



CARLOPS CHURCH

In the community, for the community

Newsletter

Volume 19, Number 7; July 2025

Services, July 2025

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

:
6 July 10am: Rev Dr Tony Foley
13 July 10am: Patsy Campbell
20 July 10am: Isobel Hunter
27 July 10am: Rev Dr Tony Foley
3 Aug 10am: Patsy Campbell

Join us, in the church, and in other activities

We promise you a warm welcome

www.carlopschurch.org

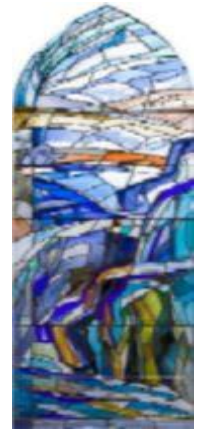
Carlops is one of the West Tweeddale linkage of churches

www.westtweeddale.org.uk

Our Minister

A Death Bed Life

I want to begin with some questions around a question. As you read my questions don't try to answer them just notice what they do to you. Try to pay attention to the feelings, thoughts and memories that they bring up. Are you ready?



If you were on your deathbed, if you were dying and you knew you were dying, what would your final prayer be?

Would you ask God to spare you, perhaps try to bargain with him? Would you express your gratitude and thanks for the life you got to live, for lessons learned and the blessings received? Would you focus on the past or would you look to the future? Would your prayer be for yourself or for others? Would your last words be a recounting of your successes, accomplishments, regrets, disappointments? Would you speak about the things you did and or perhaps left undone? Would you ask for forgiveness? Would you offer forgiveness? Would your prayer be for your loved ones? What would be your best hopes and desires for them?

I'm not trying to be morbid. I'm thinking about Jesus' 'deathbed' prayer in John's gospel (chapter 17). It's the night of the last supper. Jesus is about to die, and he knows it. What strikes me about Jesus' prayer is that he doesn't review his life. He doesn't evaluate what he did, how well he did it, or what he didn't get done. He doesn't negotiate his ending with God. He doesn't even list his thanksgivings. He doesn't give any final instructions or advice to his disciples. Instead, Jesus prays for them and us. He prays for their and our future. He bears his heart and expresses his deepest longing and desire; that we "*may become completely one.*" Honestly, at this time in our history I cannot think of a more timely and relevant prayer for us, for our country, and our world today than Jesus' prayer for oneness.

Jesus' 'deathbed prayer' wasn't something new that came to him at the end of his life. His prayer expressed how he had lived his whole life. It was at the heart of everything he did and taught. In a way Jesus' 'deathbed prayer' reflected the fact that he lived a deathbed life. Now there's a thought to mull over.

Peace, Tony



Meteorological Miscellanea

January -14%. February -50%. March -44%. April -57%. May -34%.

For five consecutive months this year precipitation totals fell short of the 30-year-old average. It's a rare occurrence. How has June fared? Read on!

On the 6th of June I took a stroll along the undulating and meandering 5-mile route from Whitmuir to Carlops that goes by Macbiehill and Bents before crossing what was the railway to West Linton, and continues by Cleaves, South Mains, and Kitleyknowe. The sky was full of great lumps of cumulus - some grey, some threateningly dark grey, and some developing cauliflower tops. Showers were imminent. There was a fresh SW'ly wind blowing. There were a few spots of rain by Macbiehill but no call for a jacket. I was wearing waterproof trousers which usually act as an insurance policy. To the SW the first shower loomed over the Broughton Heights. The chase was on. I dodged the Broughton shower but there was soon dodgy stuff to the NW of the Pentlands. Now the race was on. There was a light shower at Kitleyknowe but still no call for a jacket. Close to Carlops sunlit Mount Maw was backed by almost black cloud. My pace quickened and I made it to Pyethall. Moments later there was a deluge. My insurance policy had expired.

On the 14th of June there was a big weather breakdown. We had the wettest night since 23rd of August last year. There was a solitary rumble of thunder at 7.10 am but there was much rumbling and cracking between 11 am and noon. It was our first thunderstorm since 12th August last year. We ended up with 1.37in/35mm of rain - the wettest day since 23rd of May last year.

