

ISLA LINK



March 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

7 March 4 April 2 May



Bendochy Community Café

Thursday 20 March

10.30–12.00 noon

Abbey Church Soup Lunches

Wednesday, 12th and 26th March

12 noon–2.00 pm



COMMUNION SERVICES

Bendochy Parish Church

10.00am

Coupar Angus Abbey Church

Sunday, 30 March 2025

11.15am

EASTER SERVICES

Joint Maundy Thursday Service

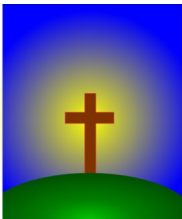
Coupar Angus Abbey Church

7pm, Thursday, 17 April 2025

Joint Good Friday Service

Bendochy Parish Church

7pm, Friday, 18 April 2025



Easter Sunday Services

Bendochy Parish Church

10.00am

Coupar Angus Abbey Church

Sunday, 19 April 2025

11.15am

From the Interim Moderator



It is my pleasure to be asked to contribute to this edition of ISLA Link. At the start of February I took over from Donna Hays as your Interim Moderator. I was privileged to be at the last service she took when she was thanked for her work in guiding you over the last wee while and I was able to introduce myself very briefly to you. Now I have a chance to tell you a little more.

I am a retired minister living in Letham. My ministry, working backwards consisted of eight and a half years in a charge in Muthill linked with Trinity Gask. Before that I was fourteen years in Wishaw, Lanarkshire. And my first charge was a linkage again, Kinlochleven linked with Nether Lochaber near Fort William and I was there for fifteen years.

I understand the concern and anxiety you have about the future of Coupar Angus Abbey and Bendochy. We are living in a time of great change in the Church of Scotland. The reason for the crisis we are in is plain. Numbers of church members have been declining since the early 1960s. In the last few years the financial pressures that has caused have been extreme and something had to be done. Whether we are doing the right thing or not time will tell.

If I say I understand what you are going through, it is because in my last charge, Trinity Gask, the smaller of the two churches in the linkage was dissolved. The current building was a plain but beautiful building from the 18th century, probably built on the site of a previous church which would have been much earlier but there are no records. At the bottom of the hill is a well which was known to the Romans and in living memory water from it was used for baptisms, so I imagine this was a special spiritual place and focus for worship going back a very long way.

In my second charge the church I was inducted to was united with a neighbouring congregation and when arbiters decided the other church should be the place of worship my first church was closed and sold and we all moved to the other building.

My first charge was the highland linkage. I lived in Kinlochleven and about 11 miles down the road was Nether Lochaber church. These churches are still open, but the manse is now in Duror and all four charges around Loch Leven are one church with four places of worship but probably reducing to three soon.

My job as Interim Moderator is to be alongside you and help you navigate through the next period in your life. There have been and will be big changes. My role is to represent you to the Presbytery and represent the Presbytery to you. The Presbytery will make whatever decisions it sees fit and I will communicate them to you. I will help you decide whatever you feel is right and be your voice on Presbytery.

In the meantime, in the short time I have had to get to know some of you and how things are going in CAA and Bendochy I have been greatly encouraged by your hard work and gifts, and your ability to do so much even in vacancy. It has been said so often, and perhaps in these days it is more important than ever to reflect on the truth of these words, that the church is not the building. The church is the people. You have many able and committed people with a vision for the future and faith that God is with you sustaining your hope and confidence. Hold on to him as he holds on to you and be the church in your parishes.

Klaus Buwert

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

“Nearer my God to Thee”

How many of us think of the film Titanic (released in 1997) without thinking of the hymn “Nearer my God to Thee”? Thanks to Hollywood, that hymn is iconically linked with the film. Was it played as the Titanic sunk, or was that pure Hollywood? It was reported by some survivors that it was played as the ship was sinking. We may never know for certain but, where did the hymn come from?

