



CARLOPS CHURCH

In the community, for the community

Newsletter

Volume 19, Number 4; April 2025

Services, April 2025

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

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30 March 10am: Patsy Campbell
6 April 10am: Rev Dr Tony Foley
13 April 10am: Murray Campbell
20 April 10am: Steven Whalley
27 April 10am: Patsy Campbell
4 May 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



Having Faith in Faith

To live by faith is not the same as living in certainty. It is logically impossible to be certain about faith. In that sense having faith in God is different to being certain about God. Faith gives us access to the holy and transcendent in ways certainty cannot. Easter is a prime example. It marks the time of year when the Church celebrates the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, a feast day that simultaneously calls forth an act of faith and at the same time affirms that act of faith. For centuries Christians have confessed the Apostle's Creed, which begins with the words, "*I believe...*" not with, "*I am certain ...*". Christians have never been certain. There is too much at stake for that.

Most of the 18th-century philosophers who led the Enlightenment weren't particularly interested in getting rid of religion. They just wanted us to call it faith.

It was an unintentional gift to the Church, because it sought to keep the categories of certainty and faith separate. Our desire for certainty is very understandable especially today when it feels like politically, socially and economically the ground is shifting beneath our feet. We're desperately looking to be certain about something.

And our relationship with God is no different. But the easiest way to destroy someone's love for us is to continually ask them to prove it. All healthy relationships are bound together by faith. All weddings are an act of faith. Our marriages and our friendships are all based on the belief that when a crisis happens, we all hope and believe that family and friends will rush to the emergency room.

It wasn't necessary or certain that God would love us despite our sins, or indeed forgive us. The decision to give those blessings was God's choice. As for faith, that's just our way of accessing those blessings.

Thankfully, for reasons only He knows, God keep choosing to have faith in our faith.
Happy Easter to you and yours.

Peace, Tony



Meteorological Miscellanea

How fickle the weather can be, especially in March. The transition from winter to spring can be early or it can be late. This year we have been flirting with attainable records. Four days before submitting this report I had decided to lead with the dryness of the month and then, in one night, the running rainfall total doubled. I had read that there was a high risk of wildfires across Scotland. There is still a chance of my driest March on record. March 1996 saw just 1.02 inches (26mm). So far, we stand at 0.94 inches. Close!

We came close with the first '60F' of the year on the 21st. The earliest was 19th March in 2005. It has been as late as 9th May in 1998. Kinlochewe read 19C (66.2F). The 22nd followed with 61F, so summer not far away? Well, the maximum temperature on the 23rd was just 45.5F with a cold NE'ly. The North Sea haar never lifted!

There have been wintry elements with 7 overnight frosts. On 3 of those nights the mercury read 25F (-3.9C). There was an 8 am flurry of snow on the 12th and overnight snow on the 14th turned the Pentlands white - just once more? Well, snow in May is not unknown.

The most uplifting aspect of this month has been the sunshine. Just 2 sunless days so far. There were 8 such days in February. We've had 6 'wall to wall' sunny days and out of the wind the warmth of the sun can be enjoyed. At the end of the week the clocks go forward. Hurray! And the daffodils are coming out!

Peter Woolverton, Pyethall

25 March 2025

News



Malawi update

Since last month we have had our contact Robert Chibisa and family join us online for a summary how life is for them and how the project is going. Robert is a Project Facilitator for Development Aid from People to People (DAPP) Malawi. The project was funded by USAID but this funding was paused in January and Robert was told to take unpaid leave.

The project aims to support the building of a Community Development Centre in Makwangwala, Ntcheu District. The main purpose is to promote early childhood development. It will be used as a preschool and vaccination centre for children and to facilitate education around parenting. The main building is almost complete, and Robert's next task is to build a cooking shelter and toilets. Once these are in place the building can open.



Our fundraising continues with £139 donated at our latest Friday night talk. Huge thanks to The Guild who are donating a very generous £500!

So far £1,418 has been raised for the project and £1,311 has been raised to support Robert.

Our Village Talks

Monthly talks and a chance to chat



Upcoming talks

Friday 11th April, 7.30 pm *The Philosophy of Rudolf Steiner* Colin Third and colleagues will talk about the philosophy of Rudolf Steiner and how his gentle approach influences the care of adults with learning disability who live at Garvald West Linton.

