



CARLOPS CHURCH

In the community, for the community

Newsletter

Volume 18, Number 9; September 2024

Services, September 2024

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

:
1 September 10am: Chris Levison
8 September 10am: Patsy Campbell
15 September 10am: Rev Dr Tony Foley
22 September 10am: Kevin Scott
29 September 10am: Isobel Hunter
6 October 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



The peace of grace and the grace of peace

“Grace is unmoved.

It is the light that melts the spring,

where words and world

fill up with meaning.” – Jan Zwicky (poet, philosopher)

Words matter; they carry meaning. Like signposts they point to a shared reality. Like tunnels, they help us get in or to get out of concepts. What we mean by our words matter. The casual acquiescence to phrases like “alternative facts” and “post-truth” or the vacuous use of the term “god” is not without political, social, and personal cost. In a landscape where signposts are allowed to mean different things to different individuals it is very easy to get lost. There is no culture without a common standard of meaning, a shared understanding that offers a sense of connection to and regard for others. In a world marked by discord and division and the violence that so often follows a shared understanding is vital that we attend to what we mean by our words.

In a world longing for peace and a Church praying for peace what do we mean, by the word “peace”? Do we mean an absence of strife? Do we mean the act of intentionally forgetting to forge a common future or do we mean a forgiveness that begins with assigning blame but ends with showing mercy and giving grace? It often seems that what most people mean by “peace” is victory. The victory of their side while to the others ‘peace’ means the consequence of defeat. In the fractious world of international and national politics peace increasingly feels like a place we do not know how to fully inhabit anymore.

In the Bible, the word *shalom* is used to refer to peace. It describes a situation where the well-being, prosperity, and security of all is allowed to flourish. Its meaning is not limited to the political and social domains - to the absence of war and the end of social strife - but also to the personal and the inter-personal. In its best form the *shalom* God offers us and wants for us, is characterised not by justice for all, but by grace toward all, to quote one well-known rabbi:

*“Where there is strict justice there is no shalom,
and where there is shalom there is no strict justice.”*

*The grace and peace of God be with you all,
Tony*

News



Will you help at Carlops Church Social Events?

Social events are an important part of Carlops Church's service to the community. They attract people from across the Carlops district and further afield, and passers-by who call in whenever the church doors are open. Engaging such a wide range of people earns the church respect and support, and is critical to its health and survival. That support is both heartfelt and practical: soup lunches raise over £1,000 every year to help maintain the church building; other events benefit charities chosen by the supporters themselves. Without such help, it would be difficult to balance the books, or support deserving causes, or tackle major projects. Patio garden? Refurbishment?

Planning these occasions for 2024-25 has confirmed a need for more help to run them. Events like Soup lunch, Cuppa and company, and Coffee drop-in all run as scheduled, but increasingly, too much is falling upon too few people. It is true that when help has been sought urgently for specific dates, it has been forthcoming, but ...

If established and popular events are to continue securely, we need more people to help organise and lead them – make them happen. If that seems daunting, be assured that it's more commonsense than rocket science, and step-by-step guidelines are available.

All offers of help are welcome; you don't need to be "in with the church bricks". Indeed, one of the reasons for hosting such events is to offer something to people who are not! You don't need to do everything; cherry-pick the events that appeal to you. Only a few more people are needed, and there's no need to do a stint every week or every month. If four or five people help two or three times a year each, the problem is largely solved.

If you don't fancy working on established events but could offer something different – tell us. We don't need to do "same old" for ever. New activities, and new ways of running existing activities, are welcome.

If you are prepared to help, or have ideas, talk to any of those listed below. Please get in touch; don't assume "Yes, I see that's an issue, but surely someone else will ..."

And to everyone already contributing – grateful thanks and we look forward to working with you this autumn!

