



# CARLOPS CHURCH

In the community, for the community

## Newsletter

Volume 18, Number 2; February 2024

## Services, February 2024

Services held in church and available via Zoom  
Request link from [sessionclerk@carlopschurch.org](mailto:sessionclerk@carlopschurch.org)

:  
4 February 10am: Dr Patsy Campbell  
11 February 10am: Rev Dr Tony Foley  
18 February 10am: Peter Worthington  
25 February 10am: Fiona Burnett  
3 March 10am: Rev Dr Tony Foley

**Join us, in the church, and in other activities**

**We promise you a warm welcome**

**[www.carlopschurch.org](http://www.carlopschurch.org)**

***Carlops is one of the West Tweeddale linkage of churches***

**[www.westtweeddale.org.uk](http://www.westtweeddale.org.uk)**

# Our Minister



## What business are we in?

Let me ask you a question, “*What, as a church, have we not noticed lately?*” I know that this is an odd question - how can you notice what you haven’t yet noticed? Let me illustrate what I mean.

It is the year 1910. This is the age of the big transatlantic steamer. The seas were full of big, beautiful ships carrying the thousands of people to and fro across the Atlantic. The dominant companies in this business are Cunard and White Star. If you ask the people who ran Cunard and White Star what business they were in, they would have responded: “The transatlantic *shipping* business”.

Sadly, it was that kind of self-definition that sealed their demise. Locked into a worldview where the future was about bigger, faster ships, companies like Cunard and White Star were busy trying to create ships with bigger engines, more funnels, and iceberg-proof hulls. Yet, only a few years later a disruptive technology came along and sank the transatlantic shipping business and the White Stars and Cunards of the world. That piece of technology was, of course, the airplane.

If White Star and Cunard had seen their business from a different perspective, in other words not as a transatlantic shipping business but rather as a transatlantic *people moving business*, things might be very different today. Instead of flying in *Virgin* and *BA* and *Easy Jet* planes we might all be flying in Cunard and White Star planes.

How often as churches do we get the question: “*What do you do?*”

All too often we respond to questions like this with the ‘*what*,’ and forget to mention ‘*why*’ we do what we do. We invariably answer the question on autopilot and talk about parishes and worship services, social activities etc. In other words, we talk in terms of the logistics and the location of church buildings.

When Jesus was asked a similar question in Luke’s Gospel (ch15), instead of explaining what he was doing he told 3 stories that helped his listeners ‘see’ why he was doing what he was doing. From beginning to end everything Jesus did was *people focused* – not property or procedure focused. It is good to be able to explain ‘*what*’ we do but let’s never forget the ‘*why*’.

Why not take some time this week to read and reflect on how Jesus answered those who questioned him about his activities? Like its Saviour, the Church is called to be first and foremost a people-centred enterprise. If we forget to notice that we may, like Cunard and White Star, find ourselves replaced.

Peace, Tony

# News



## Thank you – from an old Editor

It is a pleasant duty to thank the supporters and Kirk Session of Carlops Church for the gift presented to me to mark my editorship of the *Newsletter*. I am grateful for the recognition and the generosity. I look forward to visiting Toppings bookshop in Edinburgh soon, to explore how to use the gift with their subject-specialist booksellers. Mainly in the broad field of history, I expect; but one who knows has suggested firmly that I should select one or two books outside my usual comfort zone – and she's probably right!

As well as thanking people for their gift, I want to acknowledge factors that were a constant support to me as editor.

First: scope to cover spiritual, social and business issues with complete freedom. No one looked over my shoulder or dictated the approach; no one frowned or tut-tutted. For that, and the trust it indicates, I thank the Kirk Session, and Session Clerk Murray Campbell in particular.

Second: the energy and warmth of Carlops Church and its supporters, who contributed material for the *Newsletter* both by their activities, and by writing about them. Carlops Church rarely lacks a story worth telling, or an enterprise worth supporting. And on those occasions when news was lacking (rare), and my imagination failed (more frequent!), someone always came forward to compose and fill the gap! I thank everyone who contributed: by their deeds; and with their words.