The warm weather soon returned and on the 20th the temperature soared to 81°F/

27.2°C - one of the earliest occasions at that level. We had 16 hours of sunshine to go with it. By 9.15 pm it was still 72°F as we prepared for the Summer Solstice that night. We enjoyed a log fire at the top of the



garden. As the embers died, we enjoyed the 'simmer dim' and the peace as A702 traffic diminished. I took to my tent eventually and slept peacefully through the Solstice which was scheduled for 3.41 am this year.

Since then, the month of June has stumbled to the last weekend with lower temperatures, stronger winds, little sunshine, drizzle and mizzle and a couple of very humid days. June's rainfall total by the 27th is 3.74in/95mm - already wetter than the 30-year average of 3.33in and the wettest month of the year so far.

Ah, well, that's our weather.

Peter Woolverton, Pyethall, 27 June 2025

News



Malawi update

In the last issue we learned of Sheena's proposals on the next steps for the project. Sheena has been working to make things happen since then and she is to be thanked and congratulated for this.

The 2 points below have been actioned.

- 1) *We will tell the village leaders roughly how much money will be available, in total, by the end of the year, and ask them to tell us what they would like to use it on. This will help them to prioritise their needs and should encourage them to use their own local resources and any help available from the government, whilst using the money donated from our fundraising to get a foot on which ever ladders they wish to climb.*

In response to this a budget was planned and has been accepted by the village. For reference,

1 Malawian Kwacha is worth £0.00042 Total budget is £1,513.53

You will see that an amount is going towards teacher training and teaching materials.

CARLOPS COMMUNITY AND LEARNING CENTER			
BILL OF QUANTITY FOR KHITCHEN, TEACHERS TRAINING AND TEACHING MATERIAL			
Description	Quantity	Price (MKW)	Total Amount (MKW)
Tuition fee for training of teacher at AECDM (2 WEEKS period)	4	384,000.00	1536000
Meal during the training for two weeks period	4	100,000.00	400000
Refreshment during training	4	41,000.00	164000
Transport from Ntcheu to Blantyre and back	4	30,000.00	120000
Iroon sheets for khitvhen	14	26,500.00	371000
Timbers for khitchen	24	8,000.00	192000
Cement for khitchen	16	35,500.00	568000
Lime for khitchen and toilet	1	30,000.00	30000
Roofing nails for khitchen (KGS)	8	9,000.00	72000
Teaching books for the center	10	8,000.00	80000
Wall draughtman	1	50,000.00	50000
GRAND TOTAL			3,583,000.00
The budget has been drafted by development committee and written by Robert. All necessary receipts and payment vouchers will kept and sent to you.			
Thank you very much for partnering with us. We appreciate your support towards the center.			

2) A letter will be sent to the Chief of the village, Alfred Kumanga, with all relevant information.

This has been done and Sheena has had a reply from him agreeing the budget and passing on his thanks and greetings.

Additionally, the foundation for the kitchen has been laid and bricks are being produced.



Our Village Talks

Monthly talks and a chance to chat

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

Friday 11th July, 7.30 pm Garden Design in the Pentlands

Gill Gold will give a short talk on garden design considerations when establishing a garden at about 1,000ft. in the Scottish Borders.

The evening will include a garden visit and refreshments.

Please note: the venue for this talk will be Birchbrae, Macbiehill, EH46 7AZ

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/imtTK6kVjMciwkj49>

Friday 8th August, 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.

Friday 12 September, 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.

Event report – Injury Prevention with Juliet Gold

We were thoroughly engaged by Juliet Gold as she took us through her everyday work as a Physiotherapist for the NHS at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. Specialising in knee problems, she shared an insight into things like an increase in ACL (anterior cruciate ligament) injuries in young women due to the recent increase in popularity of football among that demographic.

Some shocking statistics were revealed about the impact of falls in later life and of the likelihood of arthritis resulting from injuries that happen earlier in life.