It was written by Sarah Flower Adams who lived in England from 1805-1848. Her mother died when Sarah was five and she, and her sister, were raised by their father. Sarah was raised in a strict environment but was around many liberal-thinking people, Robert Browning, Harriet Martineau amongst others. These acquaintances attributed to Sarah questioning her Christian beliefs. The family was friends with a Unitarian minister, William Fox, who helped Sarah, and her sister, through this time when faith was being questioned.

It was after going through this time in her life that Sarah wrote this hymn:

“Nearer my God to Thee, nearer to Thee
E'en though it be a cross that raiseth me.”

William Fox had asked Sarah to write a hymn based on the story of Jacob's dream at Bethel in Genesis 28. He needed a hymn to end his service so Sarah composed the now well-known hymn.

This hymn, although not always widely accepted, now brings hope and peace to millions of people worldwide. It was said to be a favourite of Queen Victoria and US President William McKinlay.

Scottish connection? Sarah holidayed in Scotland with her family and in 1823 broke the record for the fastest ascent of a woman up Ben Lomond!

Joan Jones

Updating The Abbey Church Cook Book



Work continues to bring together an updated version of the Abbey Church Cook Book, but it is not quite ready yet.

There is still time to submit recipes for inclusion and I am happy to receive them in whatever format you can provide. The recipe below is one of our new additions.

Rachel Ewins

Hot Cross Muffins

(adapted from “Muffins, Fast and Fantastic”, 3rd Edition, by Susan Reimer)

This is a lovely way of using up any jars of mincemeat left after your Christmas baking. Traditionally, rich fruits, eggs and other sweet things were given up during the period of Lent and so Easter celebrated the return of these delights to our tables through baked treats on Easter Sunday.

Makes 11-12 standard sized muffins



Ingredients:

10oz (280g) self-raising flour	1 egg
½ teaspoon (2.5 ml) bicarbonate of soda	8 fl oz (240 ml) milk
½ teaspoon (2.5 ml) salt	3 fl oz (90 ml) sunflower oil
3oz (85g) fine white granulated sugar	3 oz (85g) sultanas
8fl oz (240 ml) ready-made mincemeat (about 12 oz/350g)	

Thin, narrow slices of marzipan to make crosses for the tops

Method:

1. Prepare muffin tins (deep pan tins with deep papers to allow muffins to rise correctly). Preheat oven to 375-400°F (190-200 °C) for a conventional oven, Gas Mark 5-6.
2. In a large bowl, sift together: flour, bicarbonate of soda, salt and sugar.
3. In a separate bowl, beat egg with a fork, stir in milk; mincemeat and oil.
4. Pour all of liquid ingredients into dry mixture. Stir just until combined, adding the sultanas during the final strokes. The batter will be lumpy, but no dry flour should be visible. Do not over-stir.
5. Fill muffin cups three-quarters full. Place marzipan strips across tops of muffins and bake for 20-25 minutes until tops are lightly browned and spring back when pressed gently. Allow muffins to cool for several minutes to make removal easier.

Jo Chinn

Burns Supper, Saturday 25th January 2025

Following the success of the joint carol service Bendochy and the Abbey churches organised another joint event to celebrate the birth of ‘the Ploughman Poet,’ Robert Burns, on Saturday 25th January in the Abbey Church. Joanne Chinn, dressed as ‘Poosie Nancy’, addressed the Haggis. Joyce Beattie gave the Selkirk Grace and provided a wee story about haggis during her days in Cyprus. Entertainment was provided by the choir led by Alison Malcolm, by Jeff Brewer, who gave a rendition of Tam O’Shanter, and by David Chinn who delivered an address on the ‘Immortal Memory.’ The church was laid out splendidly, reflecting the theme of the evening, and the supper was attended by about 40 people from both congregations. We are very grateful to all those who helped prepare the vegetables, provided home baking, and set up and cleared the church afterwards. A very enjoyable evening was shared by all.

David Chinn



The Love Of A Mother’s Heart

The door that leads to a mother’s heart is always open wide,
And in her heart is a special place where peace and love abide,
There is no lock on a mother’s heart, her children freely go
For a pat on the cheek or a comforting word,
or something they want to know,
Through years of work and prayer, she’s learned her wise and tender art,
For the nearest thing to the Love of God is the love of a mother’s heart.