Third and not least: practical assistance from several people. For thirteen of my years as editor, the *Newsletter* was a print-on-paper product, and over 100 copies, of twelve issues every year, for thirteen years, were hand-delivered throughout Carlops parish by members of the Eco Group. That amounts to a lot of letterboxing, a lot of support miles walked. I thank everyone who helped.

I earnestly believe that people value more, and contribute more to, entities and organisations that they feel they understand. I hope I have helped explain Carlops Church's character, purposes and activities to our community and thereby contributed to people's understanding of our church and their support for it.

Editing the *Newsletter* was demanding, but always satisfying and enjoyable – even fun! I have enjoyed an extended and rewarding handover with Julie Gamble. The *Newsletter* is in good hands, and I look forward to reading Julie's work in future.

I thank friends in Carlops Church for their recognition and generosity. And now, I'm off to find some new books!

Rennie McElroy

# Linton Lifts

Margaret Torrance has sent an appeal for volunteers, below, and expresses a wish for responses within the next fortnight.



*'I would like to take this opportunity to update you all on the 'slow but sure' progress being made towards the formation of a voluntary drivers scheme to take residents of West Linton and surrounding area, to and from health-related appointments.*

*As you will be aware, journeys by public transport are challenging when it comes to getting to the Borders General Hospital and other places patients of the West Linton Health Centre are referred to. It is particularly difficult for cancer patients needing to attend for treatment often several times in one week. The Red Cross did a grand job ferrying people back and forth, using volunteer drivers, but that organisation no longer runs the service, and Linton Lifts hopes to fill the gap.*

*However, as with most not-for-profit organisations, a Steering Group needs to be recruited before we can attract volunteer drivers. To that end, I am looking for the following:*

**Co-ordinator/s** to deal with client bookings and communications with drivers, using designated email and mobile phone - these people need to be available during the day

**A Treasurer** to receive monies from clients, make payments to drivers, and manage funds - using electronic banking with the Bank of Scotland (once an account is set up) and manage insurance

**A Secretary** to arrange and minute meetings, and keep secure records

**Committee members** - two or three, to help with publicity, social media, press, trainings etc.

*Volunteering can be very satisfying, and I would love to hear from anyone reading this who feels they may be able to help fill any of these roles, or indeed may know of someone who perhaps is looking to fill a gap in their lives following retirement or change of lifestyle.*

*I know that some will be wondering about driving – rest assured, I will put the call out for more drivers when we have a steering group formed!*

*As for clients – there will be no shortage!*

*Thank you for taking the time to read this.*

*My email address is margarettorrance6@icloud.com*

*If you would like to talk to me about any of the above my landline (yes, I still have one!) is 01968 660 678'*

Gavin Marshall has volunteered to assist as a driver in this initiative. While the process to provide a wider service through Linton Lifts is in motion, he is happy to help with transport when needed.

He can be contacted on 07967 342022

## Eco Group update

The Eco Group met on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> Jan after the morning service.

Discussions were wide ranging, from recycling to proposed events and work on a net zero strategy for the church.

The following article details activities planned for 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

Some hard work has gone in to finding a way to recycle blister pack/tablet strips. See more info below.

The next meeting of the Eco Group is **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March** after the morning service, and everyone is welcome.

## Earth Hour 2024

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March is the day we observe Earth Hour and you are warmly invited to take part in the following:

**Litter Pick - Sat 23rd March 10-12** - coffee & cake in the Church. Bring protective gloves.

**Earth Hour - Sat 23rd March 8.30 - 9.30** - candlelit music, verse and song. Bring a poem/song/music to share as we gather to support our planet.

*‘Since its beginnings in 2007, Earth Hour has been known for the “lights off” moment, with individuals from around the globe switching off their lights to show symbolic support for the planet and to raise awareness of the environmental issues affecting it.*

*More than 15 years later, we are now at a tipping point with our climate and nature crises, putting at risk the fate of our one home and all our futures. We are on course to breach by 2030 the 1.5°C global temperature increase limit set by the Paris Climate Agreement, and nature - the source of our very livelihoods and one of our biggest allies against the climate crisis - is also under severe threat, facing alarming and unprecedented rates of loss globally.*

*The next 7 years are therefore crucial to all our futures - we have to stay under the 1.5°C climate threshold to avoid irreversible damage to our planet, and we need to reverse nature loss by 2030, ending the decade with more nature than we started, not less. To make this happen, individuals, communities, businesses, and governments must all urgently step up their efforts to protect and restore our one shared home.’*

# Medication blister packs: discard or recycle?

People have been discussing how to dispose of medication blister packs responsibly, seeking a practical recycling method.