We were given practical tips on how simple exercises can lead to better balance and strength and benefit us in many ways both physically and mentally. Juliet said that a physio would never criticize anyone for being too strong! There was even a bit of audience participation as we tested our balance on one foot and then the other. This was an example of something simple that could be improved with daily practise – doing this while brushing your teeth is an ideal time.

These are the ‘Super 6’ exercises that the NHS recommends. [The super six | Right Decisions](#)

There were plenty of questions at the end and everyone appreciated the practical answers. Juliet was thanked warmly by the audience and continued to dispense advice over coffee.

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



Peace with Creation – Pilgrims of Hope

Anna reports from the annual meeting held on Saturday 14th June 2025

Although this was in Glasgow this year, I decided to join by Zoom, saving my time and travel. After some initial hiccups with sound, it was all very clear and worked well.

The first session was by Nick Cooke, from the Scottish Pilgrim Routes Forum. There are 11 Pilgrim Routes in Scotland and the organisation works with local groups, advising on repurposing redundant church buildings to become hostels or information centres en route. A 19th century building in Killin has become a tin tabernacle hostel on the Three Saints Way and a site in Shapinsay, Orkney is now a hub for reflective walks. [Website Home | Scottish Pilgrim Routes Forum](#)

We then heard from Eco Congregations around Scotland talking about their own experiences and projects, always an interesting part of the day.

There were two workshops in the afternoon – firstly Restore Campaign – Stand up to Reckless Polluters and Greedy Lenders with Lucy le Roux, Christian Aid Scotland Campaigns. In some African countries, debt repayment is greater than their spend on education or even health, putting these countries in an impossible situation. Extortionate interest rates are being charged as the richer countries are dispensing loans instead of grants. Go to the website to sign the petition and read more about the Restore Campaign. [The Restore Campaign - Christian Aid](#)

Secondly, Church Recording, Support and Promoting Survival in Ecological Areas with Professor Adam Cumming, Scotland's Churches Trust. Redundant buildings (all denominations) are in danger of losing all their history, and there are groups of people recording what they can before it disappears forever. The Church of Scotland will be selling 400 churches. They are looking for new volunteers to help – full training will be given. Website [Scotland's Churches Trust - living traditions](#)

[of Scottish faith](#)

News from the AGM - You might be interested to know that Judith McLeod, who was always a great supporter of Carlops, is now an assistant minister in Inverness. Eco Congregation Scotland has decided to become a Membership Organisation, encouraging individuals and congregations to commit to regular support. Having had a couple of difficult years, they know they can no longer rely on grants for funding.

A fascinating and varied day – try it yourself next time!

Anna Woolverton

Sunday Club

Sunday Club meets on the first Sunday of every month in the Old Church Hall, West Linton during school term times.

We leave from church during the service and walk the children to the hall. For those who wish to meet us at the hall we suggest 11.45am, this is particularly useful for our children and families who attend earlier services at their churches in Carlops and St Mungo's West Linton.

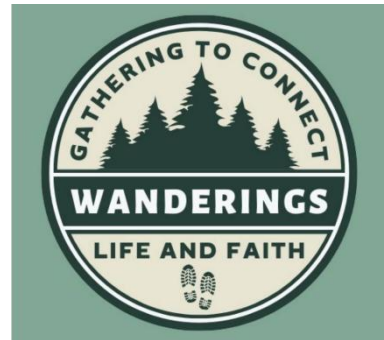
After Sunday Club we escort the children back to the church for tea and coffee time or they can be collected by parents at the hall around 12.15pm.

We resume on the first Sunday in September, which is Sunday 7th.

Thank You

Ann Lyon and Kate Whalley

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

July 10th 10.30am Broughtonknowe followed by lunch at Skirling Village Hall

July 26th 2.30pm Broughtonknowe Wandering with refreshments provided.

