

# Carlops Parish Church

[www.carlopschurch.org](http://www.carlopschurch.org)



## NEWSLETTER

Volume 15, Number 11 November 2021

### Services, November 2021

Services are held in church and are also available via Zoom  
Contact [sessionclerk@carlopschurch.org](mailto:sessionclerk@carlopschurch.org) for the link to Carlops' Zoom services

31 October 10am	Prof Murray Campbell
7 November 10am	Rev Dr Tony Foley <i>Baptism</i>
14 November 10am	Rev Chris Levison <i>Remembrance</i>
21 November 10am	tba
28 November 10am	tba <i>First Sunday in Advent</i>

## **Rev Dr Foley confirmed as minister**

Melrose and Peebles Presbytery has confirmed the appointment of Rev Dr Tony Foley as our minister. He will be inducted at a service in St Andrew's West Linton on Monday 25 October 2021 at 7pm.

It may be necessary to restrict numbers attending this service, so those wishing to do so should contact Murray Campbell in the first instance.

Carlops Church extends a warm welcome to Tony. We look forward to meeting him as he works among, for and with us. We anticipate Tony "writing himself in" to the *Newsletter* soon.

## **Thoughts from the locum**

From the uncurtained kitchen window at the back of the house, a broad channel of light streamed out into the dimness of the evening and across the gravelled path to the back door. As my feet crunched into the brightness, heads bent over the kitchen table inside turned and looked up – smiles, a quick wave, the back door flung wide releasing mouth-watering aromas of fresh baking and warmth, hands and arms extended in the virtual welcome necessitated by these covid days, and in a twinkling I was seated at the table amidst all the signs of life there: newly baked bread cooling on a wire rack; an open cookery book; a brightly coloured teapot on its stand; pen and notepad and a hand-written letter in progress; a willow basket awaiting use; balls of wool and knitting needles and the beginnings of a jumper, laid down momentarily; slices of a date and walnut loaf already on a plate; a little candle alight, its flame still dancing in the current of air from the open door and settling down now to the gentle flow of conversation around the table.

Every kitchen table tells its story. Every kitchen table weaves its spell of magic, of hospitality, of on-going life. Around them, in one way or another, are concerns shared, items of news exchanged, joys exclaimed, sorrows poured out, plans made, ideas inspired. I have never met an ordinary kitchen table; always there is around them the vibrancy of life in all its mixture and mystery and abundance and intricacy.

I learn, to my horror, that in some places in America, new houses are being built with no kitchens, perhaps because convenience food needs only to be microwaved, or because meals are taken more frequently in restaurants, or worse, because there is so little time taken to stop and sit and talk.

In the time that I've been Locum here – over the past year, and in previous years too – I've been welcomed to so many kitchen tables, or their equivalent, and I am immensely grateful for that wonderful experience.

May kitchen tables everywhere be blessed with good things. May everyone have the privilege of being welcomed in the circle of warmth and generosity which kitchen tables offer in their own particular way. And may we find our own kitchens to be places of thoughtfulness and

delight, nourishment and open welcome, laughter and bright hopes and love.

Nancy Norman

### **Thank-you, Nancy Norman**

Greeting Tony Foley means saying goodbye to Nancy Norman – as locum minister at least. Nancy has served Carlops well and is a well-loved and respected member of our community. We hope she may continue to contribute to Carlops life so that we may know the pleasure of her company at local events, and the calm wisdom of her mind in occasional services.

I pay personal tribute to Nancy for her contributions to this *Newsletter*; a typical example is just above. She writes prose with a rhythm that rises to poetry, each word counting, each deriving readily from its predecessor, each leading surely to its successor. Rarely a word too many or too few; rarely an infelicity; never a failing of clarity and sense. Thank you, Nancy. Please keep writing!

### **Thank-you, Calum Macdougall**

We thank and bid farewell also, to Calum Macdougall, our interim moderator these past, often hectic, months.

Calum bore with apparent ease the burden of working with new congregations going through great change, all the while being denied the normal facility of being able to meet people, sit down with them, and talk. He had to carry out most part of his work through the constraining medium of a computer screen, and chair meetings which included people he did not know and often, could not see. Think about it!