This article explains the position and what we can do now.



## ***How many blister packs are used domestically?***

- *Over-the-counter medicines* Each person uses, on average, 70 paracetamol every year; say, six blister packs per person; UK wide, 400 million blister packs for paracetamol alone
- *Prescription medicines* In 2022, 1.10 billion prescriptions were issued in England alone; adding about 15% for rest of UK makes 1.26 billion; assume, say, four blister packs per prescription for 75% of these: 3.80 billion blister packs
- *Estimated total* 4.20 billion blister packs per annum (ie, 4,200,000,000!)

This is a rough, but conservative estimate. It excludes non-prescription medicines other than paracetamol, and all medicines used in NHS hospitals and health centres.

## ***What happens to blister packs at present***

Blister packs are made primarily from plastic and aluminium; these are recyclable, but the fusing of metal and plastic makes the process complex. The blister packs must be collected and taken to waste management facilities. The processes used there vary, but generally involve manual and mechanical means to break the blister packs down into their constituent metals, plastics and other materials; then bulk packing these materials and delivering them to manufacturers for use in recycled paper, metal and plastic products; a small residue goes to composting, incineration or landfill.

Currently, most local authorities don't accept blister packs in household recycling, so they are usually discarded in general domestic waste and go to landfill or incineration.

## ***What might develop; and how you can help***

Most waste management companies want bulk input and they charge for uplift. Individuals want free-to-use deposit or uplift of small quantities. The challenge is to bring these models closer



together.

Local authorities may be persuaded to change their policies if enough people lobby them with sufficient energy and persistence. *Pester your councillor!*

Recycling firm Terracycle and supermarket Aldi trialled a scheme for people to freepost blister packs directly to a recycling centre in suitably labelled envelopes. The project was too successful! The pilot funding ran out quickly, and the project is paused while they review options. It may be reinstated in amended form. *Monitor Aldi and Terracycle websites.*

### ***What we can do now***

Carlops Church supporters are keen to recycle, and a local waste management company has offered generous support. Bring your blister packs to the church and deposit them in the cardboard container situated prominently near the door. That container will be emptied regularly. The company will accept its contents free of charge and ensure that the blister packs are recycled professionally and according to good environmental practice.

We are grateful and thank the firm for its continuing support of Carlops Church and its endeavours.

Mary McElroy

## **New Forward Plan available**

Carlops Church's new *Forward Plan* has been printed and distributed throughout Carlops, from Silverburn in the north, through Nine Mile Burn and downtown Carlops itself, to Rutherford and Waterloo in the south.

If you have not received it, or if you live outwith this area and would like a (free) printed copy, contact Rennie McElroy: email [rennie.mcelroy@btinternet.com](mailto:rennie.mcelroy@btinternet.com); or telephone 01968 661 042. A few printed copies will be available in the church, and the plan is also on the Church website at [Future plans - Carlops church](#); or visit [www.carlopschurch.org](http://www.carlopschurch.org) and navigate to *Our work > Future plans*.

The new Forward Plan reflects on performance in the period 2016-23 and proposes activities for the near- and medium-term future. It confirms that Carlops Church will continue to work as a positive and welcoming whole-community organisation, providing activities and services open to all, and attractive to all. Above all, the Plan emphasises that everyone, without exception, is welcome in Carlops Church, and invites everyone to be involved in its work.

Rennie McElroy

## Pastoral Care Training Session

We will be holding a training session in Pastoral Care led by Chris Levison on Saturday 10th February at Newlands Church from 9.30-12.30.