Author Unknown



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.

Dates for your diary:

1.30—3.00 pm
Friday 7 March
Friday 4 April
Friday 2 May



Abbey Church Soup Lunches

Our final two dates for our Soup lunches are

Wednesday, 12th and 26th March 12-2 pm in the Abbey.

Our lunches have been well attended, and we are so grateful to everyone who has supported us over the last few months.



Our team of helpers who make soup, set up, wash up and everything else needed, all work together and support each other.

Thank you everyone, we start again in October.

Kathleen Godfrey

Photos From December



A Physical Prayer

Touch the top of your head.....

Lord, please give me the mind of Christ,
Transform my mind.

Touch your eyes.....

Lord, anoint my eyes to see what You see,
to see clearly. I walk by faith, not by sight.

Touch your ears.....

Lord, help me to hear what Your Spirit is saying.
Help me to know Your voice.

Touch your chest.....

Lord, help me to guard my heart,
that I might not sin against Thee in any way. My heart is Yours only.

Touch your feet.....

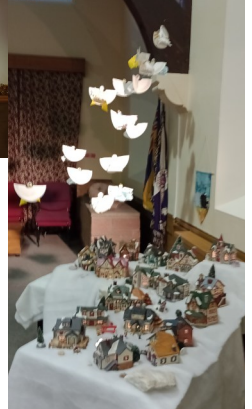
Lord, please order my steps, keep me from stumbling.
Lead me in the right way. In Jesus' Name I pray.

Amen

Author known to God.

We often teach children 'The Five Fingers Prayer' or 'The Rainbow Prayer', to help them remember pointers for prayer. This could be useful for us as adults, when we find it difficult to pray for ourselves.

Kathleen Godfrey



A Message Of Thanks—Session Clerk Retiral

After many years as Session Clerk, Ellen McGibbon has decided to 'hang up her shorthand'. Ellen wore many hats, doing many jobs, (as we discovered at our last Session meeting) and often at her own expense. Ellen was always ready to give help and support to anyone when she could.

We thank her unreservedly for her years of dedication, and are delighted she shall remain a much valued member of Session.

We hope you enjoy the 'free time' you now have.

We welcome Rachel Ewins as our new Session Clerk, and wish her well in her new post.

Kathleen Godfrey

Choir

The Choir is preparing for the Easter Services and would be very happy to include new members, whether they are church members or people who just enjoy singing and would like to augment the choir numbers when they are available. For further details, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me.



Alison Malcolm

Balhousesie Care Home Church Services

Our group of volunteers from the Abbey Church continue to enjoy their monthly visits to Balhousesie Care Home. The pleasure expressed by some residents is infectious and we sometimes have to catch up with those who start singing the moment the hymn is announced. The staff are also very generous with their time which adds to this happy time together.

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

Joyce Beattie

Bendochy Church—Community Cafe

Our Community Cafe will take place on Thursday, 20 March, when Ann and Paul Rice will provide a warm welcome to all who wish to join them at Bendochy Coach House for tea/coffee, biscuits and a friendly chat. Bring a friend.

***10.30am —12 noon
Bendochy Coach House
Thursday 20 March***



The Community Cafe will take a break over the summer months. Watch out for notice of further dates in later issues of the Isla Link.



COUPAR ANGUS ABBEY CHURCH

SPRING FAYRE

Saturday, 26 April 2025

10am–2pm

Tea/Coffee & Cakes £3

Soup (from noon) £2

Tombola Raffle Bric-a-Brac Cake & Candy

Play Your Cards Right Pot The Ball Lucky Dip



Tables can be booked by Community Organisations,
Crafters & Local Businesses at cost of £10

by contacting Rachel Ewins 07805953403 or rachel.ewins@btinternet.com.

Trust God's Timing

We often forget that God is not in a hurry. We are. It's why we're tired. It's why we're anxious. It's why we are frustrated, stressed, and disappointed.

