



CARLOPS CHURCH

In the community, for the community

Newsletter

Volume 19, Number 8; Aug 2025

Services, August 2025

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

:

3 Aug 10am: Patsy Campbell
10 Aug 10am: David Henderson-Howat
17 Aug 10am: Rev Dr Tony Foley
24 Aug 10am: Chris Levison
31 Aug 10am: Steven Whalley
7 Sep 10am: Rev Dr Tony Foley

Join us, in the church, and in other activities

We promise you a warm welcome

www.carlopschurch.org

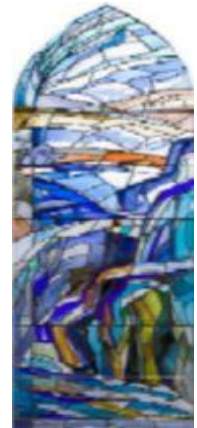
Carlops is one of the West Tweeddale linkage of churches

www.westtweeddale.org.uk

Our Minister

Prayer/Walk

This is the poem that Tony opened his reflection with 27th July, where he talked about prayer.



Prayer/Walk by Malcolm Guite

*A hidden path that starts at a dead end,
Old ways, renewed by walking with a friend,
And crossing places taken hand in hand,*

*The passages where nothing need be said,
With bruised and scented sweetness underfoot
And unexpected birdsong overhead,*

*The sleeping life beneath a dark-mouthed burrow,
The rooted secrets rustling in a hedgerow,
The land's long memory in ridge and furrow,*

*A track once beaten and now overgrown
With complex textures, every kind of green,
Land- and cloud-scape melting into one,*

*The rich meandering of streams at play,
A setting out to find oneself astray,
And coming home at dusk a different way.*

You can read more about the origin of this poem here [Prayer/Walk | Malcolm Guite](#)



Meteorological Miscellanea

For many folk the first week in July spells Wimbledon. Now, do I get on with the gardening jobs or do I get drawn into a five- setter?

On the 1st of July the temperature in London hit 34.7C (that's 94.5F).

Competitors and spectators alike wilted. No problem at this end with 61.5F.

As raindrops ran down our Velux window I settled into the tennis with a clear conscience. As competitors draped themselves with ice packs my thoughts turned to Mr Fahrenheit, Daniel Gabriel to his friends.

Born in 1686 he spent 38 years pottering about with boiling water and thawing ice before proposing his temperature scale in 1724. Hot on his heels came Swedish astronomer Anders Celsius who proposed a simple scale of 100 steps (centum gradus) in 1742. There was much tinkering with the scales for many years to follow. Mr Celsius was keen on fixed reference points – freezing and boiling. On his scale there are 100 degrees between the points. On the Fahrenheit scale there are 180 degrees between the points. The Royal Society got it sorted in 1777. Most countries have opted for degrees C except the US and dinosaurs like myself, but I have more whole numbers with which to play. I use both in Meteorological Miscellanea not knowing readers' preferences. Is anyone else with Daniel Gabriel?

By the end of Wimbledon we had our heat wave – 81F/27.2C – 81 sounding more impressive! In 31 years I have now recorded an '80+' 39 times, thrice this year (equals record). The 11th of July was one of those, happily coinciding with one of 'Our Village Talks' hosted by Carlops Church but this one held at Birchbrae, Macbiehill. It was the perfect evening – still 80F at 7pm, sunny, nae midges, good turnout, good talk, good food and good drink. The star of the evening was a highly organized young Mary who called our names for speedy customized conducted tours to parts of the garden seldom visited. Journeys home to greater Carlops were blessed by the "simmer dim" in the northern sky, silhouetting the Pentland Hills.

Heatwaves tend to be followed by thunderstorms as moister air meets warmth. We don't get many in these parts, once or twice a year, and we

haven't had much drama since 8th September 2022. On Monday 21st July, just as another garden visit was scheduled in the village, I noted all sorts of towering lumps of Cumulus cloud gathering. At about 2.30pm four great crashes of thunder heralded a downpour. Between 2.30pm and 7pm 1.1 inches/28mm rain fell. Later in the evening there was a further 0.78 inches/ 20mm with more thunderous thunder. Excess water cascaded from a Pyethall gutter and somehow found a way through a window frame. The 1.98 inches/50mm for the day was the greatest fall since 23rd May last year. The rainfall tally for the month so far shot up to 5.82 inches – more than we had in the whole of February, March and April put together, which reminds me – July is one of the wettest months of the year, so why do so many folk go on holiday then?

