



CARLOPS CHURCH

In the community, for the community

Newsletter

Volume 19, Number 9; Sept 2025

Services, September 2025

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

:
31 Aug 10am: Steven Whalley
7 Sept 10am: Rev Dr Tony Foley
14 Sept 10am: Steven Whalley
21 Sept 10am: Patsy Campbell
28 Sept 10am: Rev Dr Tony Foley
5 Oct 10am: Peter Worthington

Join us, in the church, and in other activities

We promise you a warm welcome

www.carlopschurch.org

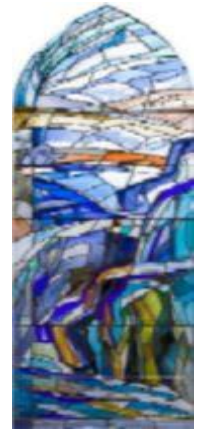
Carlops is one of the West Tweeddale linkage of churches

www.westtweeddale.org.uk

Our Minister

What we were always meant to do

“He gives you something you can give away, which grows into fully formed lives, robust in God, wealthy in every way so that you can be generous in every way.” 1 CORINTHIANS 9:11-12 THE MESSAGE



Giving is what we do best. It is how we were designed. Giving is how the world works best, (*taking on the other hand*). We are given to our parents, our families, our neighbours and friends. Our life is a gift to others as theirs is to us. That is the way creation works. Some of us try desperately to hold on to ourselves, to live our lives for us. In doing so we become spiritually poor and emotionally bedraggled as we pathetically hold on to the dead branches of what is *ours*. All the while we live in fear of soaring on the untried wings of giving. So often do we dare not risk living generously in every sense and in every area of our lives, and so we never really try. But the sooner we start the better, for one day we are going to have to give up the lives we were given. The longer we wait the less time we have for doing what we were always meant to do, soaring and swooping in the thermals of giving.

*‘Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I’ve climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth
of sun-split clouds,—and done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of—wheeled and soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence.
I’ve chased the shouting wind along...’*

Peace,
Tony



Meteorological Miscellanea

August began with forecasts of an unseasonal storm on the 4th day. Storm Floris was to be its name. Deciduous trees, being in full leaf, were to be at greatest risk. By 8am on the 4th we'd had our wettest day since the thunderstorms of 21st July, but nothing too scary. There was a small tree flattened at the mouth of Windy (aptly named) Gowl, I noticed, and our garden was littered with twigs and leaves akin to autumn but it was our Festival City that staged the dramas. We were on a No.11 that pulled up suddenly as a squadron of metal chairs took off from their pavement cafe and clattered off down Leith Walk. No one was clobbered fortunately as the cafe staff gave chase. On the streets folk were staggering about clutching headgear in an entertaining way. That evening's Tattoo on the lofty Castle Esplanade was cancelled and flags were flying at no mast.

Our next drama came early on the 14th as a string of thunderstorms moved through south to north. Between 7.30am and 8.30am I measured 0.26in/6.6mm and that was it. Sleepy Carloprians may have missed it all. The previous day was the warmest day of the year with Pyethall clocking 82.5F/28.1C. Charterhall in the Borders returned 89.5F/32C. Phew! The morning of the 18th brought us a wonderful temperature inversion - thick fog along the A702, but a cloudless sky on sunny Scald Law - and we were there, alone!

My father was an enthusiastic follower of the weather, regarding a good summer day as one where the min-max thermometer in the back garden reached 70F or more. No Celsius in those days! I took up the recording malarkey and adopted the definition of a summer day. 'Summer days' in Carlops range from 44 (2021) to just 4 (1998) per year over the past 31 years. So far this year we're on 34 putting us 7th on the list with September still to come. 12 times September has delivered. Considering we have notched 69F 6 times this summer, we haven't done badly. Full summer report next month.



Being a bit of a cloudwatcher as well, I have been a bit perturbed this year by my perception of the humble cumulus of the cotton wool/fair weather variety. Often, it seems the clouds have been lower, just flirting with the tops of the Pentland Hills. When the clouds have merged and lowered it just gets so DULL. I thought it was 'just me' until a TV weatherman made a similar confession recently. More recently a friend, without prompting, related similar observations. Is there something going on?