So today, be reminded that God is doing something. He is moving.

He is fighting for you.

God is working in your life right now in ways you cannot understand.

Continue to trust in Him, obey His will, and worship Him.

Whatever you may be walking into, God has already stepped into it and prepared a way for you.



Flowers At The Abbey



Each week we enjoy the floral displays created by Sandra and Joyce. These are made up of both silk and fresh flowers, with the latter being gifted after the service.

If you know of someone who would appreciate some flowers for whatever reason, please let Joyce Beattie know and she will arrange this for you.

Joyce would like to thank the members of the congregation who have donated to the flower fund. Your generosity is very much appreciated.



Rachel Ewins



CHARITY SHOP

3-10 May 2025

Reuse Shop, George Street, Coupar Angus



We will be grateful for donations of goods for the shop and tombola. Please contact Susanne Burton or Anne Richards on 01828 618138 for uplift.

Bendochy Parich Church—Note Of Thanks

A very big Thankyou to Bridget Lithgow When Bridget moved to Northlands Care Home she donated two beautiful wooden flower pedestals to Bendochy Church. They are in use each Sunday and have been greatly admired.

Bernice McKenzie



Tayside Organists Society's Music Quiz

A Musical Quiz, organised by the Tayside Organists Society, was held in the Abbey on Saturday, 15th February. The afternoon was enjoyed by members of the Society along with participants from both Churches. Refreshments were provided by volunteers from the Abbey Church and £120 was raised at the event.

Alison Malcolm

Church of Scotland Stamp Appeal

Many thanks to everyone who continue to put their used stamps in the box at the Abbey Church. Our combined contributions are a small part in the Stamp Appeal, but lots of small parts can make a big difference.

In our most recent batch of stamps there were 111 1st Class, 618 2nd Class, 23 Priced and 52 from 11 different countries. (339 pre barcode)

Bits & Bytes in Blairgowrie are now working from home and we do wish them every success for the future. The number of stamps they collected was amazing and ideas for a new collecting point would be useful.

Rachel Ewins

Joint Lessons & Carols Service - Bendochy Parish Church

Our joint service with the Abbey Church on Sunday, 22nd December was absolutely amazing . Our Church was full to capacity with not a spare seat or hymn book. The Service was led by Joyce Beattie, Worship Leader and Alison Malcolm, our joint Organist, with the Abbey Church Choir.

Bernice McKenzie



Welcoming You At The Abbey Church

2025					
March	2	Esther Jack	9	John Easson	
	16	Anne Easson	23	Rachel Ewins	
	30	Isobel Jack			
April	6	Peter Godfrey	13	Kathleen Godfrey	
	20	Sandra Jack	27	Joyce Beattie	
May	4	Ellen McGibbon	11	Irene & Esme Rodger	
	18	Anne Richards	25	Allan Legge	
June	1	Isobel Jack	8	Betty Crighton	
	15	Barry Anderson	22	David Chinn	
	29	Joanne Chinn			

Readers in the Abbey



2025					
March	2	Joanne Chinn	9	David Chinn	
	16	John Easson	23	Joan Jones	
	30	Anne Richards			
April	6	Jeff Brewer	13	Ellen McGibbon	
	20	Joanne Chinn	27	David Chinn	
May	4	John Easson	11	Joan Jones	
	18	Anne Richards	25	Jeff Brewer	
June	1	Ellen McGibbon	8	Joanne Chinn	
	15	David Chinn	22	John Easson	
	29	Joan Jones			

Abbey Church Beadle Duty Rota

2025	<i>Sunday Services</i>	<i>Funeral / Wedding</i>
March	Ellen McGibbon	Ellen McGibbon
April	Rachel Ewins	Rachel Ewins
May	Peter Godfrey	Peter Godfrey
June	Irene Rodger	Irene Rodger

Abbey Church Tea & Coffee Rota—Volunteers Wanted

Tea and coffee is served each Sunday by a small number of volunteers. 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: 18 May 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).