Nan Buchan 07840 646 124
Mary Levison 07990 731 858
Rennie McElroy 07990 703 550

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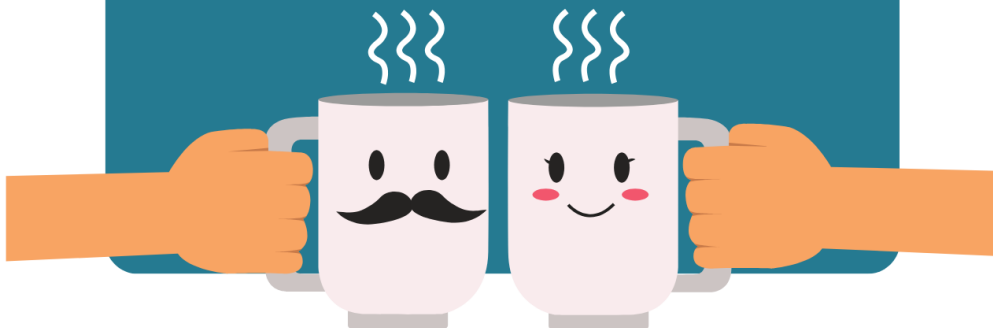


**Drop-in Coffee Morning
Carlops Church on the last
Saturday each month.
10.30am to 12 noon.**

Cuppa & Company



**Carlops Church
Thursdays
2-4pm**



Soup Lunch, Wednesday 11th September

Soup lunch returns on Wednesday 11th September after the summer break. Hope to see you there!

Carlops Kirk Session

The next meeting of Carlops Kirk Session will be in the church at 7pm on Tuesday 3rd September 2024.

Meteorological Miscellanea

Last month I reported that we were on course for an average rainfall total. A dry end to the month left us on a total of 2.81 inches (71.4mm) which was over an inch below the 30 year average for July. Furthermore it was the driest month since June last year. At the end of the month there were 4 dry days in a row. We have to go back to April for a drier spell. Cause for celebration!

The 12th August was eventful especially at 8.15am. The remnants of “Storm Debby”, which originated in southern USA and gave Montreal it’s wettest day on record, “buckled our jet stream” as it crossed the North Atlantic, which pushed very warm air north from France and Spain giving us a “heat spike”. By 8.15am the UK was getting 2083 lightning strikes per hour and by the time I logged onto netweather.tv’s lightning map for a colourful ‘screen grab’ there had been 11,434 strikes. There was much prolonged rumbling over the Pentland Hills but little rain. Later Cambridge recorded 34.8C (95F) - the warmest day in the UK this year. We managed 70.5F (21.4C). That night the aurora borealis was widely seen, but I missed it.

For 30 years I have kept a tally of the number of days each summer that the temperature reaches or exceeds 70 degrees Fahrenheit (I still prefer “old money”) - a measure of a summer’s status. The coolest summer was 1998 with just 4 days. The warmest summer was 2021 with 44 days. This year, so far, we stand at 23 - just in the top half. We have had 70’s in September 13 times and as late as September 30th. So there is a bit of time yet, but I’ve noted recently that the rowan berries are ripening!

Peter Woolverton, Pyethall

A celebration of Faith in West Tweeddale 12th October, Broughton Village Hall 10am – 1pm

the parishes of West Tweeddale would like to invite you to join us for a 'Celebration of Faith in West Tweeddale'. Our guest speaker is Rev Peter Wood (Pioneer and New Housing Co-ordinator for the CoS Lothian Presbytery). We will be meeting for coffee & cake, followed by worship, a café style inter-active teaching, a time of question and answer, all followed by a delicious lunch. We will meet from 10am – 1pm please feel free to come when you can and leave when you need to.

Completely free to attend. Registration will open shortly.

Everyone very welcome, family friendly.

Praise Band – appeal for musicians and singers

Can you help?

I am putting together a praise band to participate in the celebration of faith being organised by the parish of West Tweeddale on Saturday 12th October.