Peter Wolverton, Pyethall, 29 August 2025

News



Thanks to Nan Buchan

As Nan steps back from organising Soup Lunch and sending cards with well wishes from the church, we must give her our heartfelt thanks for long service in these roles.

-Soup Lunches

It was lovely to see Nan this morning at Coffee Drop-In (30/08/2025).

Many years ago, when there was a monthly Carlops Market, Nan and the late Tom Alexander were the instigators of the Church providing the coffees and home baking at this event. There is no longer a market, but the coffee morning has continued to be very popular within the community.

The success of the Soup Lunches is also due to Nan's wonderful organisational skills, and she is a very hard act to follow.

She has passed me her notes on soup lunch which, along with the lists she kept of all the all the cards she had sent on behalf of Carlops church since 2004, are a wonderful and invaluable historical archive and I am very grateful.

Thank you, Nan.

Mary Levison

-Requesting a card for someone you know

Over the last twenty years many people in our neighbourhood have received a card from Carlops Church to show they are in people's thoughts. Over these years the cards have come from Nan Buchan, and her sentiments were much appreciated by the people who received them. Nan has now passed the baton to me.

If you know of anyone in our area, whether a member of the congregation or not, who you think would appreciate a card, please let me know. I can be contacted by text on 07980 836817.

Bridget Wilcox

Carlops Community Garden – success at RPS

The Carlops Community Garden came about during lockdown as a way of getting people together and learning how to grow vegetables as a group. It includes the fruit trees in the orchard, the beehives, the play equipment and the new football pitch reflecting the kids' enthusiasm during the World Cup. Our users also include an army of dog walkers who regularly circumnavigate the field or follow the path through to the Kitleyknowe road.

We now have eight locals growing a variety of edibles in raised beds, plus our own group who share the community planters. The Rural Product Show was an opportunity to show what we'd done, and we were pleased to get a selection of 1sts, 2nds and 3rds for our produce. Our box of organic vegetables won a 2nd!



We meet weekly on Wednesdays, always with tea and cake.

We are responsible for grass cutting, hedge trimming and insurance and these costs must be met before we can plan anything else. We were fortunate to receive some hedge plants from the Woodland Trust in the spring to help screen the playpark from the A702. Unfortunately, these no longer come with stakes and guards, so we had to purchase these from funds, deliberately choosing bio-degradable guards.

Donations always welcome –
Carlops Community Garden Group
80-22-60
25320467

Anna Woolverton

Event report - Butterflies on the Pentlands

Bob Douglas captivated an audience of 50 with his post-lockdown journey to photograph butterflies along the North Esk valley—from Carlops to the sea. Originally aiming to find 17 known species, his dedication and expertise led him to discover 23 species, surpassing expectations by six. His findings highlight the dynamic nature of butterfly populations and the impact of climate change on species migration.

Key Takeaways

- **Habitat Diversity:** The slopes north of the A702 (Silverburn to Baddingsgill) host a rich variety of butterfly-friendly habitats.
- **Habitat Improvement:** Projects like the one at Patieshill show how thoughtful land management can enhance butterfly populations. <https://pentlandfriends.org.uk/patieshill-wildlife-conservation/>
- **Climate Change Effects:** Rising temperatures are enabling more species to migrate northward—evident in the six unexpected species Bob recorded.

Butterfly Facts & Tips

- There are around 72 species of butterflies in Britain, 33 in Scotland. Their distribution is influenced by a variety of factors including topography, geology, rainfall and temperature. They are also influenced by land management both present and historical. Butterfly populations can be extremely dynamic, some species being very common in some years but very scarce in others”.

Quote from technical note TN628 published by ©The Scottish Agricultural College 2010..

🔍 Tips for spotting butterflies:

- Seek sunny, sheltered areas.
- Look for nectar-rich wildflowers.
- Identify caterpillar foodplants.
- Use resources from Butterfly Conservation [Identify a butterfly | Butterfly Conservation](#)
- Try the iRecord Butterflies app to log sightings and aid conservation.

Mary McElroy



Peacock

Speckled Wood



Common blue (male)



Our Village Talks

Monthly talks and a chance to chat

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

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.