Calum did all this in a calm, friendly manner and kept a sure eye on the desired end-point. That he succeeded is manifest in the person of Tony Foley come among us.

### **Collections in the church**

We are holding services in the church again, but all is not as it was. For reasons of prudence, we no longer carry a collection plate around the church to receive offerings. But the church still needs your donations!

Several people donate by bank transfer and/or standing order, but for supporters who prefer to donate in the church, a collection plate will be placed prominently at the back of the church from now on. You are invited to put your donation in it as you leave the church at the end of each service. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Mary McElroy *Treasurer*

## **“Shoebox” appeal; Christmas 2021**

Carlops Church Christmas “shoebox” project will again support Women’s Aid, East and Midlothian. I have consulted the charity and they confirm that, with some coronavirus restrictions still in place, it would be helpful if we donate cash to let them purchase such personal items, toys, etc as suit their needs best. I invite you to donate to Carlops Church so that I may forward your collective gift to Edinburgh Women’s Aid.

Donate by BACS to Carlops Church: sort code 80-09-39, account 00246459; or send a cheque payable to Carlops Church to Mary McElroy, Marfield View, Carlops EH26 9NJ.

Please donate by Tuesday 30 November 2021, so that I can send funds to Scottish Women’s Aid in time for them to use before Christmas. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Mary McElroy *Treasurer*

## **Open Gate counselling service**

Although the Open Gate counselling service is still not operating face-to-face in Newlands Centre, its telephone line remains available (T 07535 898 244); anyone can call or text to request a telephone appointment. Open Gate offers free counselling and uses a *Solution focussed brief therapy* approach which is pleasant and helps quickly.

Margaret Habeshaw

## **The Column Take the Carlops eco-challenge**

This year’s Carlops Eco-service suggested how we can counter climate change and issued a challenge (*see below*) to everyone.

To generate interest and help exchange ideas, there is an online notice board on the church website where you can record things you do to help the planet. Visit [www.carlopschurch.org](http://www.carlopschurch.org), go to *Our work > Eco group > Carlops Eco-challenge*, then type your ideas or actions in the space provided. Or email Julie Gamble [julieggamble@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:julieggamble@yahoo.co.uk) who will put them on the site for you. It needn’t be rocket science; read some examples below!

Please take the eco-challenge; it will help the environment, and your grandchildren and great-grandchildren will thank you.

***Everyone: do one thing for the environment, once a week, in each of three areas ...***

***1. Energy use and transport; for example ...***

- a. Eliminate one car journey every week: walk, cycle, bus; or bundle two trips into one by better planning
  - b. Turn down the heating; wear a jersey!
  - c. Check that appliances are working efficiently
  - d. Turn computers and TVs off to save energy; don't leave them on stand-by
  - e. Invest in alternatives: solar panels; electric vehicles
2. ***Food and diet; for example ...***
- a. Buy local produce
  - b. Grow your own vegetables & fruit: enough for one meal per week
  - c. Swap one steak or burger meal every week for an omelette with salad
  - d. Keep careful control of food waste
3. ***Use of consumer products; for example ...***
- a. Re-cycle clothes and household goods, as well as paper and glass
  - b. Work hard at reducing your use of plastic
  - c. Focus on maintain and repair, as well as replace
  - d. Dare to wear last year's shirt or dress; and give your local cobbler some business!

What will *you* come up with? Tell us; and tell the website!

Rennie McElroy, *for the Eco-service and Website teams*

## **Forthcoming events**

**Eco Group meeting** Tuesday 26 October\ 2021, 2.30pm Face-to-face in the church

**Talk by John Birchmore, Chair of Sustainable West Linton: *Promoting sustainability in our area***

*John will talk about planting forty fruit trees in Carlops' Rock Field, and a new community apiary. As COP26 beckons, we will consider sustainability in our own community*

Friday 29 October 2-221, 7pm, via Zoom. Link below.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89074314363?pwd=Nvh4RFk5ZStnNk1tc2FMSWQva2NlZz09>

Meeting ID: 890 7431 4363

Passcode: 299229

**Tales and Fables from round about Carlops**, Friday 3 December 2021, 7pm

## **Material for next issue**

To [info@carlopschurch.org](mailto:info@carlopschurch.org) by Monday 22 November 2021

**End**