis - and remember, no matter the size of your contribution, it will make a difference.

Over the summer, I have attended Kirk Session meetings at Bendochy and Coupar Angus Abbey. I have also been able to lead worship at both churches and will be with you again on dates in September and October. I'm looking forward to conducting worship for Harvest Thanksgiving and also a Baptism - how exciting! These are wonderful opportunities to get to know you a bit better.

If you need the services of a Minister, then please get in touch with your Session Clerks, Graeme or Ellen and they will make the appropriate arrangements. But if you would like to speak with me directly then the best way would be by email:-

[DHays@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:DHays@churchofscotland.org.uk) or by phone 01382 580210.

May God's blessing be with you all.

*Donna*

### ***Balhousie Care Home Church Services***

Over recent months, Church Services at Balhousie Care Home have resumed and are planned for the afternoons of the 4th Thursday in the month, other events permitting. These Services are being organised and led by Joyce Beattie, a Worship Leader and member of the Coupar Angus Abbey Kirk Session. Joyce is being supported by Pauline Dolbey on the keyboard and several members of the Abbey Church. Since restarting, these Services have been enjoyed by a good number of residents and staff, with several well known faces being in attendance.

Friends and family members of residents are very welcome to join in these Services and should contact Balhousie Care Home for dates and times.

*Rachel Ewins*

### ***STATEMENT OF VALUES***

Within our Isla Link Magazine, you will find a copy of the Values Statement which has been adopted by the Kirk Sessions of both Bendochy and of Coupar Angus Abbey.

This statement was created following joint meetings between the Kirk Sessions and two Interim Ministers. These Interim Ministers were appointed by Presbytery to assist the Sessions to take a look at what had happened in the past and consider how best to approach and engage with a variety of situations in the future. As Christians, we need to acknowledge that mistakes can be made, that forgiveness is often needed and that, at times, behaviours and attitudes need to be changed to ensure the best for God's church in our local communities. We trust that this statement will be of interest to you as members at both Bendochy and Coupar Angus Abbey.

*Donna Hays*  
*Interim Moderator*

# COUPAR ANGUS ABBEY CHURCH

## COFFEE MORNING

10am—12noon

Saturday, 14 September 2024



Home Baking, Preserves, Raffle, Tombola, Play Your Cards Right, Bric-a-Brac, Lucky Dip, Pot The Ball, & free Kids' Craft Table



## A FUN FILLED MORNING FOR ALL AGES

Entry:- Adults £3.00

Accompanied Children 50p

*Includes Tea/Coffee/Juice and Cakes*



**All donations will be gratefully received.**



Contact Rachel Ewins on 07805953403 or email [rachel.ewins@btinternet.com](mailto:rachel.ewins@btinternet.com)

## Abbey Church Charity Shop



The Abbey Church charity shop was held from 6-13 July. A huge thank you to everyone who staffed the shop, donated goods, tombola and raffle prizes and a very special thank you to Esme, who decorated our lovely sign. Well done Esme, you made a fantastic job.

We raised the wonderful sum of £2,100 and look forward to doing it all over again next year!!

*Kathleen Godfrey*

## 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 6 September
- Friday 4 October
- Friday 1 November
- Friday 6 December



## ***Thanks and praise, in all our situations.***

“Now thank we all our God, with hearts and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things hath done, in whom His world rejoices;  
Who from our mother’s arms hath blessed us on our way  
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.”

This well known, and much loved hymn was written in 1636 by Martin Rinkart, a Lutheran pastor from Eilenburg, Germany. He was born in 1586 in Eilenburg, the son of a coppersmith and studied theology in Leipzig in the early 1600s. In 1617 he became Archdeacon in Eilenburg and the following year the Thirty Years War broke out. This war was a continuation of wars fought over the Reformation in the early 1500s. Eilenburg was particularly hard hit, refugees were streaming in by the thousands. Not only did they have to contend with the war, but also famines and plagues. Misery and death were ever present. It’s estimated that he was performing over 4,000 funerals per year, including that of his wife in May, 1637.

Rinkart was giving all he could (food, money, clothing) to the refugees and the poor in his community, keeping just enough to sustain himself and his family. Two thirds of the way through this war, amidst all of the death, suffering, and disease, Rinkart’s faith was so strong that he was able to write “Now thank we all our God.” Although originally used as a prayer prior to meals, this hymn became one of the most popular in Germany and is still sung at most celebratory services and at times of thanksgiving.

“O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,  
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;  
And keep us still in grace, and guide us when perplexed,  
And free us from all ills, in this world and the next.”

May we be like Martin Rinkhart and be able to pray such uplifting words as that hymn when we are faced with dark times.