If you play an instrument (ANY instrument) or sing, could you come and join us?

We will be leading 4 hymns for which I can provide the music. If your instrument plays in a different key, parts can be provided in the correct key for you.

The hymns will be:

Gather us in by Marty Haugen

Knowing you by Graham Kendrick

Seek ye first by Karen Lafferty

Shine Jesus shine by Graham Kendrick.

Free lunch for all participants!

Please contact me to let me know that you are interested, and I will send you the music.

With thanks

Anne Dawson

tweedmuir@yahoo.com

07748638933

Gatherings at Whim Care Centre – 1st Wednesday of the month at 2pm

The Guild have arranged this, next gathering is Wednesday 4th Sept, and Margaret Habeshaw writes

“A short, informal little service to be held in the Whim Care Centre on the 1st Wednesday of the month. St Mungos folk have been doing this on the 2nd and 4th weeks. Interested Whim residents are drawn together in the lounge area and have been enjoying this time together.

I will likely be taking my keyboard for some cheerful hymns, but we are in need of folk to lead the singing and we are hoping that we can be joined by one or two from our churches to help with this. Entrance is by the door down the slope at the side of the building.

We will be starting at 2 pm, for a service perhaps lasting 30 minutes and we will likely be offered a cup of tea later.”

Bridge players - Charity Event Sat 21st Sept 2 – 5pm St Mary’s Hall, Biggar

To raise funds for Cancer Research UK, Biggar Bridge Club invite you to an afternoon of social bridge including afternoon tea and prizes.

Tickets £10

Contact Isobel Hunter on 07955 876 179 or isobel@skirlinghouse.com

Harvest Supper – Newlands, Sunday 6th October

6.30pm

We will be holding our **Harvest Supper** at Newlands church on Saturday 6th October at 6.30pm. It will be a pot luck supper, where everyone brings food to share and there will be a collection in aid of a charity which is tbc.

Everyone is warmly invited and if you would like a ticket, please contact Jean Howat – howatjean@gmail.com 01968 660677

Can you also indicate if you will be bringing a savoury or a sweet dish.



Messy Church will be starting later this autumn, in November. Dates to be confirmed in October.

Sessions start on a Sunday at 4pm prompt in the New Church Hall at West Linton and finish 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 (01968 660677) howatjean@gmail.com

The Column

The lost and found art of conversation

When Julie asked me if I would like to write something for the Church newsletter I did ponder whether inspiration or desperation had been the driving force behind her request. Nevertheless, here we are and let it be stated from the outset; Julie must be held accountable for whatever follows.

At age 17 I left behind the rural village I had called home and moved to the bright city (then town) lights of Stirling to study at university. Village life had led me to believe that no-one should be walked past on the street without a bit of a blether or at the very least an enquiry as to the well-being of the passer-by, be they stranger or friend. You can imagine my worldlier friends' amusement when I returned from my first foray into Stirling outraged that no-one on the high street had returned any of my greetings. Was it too much to ask for someone to simply say "Aye, you?" when a perfect stranger asked "Awright?" on Stirling high street?

If Stirling knocked a few of my corners off, imagine what happened when I started working and latterly living in Edinburgh. I lived in my flat in the town for 8 years. Of the thirty-three flats in my block, I conversed with only one neighbour and the conversation was the same each time. This is how the conversation would go:

Neighbour 1: "Hi, I took a parcel in for you."

Neighbour 2: "Thanks"

I say Neighbour 1 and 2 because we took turns to play each part and, in this way, we had a bit of variety to spice up our exchanges.

A lack of conversation was not a motivating factor for our move to Nine Mile Burn, more a lack of space and garden. However, it soon became clear that people around here have a lot to get off their chests. The previous owner's parting words were that if we were ever in a rush, we should not engage people in conversation as "you WILL be detained."

Her words were entirely accurate but also quite rich given our first viewing had taken north of an hour and the second we ended up drinking coffee with her for the best part of an afternoon.

