



CARLOPS CHURCH

In the community, for the community

Newsletter

Volume 18, Number 3; March 2024

Services, March 2024

Services held in church and available via Zoom
Request link from sessionclerk@carlopschurch.org

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3 March 10am: Rev Dr Tony Foley
10 March 10am: David Henderson-Howat
17 March 10am: Mary McElroy
24 March 10am: Rev Dr Tony Foley
31 March 10am: Murray Campbell
7 April 10am: Rev Dr Tony Foley

Join us, in the church, and in other activities

We promise you a warm welcome

www.carlopschurch.org

Carlops is one of the West Tweeddale linkage of churches

www.westtweeddale.org.uk



Our Minister

‘Against Christianity’

There is no doubt that Christianity has indelibly marked Western civilisation. And yet the New Testament never mentions Christianity. It does not contain the concept of Christianity. It does not preach Christianity. It does not encourage Christians to preach Christianity. Neither Jesus nor his apostles preached Christianity. During those early centuries when the Church was in her vibrant infancy, she did not preach Christianity. Why not? Perhaps because to preach Christianity is to preach ourselves and Jesus did not encourage us to preach ourselves.

The emphasis of the New Testament Gospel message does not lie in its advocacy of a set of doctrines, much less a specific moral and ethical code called Christianity. The New Testament is not an ideological tract it does not teach an ideology. Yes, it does present a certain view of the world and of reality. A view that has propositional content. But it is a fatal error to think that it was ever intended to be systemised with the result being a “worldview” called Christianity. Rather the New Testament is chiefly concerned with the uniqueness of a specific person, Jesus of Nazareth.

Also contrary to popular belief the New Testament does not urge us to embrace ‘religion.’ In fact, some of the best-known books in the New Testament are concerned with battling the toxic nature of ‘getting religion’ and its subsequent religiosity. That is why the New Testament does not represent new Christians as people who ‘got religion.’ In fact, all the early converts to the Gospel were already deeply religious people before they ever became followers of Jesus. All of Jesus’ apostles were very devout Jews, in the stories in the *Book of Acts*, the Roman centurion, Cornelius, and the Ethiopian Eunuch were deeply religious people before ever becoming followers of Jesus. The new Gentile converts who filled the New Testament churches were in their previous life very devout idol worshippers. None of these people ‘got religion’ when they became followers of Jesus, they already had religion but the religion they had wasn’t working.

As human being we are always desiring one thing over another, aiming for one thing instead of another, thinking one way over another. It is not that *the stuff* inside of us is unformed but rather it is badly aimed and wrongly formed and therefore, needs to be transformed. To put it in computer terminology becoming a Christian is not a case of having our ‘religious programming’ updated to the latest ‘Christianity version’. Actually, it is more like having a whole new operating system. In a late-night conversation in John’s Gospel Jesus describes becoming a Christian as akin to rebirthing. Not unlike our first birth it is something we are involved in but for the most part it is

something that happens to us. According to Jesus a person who becomes one of his followers is not someone who has adopted a certain moral and ethical code. Rather, they are a human being who has become 'human again' but in a rather unique way.

Why not take time this week to read chapter 3 of John's Gospel, and think about the story, the characters, and the conversation.

Peace, Tony

News



Holy Week Pilgrimage Services

Monday 25th March - 7pm - Tweedsmuir Church - Theme: He overturned the money changers' tables - led by Fiona Burnett and David Henderson-Howat

Tuesday 26th March - 7pm - Broughton Church - Theme: He ate with tax collectors and sinners - led by Peter Worthington and Kevin Scott

Wednesday 27th March - 7pm - Skirling Church - Theme: He washed his disciples' feet - led by Isobel Hunter and Steven Whalley

Thursday 28th March - 7pm - Newlands Church - Theme: He broke bread and shared wine - Communion service led by Rev. Tony Foley

Friday 29th March - 8pm - Carlops Church - Theme: He prayed that there might be another way - Tenebrae service led by Murray Campbell and the Worship Team

Studies for Lent

For Lent we will be discussing **Stephen Cottrell's** book ["The Things He Did"](#) which covers the things Jesus did during the final week of his life starting with riding a colt into Jerusalem.

There will be two identical programmes lasting six weeks. One will be online using **Zoom** and the other in person in **Skirling Village Hall**.