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

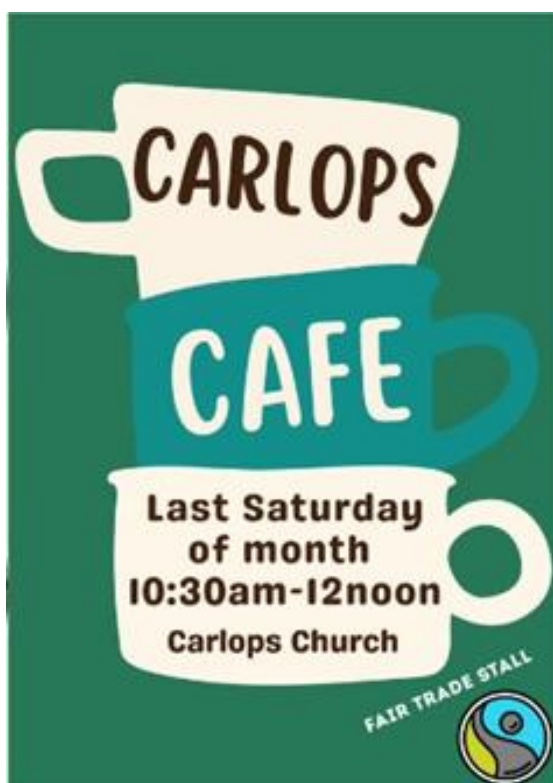
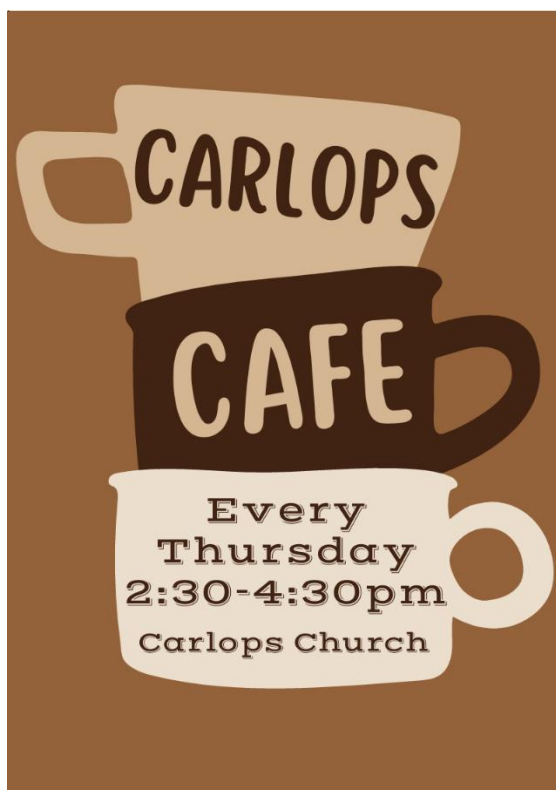
Aug 30th 2.30pm Broughtonknowe Wandering with refreshments provided.

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 takes a break from now until the Autumn.



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

The Column

As in Cricket, So in Life (or ‘The Hokey Cokey’)

If this title has put you off, I beg you to read on! Yes, cricket is considered a deeply boring sport by many people, but I urge you to look a little deeper.

You are correct to think that cricket matches can go on for days – some can, for 5 days in fact. But some only last a few action-packed hours.

The aim of cricket is simply to reach a higher score (in runs) than the opposing team. The playing field is roughly oval-shaped and in the centre, there is a strip 22 yards long and 10 feet wide. At each end of this you'll find 3 upright sticks called 'stumps' with 2 short 'bails' laid on top – these are the wickets. 11 players on each side field specialists who are excellent bowlers, or gifted batters, sometimes both. Two batters stand in front of the wickets (at the crease), one at each end, while a bowler tries to hit the stumps so the bails fall off. The fielders are out in the oval trying to catch the ball or return it to the centre as quickly as possible.

There is one position, wicket keeper, which requires thighs of steel, great agility and perfect vision while wearing huge gloves, padded leg guards and a helmet. The wicket keeper stands behind the batter and sees all – every micromovement that the bowler makes on approach, every adjustment of the batter's hands and feet and reads all this so they can move exactly the right way to catch any balls that pass the batter or are nicked behind off the bat. They can be master tacticians.

When a bowler sends the ball towards the batsman or woman, they can bowl a slow but tricky spinner that twists when it lands, a bouncer that rises up towards the batter's head or a fast ball that swings in towards the stumps. Any of these could end your time at the crease.