Friday 9th May, 7.30 pm Martin O'Dwyer from West Linton Pharmacy will talk about his experiences running a village pharmacy.

Watch this space for more talks in the coming months! Topics to include physiotherapy, a Japanese novel with a local link and an in-person summer garden tour.

Event report – Rona Dodds from Quercus Garden Plants

Gardening locally can literally be an uphill struggle, so we were all riveted by Rona's account of how she and helpers created the beautiful garden at Quercus Garden Plants. The before and after photographs were inspiring and Rona explained how she selected what should grow where and how the plants that prove themselves make it into the sales area.

If you've visited Quercus, you will be able to picture the willow walk and the little bridge over the stream, the herbs planted in a checkerboard pattern and the model railway by the borders on the top tier. The transformation is remarkable and it's obvious that a lot of hard work goes in to keeping everything looking ship-shape.

It's a great place to visit for ideas and to pick up some hardy, locally grown plants.

There was plenty of time for questions after the talk and some gardening problems were undoubtedly solved!

Read more about the garden centre here [Quercus Garden Plants](#)

Lent studies

Lent studies on the theme of forgiveness will continue to take place across the Linkage until Easter.

Tuesdays 10am at the Laurel Bank Tea Room in Broughton

Wednesdays 7pm on Zoom

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88017734989?pwd=z27NKhlfomEM2yB3GFZzSUaifchZE3.1>

Meeting ID: 880 1773 4989 Passcode: 031485

Fridays 10.30am in the home of Patsy and Murray Campbell, Carlops, until Friday 11th April.

The book which supports the studies is *Forgiveness, a Lenten Study* by Marjorie Thompson.

Holy Week and Easter Services Sun 13 April 2025 - Sun 20 April 2025

There will be church services around the linkage during Holy Week and Easter based on the theme of forgiveness.

Palm Sunday 13 April, 11am Joint Service for Upper Tweeddale, Broughton Village Hall

Monday 14 April, 7pm Tweedsmuir Church

Tuesday 15 April, 7pm Broughton Village Hall

Wednesday 16 April, 7pm Skirling Church

Thursday 17 April, 7pm Maundy Thursday Communion Service, Newlands Church

Friday 18 April, 8pm Tenebrae Service - Carlops Church

Saturday 19 April, 10.30am A short prayer wander – Glenholm Churchyard

Easter Breakfast

We will host an Easter Breakfast in the Village Hall from 9am – 10am on Easter Sunday, 20th April.

Hope to see you there!

Volunteers most welcome, just contact Mary Levison or Julie Gamble to see how you can help.

Christian Aid events in May

Soup Lunch - Wednesday 14 May 12.30 – 2pm

Plant Sale – Sat 31 May from 10.30 – 12 noon (during Coffee Drop-In)

Christian Aid Week is 11-17 May 2025 and we will be supporting this with 2 events.

We will be having a Plant Sale, as we did last year. This will coincide with our monthly coffee drop-in so it's a perfect opportunity to chat and have a browse.

As always, we welcome donations of plants – any shape and size – on the day.

This is a great time to get sowing seeds and perhaps even take cuttings from new growth in the garden. Houseplants are always popular so you could check if any of them have 'pups' you could divide and pot on. All your efforts will be for a good cause.