Meeting someone on the road here becomes an event, your walk becomes a blether until the weather turns or you are issued with an invitation for a drink. You can go for several days without seeing anyone; does that create a thirst for conversation? Living here has taught us that you need your neighbours and not just for taking parcels in. Recognition of that perhaps drives us to give each other more time than is typical elsewhere.

Whatever the reason, we have learned to not worry so much about where we were trying to get to or what time we said we would start making dinner and just go with the flow. We have rolled back the years to our own rural upbringings and relearned the art of blethering. So, if a stranger walks past you and asks “Awright?” feel free to say “Aye, you?”

Sharon Hutchison

Do you have something to share?

Contributions for *The Column* are sought for forthcoming issues. If you have anything you'd like to share – a thought, a poem - it will be gratefully received.

Email to julieggamble@yahoo.co.uk

If you need help

Our linkage of 6 churches has some help available for anyone in need.

Food bank

The minister's benevolent fund offers emergency assistance throughout our linkage areas. If you require assistance, please contact us by email. All emails will be dealt with in the strictest of confidence. People may need other kinds of support and we are also ready to help with that or direct you to others who can

emergencyfoodbank@standrews-westlinton.org

Pastoral Group

We are a small group of people who are there to offer a listening ear in confidence. We are not professional counsellors but rather sympathetic listeners.

If you know anyone who might appreciate a visit, please do contact our minister tfoley@churchofscotland.org or our pastoral group lead Jean Howat howatjean@gmail.com

Diary notes



Forthcoming events

Coffee drop-in, Saturday 31 August 2024, 10.30am-12noon

Carlops Kirk Session, Tuesday 3 September 2024, 7.pm

Gaelic Psalm Singing, Tuesday 3 September 2024, 7.30–9.30pm (venue TBC)

Cuppa and company, Thursday 5 September 2024, 2-4pm

Gaelic Psalm Singing, Tuesday 10 September 2024, 7.30–9.30pm

Soup Lunch, Wednesday 11 September 2024, 12 -1.30pm

Cuppa and company, Thursday 12 September 2024, 2-4pm

Gaelic Psalm Singing, Tuesday 17 September 2024, 7.30–9.30pm

Cuppa and company, Thursday 19 September 2024, 2-4pm

Gaelic Psalm Singing, Tuesday 24 September 2024, 7.30–9.30pm

Cuppa and company, Thursday 26 September 2024, 2-4pm

Coffee drop-in, Saturday 28 September 2024, 10.30am-12noon

Gaelic Psalm Singing, Tuesday 1 October 2024, 7.30–9.30pm

Cuppa and company, Thursday 3 October 2024, 2-4pm

Gaelic Psalm Singing, Tuesday 8 October 2024, 7.30–9.30pm

Soup Lunch, Wednesday 9 October 2024, 12 -1.30pm

Cuppa and company, Thursday 10 October 2024, 2-4pm

Gaelic Psalm Singing, Tuesday 15 October 2024, 7.30–9.30pm

Cuppa and company, Thursday 17 October 2024, 2-4pm

Gaelic Psalm Singing, Tuesday 22 October 2024, 7.30–9.30pm

Cuppa and company, Thursday 24 October 2024, 2-4pm

Coffee drop-in, Saturday 26 October 2024, 10.30am-12noon

Gaelic Psalm Singing, Tuesday 29 October 2024, 7.30–9.30pm

Cuppa and company, Thursday 31 October 2024, 2-4pm

Contacts

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Church Administrator: Kate Whalley

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Office - Friday 9.30 am – 12.30pm

Old Church Hall - Friday 2.00 – 4.00pm

Christian Aid: Mary Levison

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Church bookings: Sheena Livingstone

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Session Clerk and Organist: Murray Campbell

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Treasurer: Mary McElroy

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Material for next issue

To Julie Gamble by Tuesday 24th September