We will start with coffee from 9.30 and the session will start at 10.00

Everyone with an interest in pastoral care is welcome to attend. Please can you let Jean Howat know if you would like to come. [howatjean@gmail.com](mailto:howatjean@gmail.com)

## Messy Church



**The next Messy Church Session is on Sunday 18 February**

**The theme is Joseph**

**The session starts at 4pm prompt in the New Church Hall at West Linton and finishes at 6pm.**

All children from babies to P7 are most welcome to come and join in the fun!

We will start with a Bible Story and then the children will do a range of craft activities, followed by a song and a prayer and finish off with a meal together. All children **MUST** be accompanied by an adult.

Please do consider joining us for an afternoon of fun activities and a family meal together.

For more information contact Jean Howat [howatjean@gmail.com](mailto:howatjean@gmail.com)

Future dates

Sunday 10 March – Moses and the Burning Bush

## Pudding Night – Newlands Church Fri 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb 6.30pm

Bring a pudding to share with others! Soup will be provided and there will be a raffle with proceeds to Christian Aid. Tickets (£5) on sale in January, children free.

Contact Jean Howat [howatjean@gmail.com](mailto:howatjean@gmail.com)



## West Tweeddale Guild

Wednesday February 21st in Newlands Church at 2.30pm

The speaker will be Rev Pamela Kennedy who is Assistant Minister at Innerleithen, Traquair and Walkerburn, and is also undertaking Pioneer Ministry at Cardrona. She will be talking about her recent experiences as a young and recently- ordained minister in our Presbytery.

## West Tweeddale Parishes Diary

A handy calendar is available on the West Tweeddale Parishes website which lists all events being held throughout our linkage. It can be found [here](#).

If you would like an event to be added, please email Julie



# The Column

## The *Edinburgh Courant* – 21<sup>st</sup> July 1832

During a clear-out, we came across a copy of the “Edinburgh Courant” – 21 July 1832. Wondering why it had been kept, I started to read it, and this caught my eye!

### *Peebles-shire*

*RUTHERFOORD CASTLE to be LET, and entered in immediately.*

*It is half-way between Edinburgh and Biggar, on the new road by Linton and is fourteen miles from Edinburgh.*

*It contains nine rooms and kitchen, with scullery, milk-room, cellars, water closet, and other conveniences. There are lock-up coach houses and stabling for nine horses, and additional accommodation will be erected to suit a tenant.*

*The Dumfries coach runs to the house, and there is a great thoroughfare upon the road. It is a good situation for an active tenant, who may be accommodated with a farm.*

*The mansion house of Rutherfoord, within half a mile of the inn, may be let with it, or separately. It is favourably situated for being occupied as lodgings, on account of its vicinity to Edinburgh, and the celebrated mineral well of Heaven-aqua being upon the land, and which is more powerful and efficacious than the Tunbridge water.*

Looking at our map of 1821, which only shows the old Roman road, the new road is our very own A702, and we still have the Dumfries “coach” stopping on request.

I’m not sure of the whereabouts of the mansion, but the heavenly aqua well can still be found, though I can’t vouch for its efficaciousness!

Still to work out why this particular paper was kept by one of our ancestors – maybe it was just lining a drawer?

Anna Woolverton

# Diary notes



## Forthcoming events

**Cuppa and company**, Thursday 1 February 2024, 2-4pm

**Cuppa and company**, Thursday 8 February 2024, 2-4pm

**Carlops Kirk Session**, Thursday 8 February 7.30pm

**Soup lunch**, Wednesday 14 February 2024, 12.00-1.30pm

**Cuppa and company**, Thursday 15 February 2024, 2-4pm

**Cuppa and company**, Thursday 22 February 2024, 2-4pm

**Coffee drop-in**, Saturday 25 February 2024, 10.30am-12noon

**Cuppa and company**, Thursday 29 February 2024, 2-4pm

**Cuppa and company**, Thursday 7 March 2024, 2-4pm

**Soup lunch**, Wednesday 13 March 2024, 12.00-1.30pm

**Cuppa and company**, Thursday 14 March 2024, 2-4pm

**Cuppa and company**, Thursday 21 March 2024, 2-4pm

**Cuppa and company**, Thursday 28 March 2024, 2-4pm

**Coffee drop-in**, Saturday 30 March 2024, 10.30am-12noon

## Contacts

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## Material for next issue

To Julie Gamble by Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February