Week 1: He rode into Jerusalem on a donkey

Week 2: He overturned the money changers' tables

Week 3: He ate with tax collectors and sinners

Week 4: He washed his disciples' feet

Week 5: He broke bread and shared wine

Week 6: He prayed that there might be another way

In person - Fridays in Skirling Village Hall from 10.30 am to 12 noon, until Friday 22nd March. Led by members of the Worship Team.

Via Zoom - Mondays from 7.00pm to 8.00pm until Monday 25th March.

Led by Kevin Scott & Steven Whalley

[Launch Meeting - Zoom](#) Meeting ID: 860 2470 0825 Passcode: 587568

If you haven't bought the book, the study is fully available at no cost on this website.

[The Things He Did - Home Groups](#)

Man Soup – Carlops 2024 Wednesday 13th March

Man Soup returns to Carlops Church on Wednesday 13 March 2024, 12 noon to 1.30pm.

- Relax in Carlops' Cosy Café
- Sample our Selected Super Soups
- Listen to the Carolling Consommé Cooks

All are welcome for food, fun and festivities. We look forward to greeting you, feeding you, and serenading you.

The Man Soup team

Carlops Easter Breakfast - Sunday 31st March, 9am

Join us for breakfast in Carlops Village Hall on Easter Sunday morning at 9am.

All most welcome.

Our usual 10am service will be held afterwards in the church.

World Day of Prayer - Friday 1st March

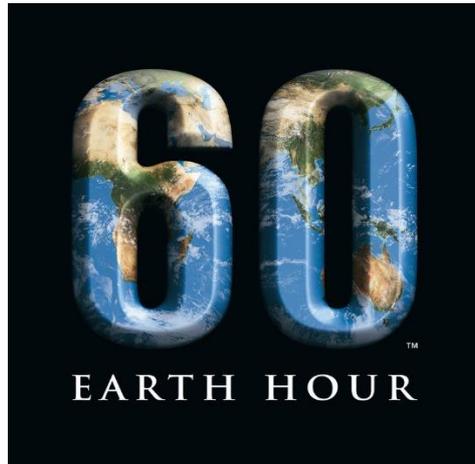
The World Day of Prayer service will be held in St Andrews Church, West Linton on Friday 1st March at 2:30pm.

The service this year has been written by women from Palestine.

After the service refreshments with a Palestinian theme will be served.

[Palestine 2024 – World Day of Prayer \(Scottish Committee\) \(wdpScotland.org.uk\)](http://wdpScotland.org.uk)

Earth Hour 2024 – Saturday 23rd March



Saturday 23rd 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.’

West Tweeddale Parishes Diary

In the last edition of the newsletter the link to the linkage diary wasn't working – please use this link instead [West Tweeddale Parishes -](#)
All the events noted in our newsletter are listed there.

Lost Ring



This ring was discovered after our Carol Service in December. If you recognise it, please get in touch.

Carlops Kirk Session 8th February – Brief report

A Kirk Session meeting was held in the church on the evening of Thursday 8th February. Discussions ranged from changes to the communion roll, property, the Trustees' Report and accounts (approved), safeguarding, the Local Church Review, Eco Group activities and services and social events.

Local Church Review. After the congregational meeting on 27th January the linkage churches were given 3 questions about their future plans to go away and think about.

These were -

- What are our priorities?
- Who will be involved?
- How can Presbytery help?

Rennie McElroy has prepared a response to these questions, which is based on the contents of the recently updated Carlops *Forward Plan*.

In AOB Sheena Livingstone mentioned that she had no response to messages sent to our contact Robert in Malawi for some time. She has reached out to him again and he has now replied, but the news about his personal situation and the hardship being felt in the country in general is worrying. We hope to be able to offer further support and any plan will be communicated in church and via the newsletter as soon as possible.

Card payments in church

To enable card payments in church a Payaz digital payment console has been installed. It's now possible to give an offering on Sundays, pay for Fair Trade goods, greetings cards, jams and jellies, or to make whatever contribution you can during soup lunches, coffee drop-ins or Cuppa and Company with a quick on-screen selection and tap of your card. Try it out next time you're with us!

Pastoral Group

We are a small group of people who are there to offer a listening ear in confidence.