Happy holiday.

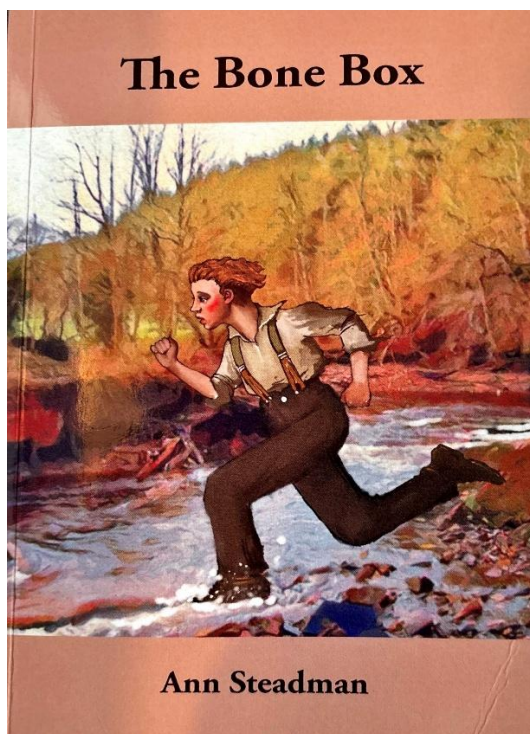
Peter Woolverton, Pyethall, 25 July 2025

News



***The Bone Box*, by Ann Steadman**

Ann's novel, aimed at children in upper primary and beyond, was launched at Penicuik Library on 24th June and is set along the River Esk.



“At just 11 years old, French prisoner-of-war Louis, has his life saved from a murderous bully by the older, wily Giovanni, but it nearly costs the Italian rescuer his life. Sympathetic locals, including prison warder's daughter, Bella, and young tearaway orphan, Jamie, try to save the badly injured Giovanni from a firing squad... And so begins a hair-raising journey along the flooding River Esk. The unlikely friends, accompanied by a tamed wildcat, must face perilous obstacles and natural disaster, ruthlessly persued by cruel head warder, Forsythe, who will stop at nothing to mete out his particular brand of 'justice'. Will Louis and Giovanni survive and escape to freedom... and home?”

I asked Ann how and why she came to write the novel.

“While teaching at Howgate Village School in the 1980's I was struck by how few exciting novels there were for children, especially boys, of 11 upwards. There were a few, such as *The Eagle of the Ninth* by Rosemary Sutcliff and *The Desperate Journey* by Kathleen Fidler, which provided the basis for a most successful project.

I discovered that boys as young as 9, working as cabin boys for the French navy during the Napoleonic Wars were imprisoned with up to 7,000 adult men.

Many of these were of different nationalities but all fighting as mercenaries in the French army.

Despite several attempts at escape, none got far as they lacked the support of local people.

Gradually the idea of an exciting story of a successful escape came to me which could incorporate the problems of bullying, abuse and bereavement.

Having done some research into the historical facts I was astonished at the beauty and workmanship of boxes carved from bone and and dried grasses produced with most primitive tools by some of the prisoners, these were sold to the local population and examples are kept in the collection of the National Museum of Scotland.

The central characters are entirely fictional but the historical facts are correct.

My deputy Marilyn Taylor at Liberton Primary read the first chapters to her P7. They enjoyed the story very much but it has taken 40 years to complete! Eventually I spent 5 summer weeks alone in Italy with no distractions and finished the book.

Luckily I met Mel Stills the wonderful illustrator through an ex-pupil and feel she captures perfectly the central characters as well as a sense of the period.

The first children's publisher I sent the script to accepted it."

Copies are available directly from Ann at £8 each

Rotas!

- Flowers in Church

If you'd like to help with flowers in church please speak to Hilary about being included on a rota.

- Coffee After Church

A reminder that there is a rota for coffee on the church noticeboard, please add your name to any Sundays you can do.



Our Village Talks

Monthly talks and a chance to chat

(Raising funds for Malawi (suggested £5 donation per event))

Friday 8th August, 7.30pm Butterflies on the Pentlands

Bob Douglas will talk on the butterflies native to Carlops and surroundings, and on the Friends of the Pentlands 'meadow-making' programme.