LINTON SINGERS

CHARITY CONCERT SUPPORTING

mary's
meals

a simple solution
to world hunger

GIOACHINO ANTONIO

ROSSINI

Stabat Mater

Conductor – Murray Campbell

with invited Orchestra and Soloists

Caroline Gold - Soprano, Hannah Haynes - Mezzo Soprano

Mathew Todd - Tenor, Tembu Rongong - Baritone

Saturday, 12th APRIL 2025, 7.30PM

CANONGATE KIRK, Edinburgh EH8 8BN



TICKETS £15

Eventbrite

From Choir members

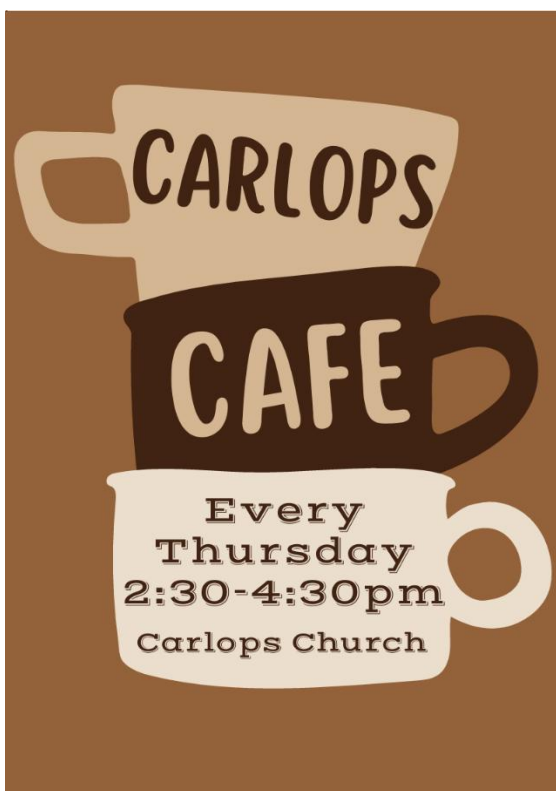
or at the Kirk just before the concert

we get on with

making
music

www.lintonsingers.carlops.net

Our regular events



Keep up to date with all events across the linkage [West Tweeddale Parishes Diary](#)

Carlops Man Soup lunch 2025

Wednesday, 12th March 2025 saw the eighth Man Soup lunch in Carlops Church, when a team of Carlops men made soup (choice of five), served a clientele consisting entirely of volunteers, and then serenaded their captive audience. Twenty-six satisfied customers and £332 raised for Carlops Church's current Malawi support project. Grateful thanks to chefs, singers, soup consumers, donors, and under-the-radar adviseresses.



After Man Soup, the team relaxed and even risked tasting their own products!

The lunch saw (heard, actually!) the première of a new Carlops Soup Song, composed in response to

a brave but perhaps foolhardy comment made in 2024: *I enjoyed Man Soup, but of course, we'd heard the song before (?*!).* The new song is set to the tune of *Clementine*. For those unfortunates who missed the occasion, here are the words. For a repeat auditory experience, come to the next Man Soup lunch on Wednesday, 11th March 2026 (DV).

Carlops Man Soup

*Oh my darling, oh my darling,
Oh my darling, Clementine.
Thou art lost and gone forever.
Dreadful sorry, Clementine.*

Carlops man soup, Carlops man soup,
Carlops man soup, once again.
You're all welcome; please enjoy it.
Just relax, have fun and dine.

We have peeled and chopped and blended;
Seasoned exquisitely too.
Hope you think it's worth the effort.
Our sole aim is to please you.

Read our menu, read our menu.
Think real hard, then take your pick.
Eat it up and banish hunger.
To your ribs, it's sure to stick.

Have some more soup – same or different;
You're the guests, so you can choose.
It is tasty and nutritious;
Better for you than the booze.

Empty soup pots, empty soup pots:

They're just what we like to see.

They're a sign that you've enjoyed it,

And that fills us full of glee.

Thanks for coming, thanks for coming,

And being such a happy throng;

Making man soup, Carlops man soup,

A feast of friendship, soup and song.

See you next year, we hope!

Rennie McElroy

for the 2025 Carlops Man Soup team

***Reminder* Soup Lunch now has a new time of 12.30pm – 2pm**

The Column

What's So Good About Fridays?

Good Friday, the Friday before Easter, is a bit of a misnomer given the event it remembers but it's safe to say that these days Fridays have taken on a mostly positive role. "That Friday Feeling" is a phrase in common usage now, so why are Fridays so 'Good'.

Those of you who are retired may have forgotten the euphoria that sweeps over the worker at clocking-off time on a Friday afternoon. For some of you who are still gainfully employed you may notice that a hush falls over your inbox after Friday lunch time – things are winding down.

What are we feeling in these moments? Is it a 'Christmas Eve' type of anticipation for what's to come? Time with family we've only seen in passing during the week, time to relax, or read, potter, play sports, have long walks with the dog and see friends. On Fridays the weekend is brimming with possibilities. A couple of days like this and we're ready to go back to the coal face.