Friday 10 October, 7.30pm

Reflections from a Pentland Artist

Friday 14 November, 7.30pm

Talk on John Buchan by Ted Shields

Friday 12 December, 7.30pm

A Festive Gathering

Our regular events

Soup lunch returns Wednesday 10th September! If you can make a soup or help on the day please contact Mary Levison (see contact details on last page of the newsletter)

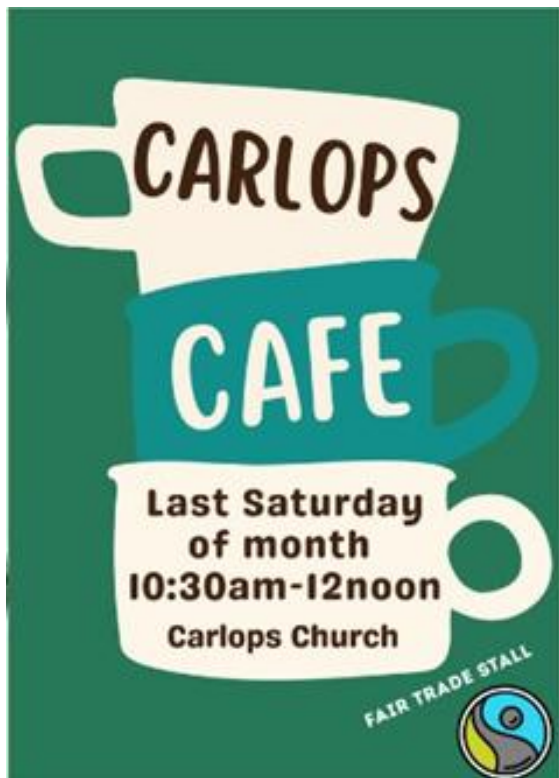
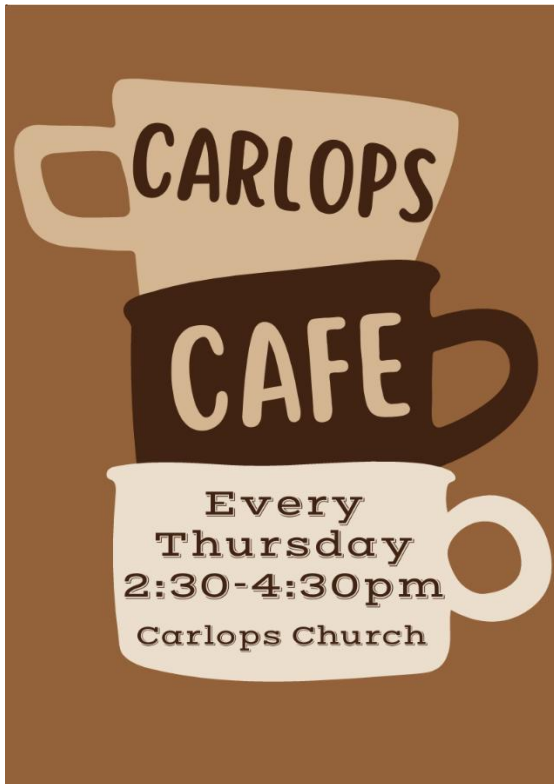


SOUP LUNCH

CARLOPS CHURCH

12:30PM – 2PM

WEDNESDAY 10 SEPT 2025



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

West Tweeddale Guild



The first meeting of the new session will be on Wednesday 17th September.

This will be a visit to Rosslyn Chapel followed by refreshments in the café.

Further details from Fiona Burnett fiona@glenholm.co.uk

Newlands Church Harvest Supper

We will be holding our **Harvest Supper** at Newlands church on Saturday 4th 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 to be confirmed.

Everyone is warmly invited and if you would like a ticket, contact Jean Howat –

howatjean@gmail.com 01968 660677

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

Sunday Club at West Linton

Sunday Club meets on the first Sunday of every month in the Old Church Hall during school term times. We leave from church during the service (start time 11.30am) and walk the children to the hall and for those who wish to meet us at the hall we suggest 11.45am. This is particularly useful for those who attend the earlier service in Carlops Church. After Sunday Club we bring the children

back to the church or they can be collected by parents around 12.15pm.