Friday 12 September, 7.30pm

Conservation, Protection & Enhancement

Andrew Marsden, Chairman, Friends of the Pentlands, will present on the Pentlands Way and the E2 Long Distance Path. Andrew's talk will cover woodland creation and path maintenance.

Event recap

Garden Design in the Pentlands with Gill Gold

Gill's gorgeous garden at Macbiehill proved a perfect setting on a perfect evening (see weather report earlier in this issue). About 30 of us listened to how Gill and family created the lovely setting for this talk and how it has changed and grown. There were plenty of questions and then we took guided tours from Gill and Douglas (and from wee Mary, who had earlier named the geese and continued in a proprietorial vein from there). The vegetables were enormous, and all the plants looked happy and well situated. Most importantly the garden just a great place to be.



Patsy, Murray, Ann, Peter and Anna enjoying refreshments

The Pimm's was a hit, thanks to Sophie, and Gill had provided plenty of home baking which went down a treat. £155 was raised for our Malawi project.

Gill's top 3 tips

1. Firstly, and probably most important is to create good wind-breaks so that the leaves are not damaged and then choose the right plant for your area. You can get advice on this through many books or alternatively read the Royal Horticultural Society's online guide on plants suitable for exposed Scottish areas. Local advice and plants can be obtained by chatting to Rhona Dodds at Quercus Plants in Macbiehill.

It is so easy to see special plants on television garden shows or at Chelsea but do your homework and it will be much more rewarding for you if you work within the limits of this area. There are still very many plants that do work well here.

Select a good structure to your garden with trees and shrubs which have a mix of deciduous and evergreen as that will give the overall shape of your garden and year-round interest, and then you can fill the gaps with perennials and perhaps a few annuals

Visit gardens open through the Scotland Gardens Scheme near to where you live and look

to see if their facilities match what you have at home. You might get good ideas of what works but might also be able to buy cheap plants.

2. Good soil is so important, so feed your soil annually with either dung, compost or any organic material you can source so that your soil is in good condition to feed your lovely plants, and this will give them the best start possible and you will reap the rewards. Create a place to make a compost heap and recycle all your waste organic materials.
3. Try to spread out the gardening jobs so they are little and often, and then you will keep on top of looking after your garden and it won't become an overwhelming chore.



Sophie and Mary on cake duty

Recommended books

“Right Plant, Right Place” by Nicola Ferguson and pay heed to the advice on the types of plant that will work in a wet and windy place.

Another good book is **“Tough Plants for Tough Places”** by Gary Vergine and Michael Jefferson-Brown.



Mary in tour guide mode



Gill kindly provided this picture of the wider garden on a different day

Reuse, Repair and Share Hub at Whitmuir

This hub at Whitmuir is a place where household goods can be donated and sold, saving them from landfill and giving them a second life.

They can take non-upholstered household items, furniture, kitchen equipment, electrical items (but not white goods), gardening tools and mowers/trimmers, garden furniture, mobility kit. They cannot accept books, clothes, car seats, mattresses, bedding, bike helmets. They are well stocked and worth a browse if there is something you need but don't want to buy new.

Their goal is to become a lending library for household items, garden equipment, mobility aids etc. and to become a repair hub too. Currently, community groups can request free tools for garden projects.

<https://reuserepairshare.org.uk>

[Facebook](#)

Reminder - West Linton Post Office to Reopen 5th September 2025

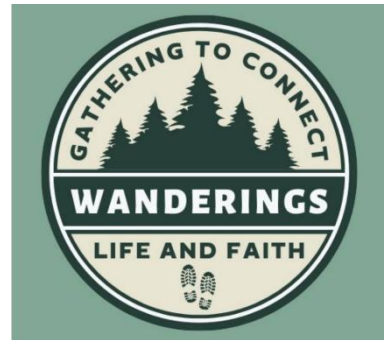
The funding required to re-open the Post Office in West Linton was secured last October and the date has now been set for reopening – Friday 5th September.

Opening hours will be:

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 10am-4pm

Wed and Sat 10am-1pm

Wanderings – gathering to connect life and faith



Wanderings is a reflective woodland wander; a gathering where all ages can reflect, talk and walk together. There will be some thoughts shared, a Bible verse, story or poem perhaps, time to chat, share and consider as well as some silence and a cuppa.