If you know of anyone who might appreciate a visit, please do contact our minister The Rev Tony Foley TFoley@churchofscotland.org.uk or Jean Howat howatjean@gmail.com

We are not professional counsellors but rather sympathetic listeners.

Quiet Space at St Mungo's Saturday 9th March 10.30am – 3 pm

We are organising a Quiet Space at St Mungo's church, West Linton on Saturday 9th March 10.30-3pm.

Pop in to find peace and quiet , walk the labyrinth, light a candle, enjoy refreshments and gentle fellowship.

Everyone of any age is welcome.

Do pop in for how ever long you want.

Markie Wodifield

Messy Church – Sunday 17th March 4pm



Please come and join us for our next Messy Church session on Sunday 17th March at 4pm at the **New Church Hall, West Linton**. The theme is Joseph.

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

Baby Brunch – 10 years old in May

As many of you may know, Baby Brunch meets in the Old Church Hall on Friday mornings during school term time.

On 31st May this year it will be 10 years since our first ever Baby Brunch session. The aim from the start was to provide a warm and welcoming place for parents and carers with babies and young toddlers to come and socialise with others. We were supported by a grant from the Church of Scotland “Go For It Fund” to get started.

I don't know how many families we have known in that time, but I can report that in the course of 2023, 39 families came to Baby Brunch for at least part of the year. This included familiar faces from the previous year, return of families with a new little one, and well as many new faces.

We started out as a band of 4/5 volunteers, some of whom attended every week. We now have 12 volunteers and 2 more about to join us, we have a rota with 3 for the full morning and a 4th coming in to help over the busy time. Those of us who have been involved from the start, (and are now 10 years older), are delighted to have so much help! Most of our volunteers have joined us through word of mouth and just seem to appear when we have been in need! We are hugely grateful to them all for their time and commitment.

The role of volunteers is to do the “housekeeping” for the group but it is also about chatting to parents/ carers, introducing newcomers to others, holding a baby to allow the adult to get a coffee/ attend to a sibling, (or just to have baby cuddles!!)

From the start Baby Brunch was known for home baking and good coffee, and in recent years we have had a group of volunteer scone makers, who bake for Baby Brunch on a rota basis. Their contribution is very much appreciated. The scones are intended for adults with a choice of “snacks” for the children. I think sometimes adults end up sharing their scone with their child!

While the majority of those who come are from within our Linkage area, over the years we have had families from Lasswade/Peebles/Penicuik. Usually on a recommendation of a local user with whom they are friends.

Yes, Friday mornings can be hectic and we go home to sit quietly and put our feet up, but the reward of receiving such warm and positive feedback from those who have attended the Group makes it all worthwhile!

Seeing children around the village “all grown up” and still chatting who families to speak of their warm memories of Baby Brunch, and the support it provided, is an added bonus as well.