Not everyone has their 'Friday feeling' on Fridays of course – those who work in shops, restaurants, hospitality, caring professions and many other careers don't have this regular pattern. Is it the same if you know you won't see friends (they're all at their 9-5 jobs) or your family (at school or working), or if you've worked 6 nights in a row and need to readjust to daytime hours before you can get the most out of your time off? I would think you still welcome the rest and chance to recharge whenever it comes.

But not all time away from work is perfect. Weekends can be disappointing, the weather can ruin plans, your team can lose, you can find frustration in a DIY project, or you can fail to make the most of your days off. Despite all this we remain optimistic about the next time.

The idea of 'looking forward' must be central to this. The way that we look forward must be a relatively modern phenomena, and a luxury at that. We don't need to spend all our spare time cleaning, washing, gathering food and fuel, tending animals and crops (though this does sound a lot like my spare time!). It's normal for us to think of spending time doing the things we like rather than the things we need to do to survive. So, Friday gives us that time to indulge in this freedom.

Let's enjoy it and make plans. *Julie Gamble*

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, a good-spirited rant - 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

We are not professional counsellors but rather sympathetic listeners.

Diary notes



Forthcoming events

Coffee drop-in, Saturday 29 March 2025, 10.30am-12noon

Gaelic Psalm Singing, Tuesday 1 April 2025, 7.30–9.30pm

Carlops Cafe, Thursday 3 April 2025, 2.30-4.30pm

Gaelic Psalm Singing, Tuesday 8 April 2025, 7.30–9.30pm

Soup Lunch, Wednesday 9 April 2025, 12.30-2pm

Carlops Cafe, Thursday 10 April 2025, 2.30-4.30pm

**Our Village Talks, Colin Third and colleagues from Garvald West Linton on
“The Philosophy of Rudolf Steiner”**
Friday 11 April 2025, 7.30pm – 8.30pm

Gaelic Psalm Singing, Tuesday 15 April 2025, 7.30–9.30pm

Carlops Cafe, Thursday 17 April 2025, 2.30-4.30pm

Easter Breakfast, Sunday 20 April 2025, 9am-10am in the Village Hall

Gaelic Psalm Singing, Tuesday 22 April 2025, 7.30–9.30pm

Carlops Cafe, Thursday 24 April 2025, 2.30-4.30pm

Coffee drop-in, Saturday 26 April 2025, 10.30am-12noon

Gaelic Psalm Singing, Tuesday 29 April 2025, 7.30–9.30pm

Carlops Cafe, Thursday 1 May 2025, 2.30-4.30pm

Gaelic Psalm Singing, Tuesday 6 May 2025, 7.30–9.30pm

Carlops Cafe, Thursday 8 May 2025, 2.30-4.30pm

Our Village Talks – Martin O’Dwyer from West Linton Pharmacy
Friday 9 May 2025, 7.30pm – 8.30pm

Gaelic Psalm Singing, Tuesday 13 May 2025, 7.30–9.30pm

Soup Lunch, Wednesday 14 May 2025, 12.30-2pm (proceeds to Christian Aid)

Carlops Cafe, Thursday 15 May 2025, 2.30-4.30pm

Gaelic Psalm Singing, Tuesday 20 May 2025, 7.30–9.30pm

Carlops Cafe, Thursday 22 May 2025, 2.30-4.30pm

Gaelic Psalm Singing, Tuesday 27 May 2025, 7.30–9.30pm

Carlops Cafe, Thursday 29 May 2025, 2.30-4.30pm

Christian Aid plant sale and Coffee drop-in, Saturday 31 May 2025, 10.30am-12noon

Contacts

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Church Administrator: Kate Whalley

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Email kate@westlinton.com

Office - Friday 9.30 am – 12.30pm

Old Church Hall - Friday 2.00 – 4.00pm

Christian Aid: Mary Levison

Telephone 01968 674 566

Email marylevison@btinternet.com

Church bookings: Sheena Livingstone

Telephone 01968 661 282

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Coffee drop-in and Carlops Cafe: Mary Levison

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Soup lunch: Nan Buchan

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Material for next issue

To Julie Gamble by Friday 25th April please.