Wanderings is being run in partnership with the Church of Scotland with some support from The Novum Trust and Cairn Movement. We meet twice a month, once on a Saturday afternoon (usually the last of the month) and once on Wednesday or Thursday mornings followed by an option to join in Bite and Blether or Skirling Community Lunch.

Everyone is welcome, if you would like to join Wanderings just turn up at the right place, usually Broughtonknowe woods main carpark, with weather suitable clothing and stout boots with good grip, some of the routes are a little steep, rough and muddy. We will be walking about 3km and should be back to the car park within an hour and a half. There are composting toilets on site, if you have any additional needs or questions get in touch. Anyone under 18y needs a responsible adult with them. What3words/// certainty.questions.flown OS grid ref: NT103391

Dates for next meetings

Aug 6th 9.30am Broughtonknowe then Bite and Blether in Broughton Village Hall

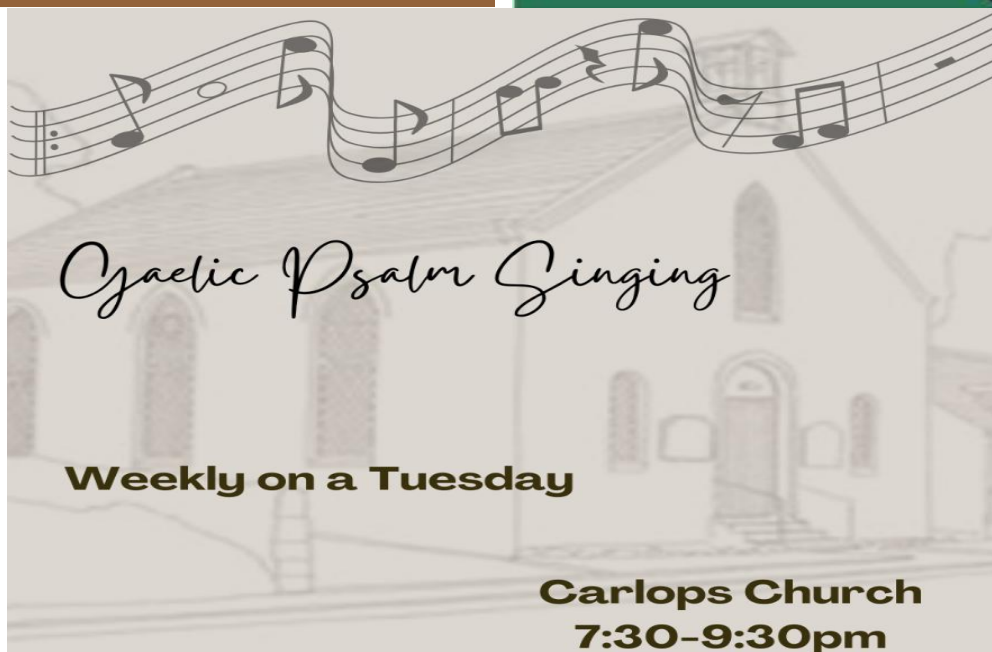
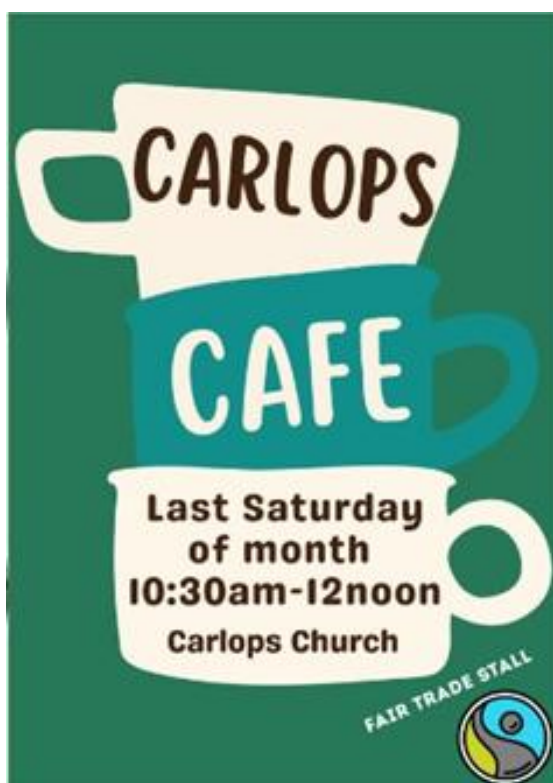
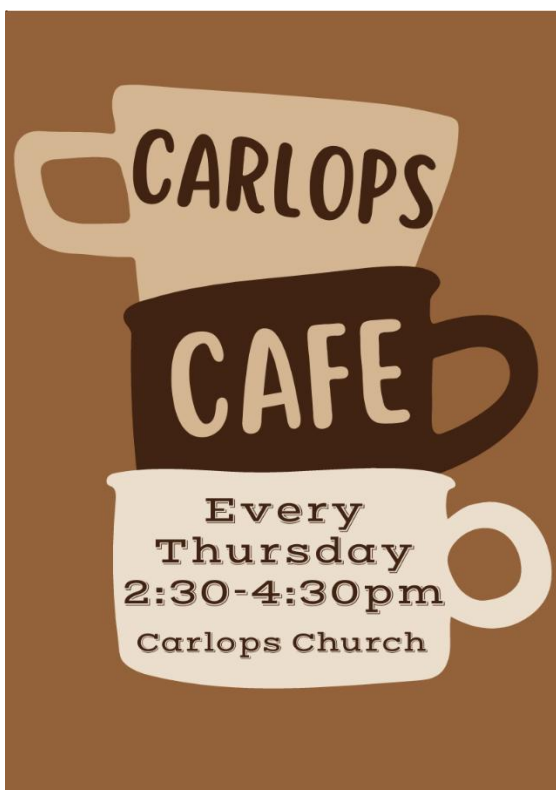
Aug 30th 2.30pm Broughtonknowe Wandering with refreshments provided.