**Joan Jones**

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



## ***Abbey Church Soup Lunches***

The soup lunches shall commence again in October. Everyone is welcome to come along and enjoy delicious homemade soup and goodies. Thank you to everyone who has supported us in the past. Please come again, and why not bring a friend ?

The lunches are free, however we are always happy to accept donations.

Thank you also to our wonderful working teams. It couldn't happen without them.



### ***Dates for your Diary***

October 9th and 23rd  
November 6th and 20th  
December 18th

## **A Prayer for Peace and Revival**



Loving Heavenly Father,

We come before your throne of grace, to lay our burdens at Your feet. We ask Your forgiveness for all our sins, known, and unknown. We are sorry, and need Your forgiveness to set us free from the guilt that keeps us from experiencing the fullness of Your joy. Help us to rest in Your love, and to focus on others instead of constantly thinking of ourselves.

Loving Father, bless us all with a world of unity and peace, overcoming past divisions, to build bridges of the future, to be champions of justice and equality, respect and solidarity.

We cry out to You Loving Father, for a revival in our hearts and in our world, Your world. Set our hearts on fire for a passion for Your kingdom. May Your Spirit move mightily, to bring transformation and renewal, and may we find strength in the moments of quiet renewal.

In Jesus' precious Name, we pray.

Amen

***Kathleen Godfrey***

## Can't Out-Love God

I was sifting through old emails recently and came across this contained in one from my cousin in America. As a message about God's love, I thought it would be nice to share it in our magazine?

When my now-grown-up son, Xavier, was in kindergarten, he stretched his arms wide and said, "I love you *this* much." I stretched my longer arms wide and said, "I love you *this* much." Planting his fists on his hips, he said, "I loved you first." I shook my head. "I loved you when God first put you in my womb." Xavier's eyes widened. "You win." "We both win," I said, "because Jesus loved both of us first."

As Xavier prepares for the birth of his first child, I'm praying he'll enjoy trying to out-love his son as they make sweet memories. But as I prepare to be a grandmother, I'm amazed at how much I loved my grandson from the moment Xavier and his wife told us they were expecting a baby.

The apostle John affirmed that Jesus' love for us gives us the ability to love Him and others (1 John 4:19). Knowing He loves us gives us a sense of security that deepens our personal relationship with Him (v. 15-17). As we realise the depth of His love for us (v. 19), we can grow in our love for Him and express love in other relationships (v. 20). Not only does Jesus empower us to love, but He also commands us to love: "And he has given us this command: anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister" (v. 21). When it comes to loving well, God always wins. No matter how hard we try, we can't out-love God!  
(By Xochitl Dixon)

*Jeff Brewer*

### ***Bendochy Church—Community Cafe***

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

**10.30am —12 noon**

***Bendochy Coach House***

***Dates for your diary:***

Wednesday	11 September
Wednesday	9 October
Wednesday	13 November
Wednesday	11 December





## ***The Seven Deadly Sins***

Sin separates us from God. Does God consider all sins to be equal, or are some sins considered more serious than others? Every Christian will have heard of ‘the seven deadly sins,’ also referred to as cardinal sins, so perhaps God does consider some sins to be more serious than others. Curiously, however, there is no mention of the ‘seven deadly sins’ in the Bible, so where did they arise from?

The story begins with a Monk called Evagrius Ponticus born in modern day Turkey. He was well educated and a prolific writer on matters of religion. He was living in Egypt around 375 AD when he listed 487 ‘temptations’ to which we humans are exposed to. He categorised these into eight ‘patterns of evil,’ namely: gluttony, lust, greed, anger, pride, boastfulness, sadness, and despondency. In 590 AD Pope Gregory the First reviewed the list. He combined ‘despondency’ and ‘sadness’ into ‘sloth.’ He also included ‘boastfulness’ with ‘pride’, and added ‘envy’ as a separate category. Gregory listed these seven (deadly) sins in order of increasing severity as: lust, gluttony, greed, sloth, wrath, envy, and pride. Gregory stated that pride was the most serious sin because it led people to commit many other sins. Incidentally, Gregory is also credited with devising the ‘seven heavenly virtues’ namely: prudence, justice, temperance, courage, faith, hope and charity.

The seven deadly sins are considered the worst of traits, affecting how people treat their own bodies and how they interact with other people. Although the ‘seven deadly sins’ are not specifically referred to in the Bible, each sin is mentioned individually in various parts of the text (for example, see Galatians 5:19-21). The seven sins listed resonate with the Ten Commandments, issued around 1450 BC. For example, ‘*You shall not commit adultery*’ fits nicely with the sin of lust, and ‘*You shall not covet your neighbour’s house ..... or anything that belongs to your neighbour*’ fits with the sins of greed and envy.