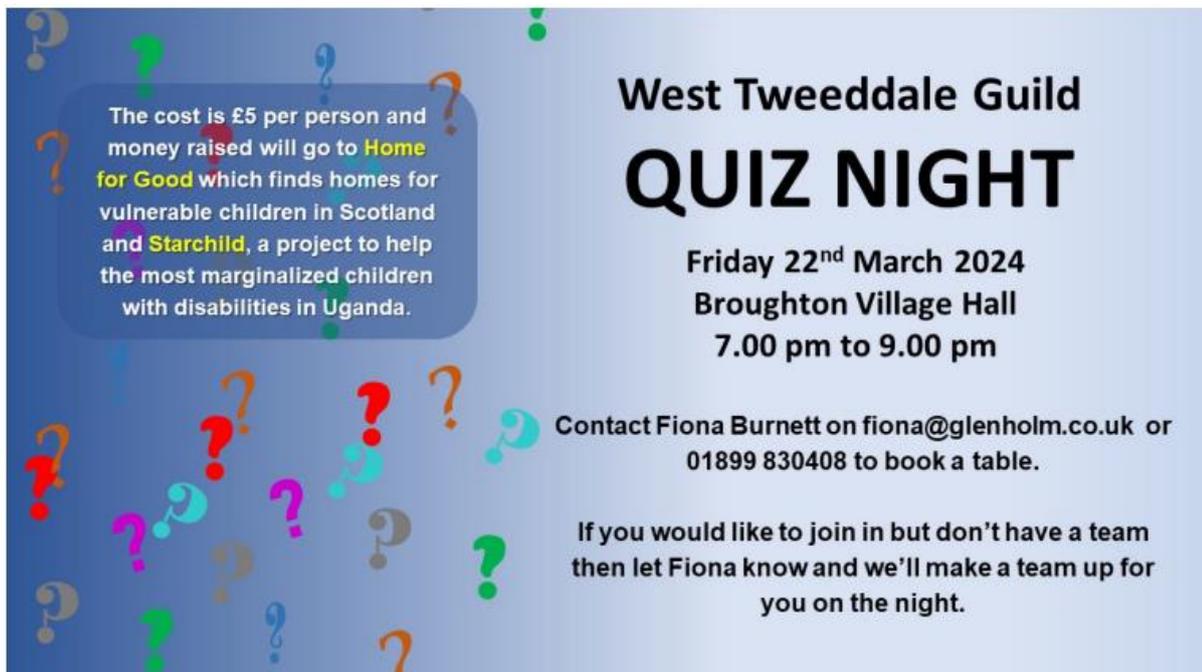
Mary Turnbull

Baby Brunch – every Friday during term time 10 – 11.30 in the Old Church Hall, West Linton. For parents, grandparents and carers with young children.

Guild meeting

The last meeting of the session is on Wednesday 20th March in Broughton Village Hall at 2.30pm. This will be our AGM followed by afternoon tea. All welcome to all events.

West Tweeddale Guild - Quiz night

A promotional poster for a quiz night. The background is light blue with scattered question marks in various colors (red, green, blue, orange, purple, grey). On the left, a dark blue rounded rectangle contains text about the cost and charity. On the right, the event details are listed in bold black text.

The cost is £5 per person and money raised will go to **Home for Good** which finds homes for vulnerable children in Scotland and **Starchild**, a project to help the most marginalized children with disabilities in Uganda.

**West Tweeddale Guild
QUIZ NIGHT**

**Friday 22nd March 2024
Broughton Village Hall
7.00 pm to 9.00 pm**

Contact Fiona Burnett on fiona@glenholm.co.uk or 01899 830408 to book a table.

If you would like to join in but don't have a team then let Fiona know and we'll make a team up for you on the night.



The Column

Grace before meals

Am I right that though “saying Grace” is still done in church and by some institutions at formal dinners, this once normal practice throughout society has for long become a rarity even in committed Christian households? If so, then isn’t it surely high time in this day and age that people like us recovered – if only for our own good – the ancient wisdom of never eating at home without an open expression of thanks?

Now, just as it’s true that in our day we can catch ourselves rattling off The Lord’s Prayer from memory without pondering its implications, so in the past the traditional Graces could become near-automatic and unworthy even in the most pious of families.

There’s a story from Karl Barth, the 20th Century theologian of such penetrating piety that, early in the 1930s, while most Christians on the Continent were falling under the spell of Adolf Hitler, he realised what Nazism would mean and actually even set about inspiring a new church that would challenge the State! But meantime, at home, the devout Karl Barth and his wife decided that saying Grace had become an empty ritual at their meal-times, so they would try foregoing the formality. Came a day when a fellow theologian joined them for lunch, Karl began a Grace and their wee boy piped up, “Daddy, why do we only say Grace when we have an important visitor?”

For our day and age, a Grace that is often used in Iona Abbey might make us think and help get us right ...

O God, to those who are hungry, give bread; and, to those who have bread, give a hunger for justice.

Jack Kellet

Diary notes



Forthcoming events

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

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

Man 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

Easter Breakfast, Sunday 31 March 2024, 9am Village Hall

Cuppa and company, Thursday 4 April 2024, 2-4pm

Soup lunch, Wednesday 10 April 2024, 12.00-1.30pm

Cuppa and company, Thursday 11 April 2024, 2-4pm

Cuppa and company, Thursday 18 April 2024, 2-4pm

Cuppa and company, Thursday 25 April 2024, 2-4pm

Coffee drop-in, Saturday 27 April 2024, 10.30am-12noon

Cuppa and company, Thursday 2nd May 2024, 2-4pm

Contacts

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TBC

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Material for next issue

To Julie Gamble by Monday 26th March