Dates For Diaries

Sunday 7th September

Sunday 5th October

Sunday 2nd November

Sunday 7th December

Sunday Club Christmas Party - 21st December in the New Church Hall between 2pm until 3:30pm

Thank you,

Ann Lyon and Kate Whalley



Got a problem?

Stressed? Anxious? Depressed?
Parenting difficulties? Relationship issues? Work
problems? Trouble at school/college? Etc.

Whatever the problem - large or small, recent or
long-standing - Solution Focussed Brief Therapy
can help.

Ask for an appointment at

THE OPEN GATE

Fridays 2pm to 5pm.

Anyone who wants help for their problem is
welcome, and will be seen locally and in
confidence by arrangement.

PHONE OR TEXT 07535 898 244

The Open Gate uses a counselling approach which is brief,
effective and future-orientated, building on your own solutions.
All sessions are free and confidential, with no long waiting-list.

The Column

Swifts in Norfolk

I spent much of July sitting in the enclosed garden of our family's house in North Norfolk, contemplating the roses and watching the swifts circling overhead. They nest under the beautiful pantiles of the high, old Customs House next door and appear to use its tall chimney as a marker.

Sometimes they scream around it and beneath the eaves in groups, perhaps encouraging the fledglings to emerge, sometimes they soar high in the sky above. Sometimes a parent vanishes into the dark space under the tiles to feed their young and I wonder how they manage to brake so quickly from their speedy flight. They are with us from May until the end of July and then suddenly they are gone, back to central Africa where they spend the rest of the year. I miss the beauty of their flight.

Swifts are remarkable birds. They spend their whole lives on the wing, only making landfall to nest and raise their young. They can fly at speeds of up to sixty miles per hour and have been seen by pilots flying at heights of 10,000ft. It is now understood that all swifts that are not breeding take part in a 'Vespers' flight, rising in flocks just after sunset to heights of between 3,000 and 10,000ft. to seek warmer layers of air, to sleep and perhaps to orient themselves.

I have never seen swifts in Carlops. Here I am watching the young swallows fledged in the garage practicing their flights, an aerial ballet over our conservatory.

Jo Blackburn

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

As well as The Open Gate (advertised above) 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 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
Thursday 2 October	2.30-4.30pm	Carlops Café
Tuesday 7 October	7.30-9.30pm	Gaelic Psalm Singing
Wednesday 8 October	12.30-2pm	Soup Lunch
Thursday 9 October	2.30-4.30pm	Carlops Café
Friday 10 October	7.30-8.30pm	Talk – Reflections from a Pentland Artist
Tuesday 14 October	7.30-9.30pm	Gaelic Psalm Singing
Thursday 16 October	2.30-4.30pm	Carlops Café
Tuesday 21 October	7.30-9.30pm	Gaelic Psalm Singing
Thursday 23 October	2.30-4.30pm	Carlops Café

Saturday 25 October	10.30-12 noon	Coffee drop-in (Carlops Café) and Fair Trade stall
Tuesday 28 October	7.30-9.30pm	Gaelic Psalm Singing
Thursday 30 October	2.30-4.30pm	Carlops Café

Contacts

Minister: Rev Dr Tony Foley

Telephone 01968 660 221

Mobile 07793 294 000

Email tfoley@churchofscotland.org.uk

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, Carlops Café and Soup Lunch : Mary Levison

Telephone 01968 674 566

Email marylevison@btinternet.com

Treasurer and Eco Group: Anna Woolverton

Telephone 01968 660 382

Email annapye@btinternet.com

Flowers: Hilary Watt

Telephone 01899 221 100

Email hilarywatt9lf@btinternet.com

Newsletter and website: Julie Gamble

Telephone 01968 661 042

Email julieggamble@yahoo.co.uk

Session Clerk and Organist: Murray Campbell

Telephone 01968 660 530

Email d.m.campbell@ed.ac.uk

Request a card for someone: Bridget Wilcox

Text only 07980 836 817

Material for next issue

To Julie Gamble by Tuesday 28th Sept please.