We all suffer from human failings and it can be easy to commit a sin, even inadvertently. On those occasions when we do transgress, we should seek God’s forgiveness, for the Bible tells us that there is no sin too great for God to forgive, provided we are contrite and genuinely wish to repent. Evagrius argued that prayer seeking forgiveness must be accompanied with tears if the supplicant is truly repentant. But, was he talking about his list of eight ‘patterns of evil,’ or of any sin?

***David Chinn***

## ***Margaret Davidson***

The Bendochy Congregation were shocked to learn of the sudden death of Margaret Davidson at home on 6th July. She was 80 years old. Margaret was a stalwart of the Bendochy Congregation and an Elder for several years. She was a talented, valued and hard working Organist who played frequently at Bendochy and neighbouring churches. She was also an enthusiastic member of the Dunkeld Bell Ringers.

Margaret was loved by all who met her and appreciated her warm, friendly personality and commitment to the church. She is survived by her husband Andy and her sons Keith, Ross and Moray.

***Graeme McNeill***

## ***Churches Together***

The recent Charity Shop held by Churches Together to raise funds for Christian Aid was very well supported with donations, volunteers and customers. Thanks are extended to all who helped raise the sum of £1,659.

The next event planned by Churches Together is:



## ***Songs Of Praise***

“Thanksgiving, Harvest and Creation”

**3pm on, 15 September 2024  
Bendochy Parish Church.**



Refreshments will be served in the Coach House and there will be a collection taken for the Charity Air Ambulance.

***Anne Richards***

## ***PICK YOUR OWN BLUEBERRIES***

Thomas Thomson Blairgowrie

Ashgrove Mill, PH10 7EX

What3words: free.backs.decisions

**COME AND SUPPORT**

**COUPAR ANGUS ABBEY CHURCH**

**10am—1pm**

**Monday, 16 September 2024**

Pick What You Need & Donate What You Can

With grateful thanks to Thomas Thomson Blairgowrie f  
or this fundraising opportunity.



## Welcoming You At The Abbey Church

**2024**

<b>September</b>	<b>1</b>	Joyce Beattie	<b>8</b>	Ellen MGibbon
	<b>15</b>	Anne Richards	<b>22</b>	Allan Legge
	<b>29</b>	Irene & Esme Rodger		
<b>October</b>	<b>6</b>	Betty Crichton	<b>13</b>	Barry Anderson
	<b>20</b>	David Chinn	<b>27</b>	Joanne Chinn
<b>November</b>	<b>3</b>	Jeff Brewer	<b>10</b>	Esther Jack
	<b>17</b>	John Easson	<b>24</b>	Anne Easson
<b>December</b>	<b>1</b>	Rachel Ewins	<b>8</b>	Isobel Jack
	<b>15</b>	Peter Godfrey	<b>22</b>	Kathleen Godfrey
	<b>29</b>	Sandra Jack		

## Readers in the Abbey



**2024**

<b>September</b>	<b>1</b>	Joanne Chinn	<b>8</b>	David Chinn
	<b>15</b>	John Easson	<b>22</b>	Joan Jones
	<b>29</b>	Anne Richards		
<b>October</b>	<b>6</b>	Jeff Brewer	<b>13</b>	Ellen McGibbon
	<b>20</b>	Joanne Chinn	<b>27</b>	David Chinn
<b>November</b>	<b>4</b>	John Easson	<b>10</b>	Joan Jones
	<b>18</b>	Anne Richards	<b>24</b>	Jeff Brewer
<b>December</b>	<b>1</b>	Ellen McGibbon	<b>8</b>	Joanne Chinn
	<b>15</b>	David Chinn	<b>22</b>	John Easson
	<b>29</b>	Joan Jones		

## Abbey Church Beadle Duty Rota

**2024**

	<b>Sunday Services</b>	<b>Funeral / Wedding</b>
<b>September</b>	Betty Crighton	Betty Crighton
<b>October</b>	Kathleen Godfrey	Kathleen Godfrey
<b>November</b>	Barry Anderson	Barry Anderson
<b>December</b>	Jeff Brewer	Jeff Brewer

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

#### **Churches Together**

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

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

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

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### ***The Church of Scotland Stamp Appeal 2024-2025 Continues To Support Firmly Planted Project In Malawi.***



Please keep saving your used postage stamps to allow us to help the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP) improve nutrition, agricultural productivity, create youth employment and mitigate the impact of the climate crisis. Firmly Planted aims to establish self-sustaining tree nurseries to nurture and protect the environment and protect livelihoods.

***Rachel Ewins***

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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).