There's a chance a walk might get cancelled or changed last minute if the weather would not make the walk safe. This will be e-mailed out and posted on our Facebook page, find this by searching "Wanderings – Scotland".

If you would like to sign up to our emailing list, e-mail nshawcampbell@hotmail.com

Our regular events

Note – soup lunch is on a summer break and returns 10th September



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

The Column

The column is taking a break for August.

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

Tuesday 5 August	7.30-9.30pm	Gaelic Psalm Singing
Thursday 7 August	2.30-4.30pm	Carlops Café
Friday 8 August	7.30-8.30pm	Talk – Butterflies of the Pentlands with Bob Douglas from Friends of the Pentlands
Tuesday 12 August	7.30-9.30pm	Gaelic Psalm Singing
Thursday 14 August	2.30-4.30pm	Carlops Café
Tuesday 19 August	7.30-9.30pm	Gaelic Psalm Singing
Thursday 21 August	2.30-4.30pm	Carlops Café
Tuesday 26 August	7.30-9.30pm	Gaelic Psalm Singing
Thursday 28 August	2.30-4.30pm	Carlops Café
Saturday 30 August	10.30-12 noon	Coffee drop-in (Carlops Café) and Fair Trade stall
Tuesday 2 September	7.30-9.30pm	Gaelic Psalm Singing
Thursday 4 September	2.30-4.30pm	Carlops Café
Tuesday 9 September	7.30-9.30pm	Gaelic Psalm Singing
Wednesday 10 September	12.30-2pm	Soup Lunch
Thursday 11 September	2.30-4.30pm	Carlops Café
Friday 12 September	7.30pm-8.30pm	Talk – Friends of the Pentlands Chairman Andrew Marsden on Conservation, Protection & Enhancement
Tuesday 16 September	7.30-9.30pm	Gaelic Psalm Singing
Thursday 18 September	2.30-4.30pm	Carlops Café
Tuesday 23 September	7.30-9.30pm	Gaelic Psalm Singing
Thursday 25 September	2.30-4.30pm	Carlops Café

Saturday 27 September	10.30-12 noon	Coffee drop-in (Carlops Café)
Tuesday 30 September	7.30-9.30pm	Gaelic Psalm Singing

Contacts

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Church Administrator: Kate Whalley

Telephone 01968 733 112

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

Email sheena@deanfoot.onmicrosoft.com

Coffee drop-in and Carlops Cafe: Mary Levison

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Session Clerk and Organist: Murray Campbell

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Material for next issue

To Julie Gamble by Friday 29th Aug please.