Added to this you can be dismissed if you hit the ball and it is caught without bouncing or if the ball hits your leg when it would otherwise have hit the stumps (leg before wicket). When you are batting you are 'in' and when you've been caught or clinically 'bowled' you are 'out'.

At the crease you have a chance to go for the big scores, fours and sixes, by hitting the ball high beyond the boundary or between fielders to reach the edge of the field.

Surely all this is enough for the batter to think about?

Of course not - there is another way to be put 'out'. If you hit the ball for a shorter distance you need to decide if you and the other batter can score by switching ends before the ball gets back to the wicket keeper who can touch it to the bails or to a fielder who can pitch at the stumps. If you don't make it back to a crease in time you are 'run out'.

So, there is intensity in every exchange between the bowler and the batter, each play is like pistols at dawn. It's exciting to watch and to play!

Cricket does also involve a lot of tea and sandwiches, sunbathing, shining the ball to get it to swing, and opportunities to rest when you're not required on the field. Like many sports it has its own language with terms such as 'short leg', 'silly mid-off', 'golden duck', 'leg bye', 'yorker', 'googly', 'maiden over' etc. I haven't even mentioned the Duckworth Lewis method.

Life is just like cricket, I think. Do you see moments from your life depicted in the scenarios above? There are complicated rules (that can take a whole childhood of summers to learn), challenges and times of defeat mixed with glorious sixes, marvellous in-swingers or incredible catches. Days that drag and days that are elevated to something special. A group of people you share magical times with and those cheering you on from afar.

You don't need to wear white, and it doesn't need to be played on a perfectly mown grass oval. A dustbin can be a good stand in for the stumps – or a wall with the stumps drawn on. A tennis ball will do; a red leather ball with a sewn seam doesn't last long on concrete or tarmac. You can use an old bat stripped of its logo and a bit worn at the bottom. Some might think that's not cricket, but it is!

Sometimes you're in and sometimes you're out but that's what it's all about. So, the question is are you the bowler, the batter or the all-rounder - or are you the wily keeper?

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

Thursday 3 July	2.30-4.30pm	Carlops Cafe
Tuesday 8 July	7.30-9.30pm	Gaelic Psalm Singing
Thursday 10 July	2.30-4.30pm	Carlops Cafe
Friday 11 July	7.30-8.30pm	Talk – Garden Design in the Pentlands with Gill Gold <i>(Venue is Birchbrae, Macbiehill, EH46 7AZ)</i>
Tuesday 15 July	7.30-9.30pm	Gaelic Psalm Singing
Thursday 17 July	2.30-4.30pm	Carlops Cafe
Tuesday 22 July	7.30-9.30pm	Gaelic Psalm Singing
Thursday 24 July	2.30-4.30pm	Carlops Cafe
Saturday 26 July	10.30am -12noon	Coffee drop-in
Tuesday 29 July	7.30-9.30pm	Gaelic Psalm Singing
Thursday 31 July	2.30-4.30pm	Carlops Cafe
Tuesday 5 August	7.30-9.30pm	Gaelic Psalm Singing
Thursday 7 August	2.30-4.30pm	Carlops Cafe
Friday 8 August	7.30-8.30pm	Talk - Friends of the Pentlands - Conservation, Protection & Enhancement with Andrew Marsden, Chairman.
Tuesday 12 August	7.30-9.30pm	Gaelic Psalm Singing
Thursday 14 August	2.30-4.30pm	Carlops Cafe
Tuesday 19 August	7.30-9.30pm	Gaelic Psalm Singing
Thursday 21 August	2.30-4.30pm	Carlops Cafe
Tuesday 26 August	7.30-9.30pm	Gaelic Psalm Singing
Thursday 28 August	2.30-4.30pm	Carlops Cafe

Saturday 30 August

10.30 – 12 noon

Coffee Drop-In

Contacts

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Office - Friday 9.30 am – 12.30pm

Old Church Hall - Friday 2.00 – 4.00pm

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Material for next issue

To Julie Gamble by Friday 25th July please.