



# CARLOPS CHURCH

In the community, for the community

## Newsletter

Volume 16, Number 6; June 2022

## Services, June 2022

Services held in church and available via Zoom  
Request link from [sessionclerk@carlopschurch.org](mailto:sessionclerk@carlopschurch.org)

29 May 10am: Mary McElroy  
5 June 10am: Rev Dr Tony Foley  
12 June 10am: Rev Chris Levison  
19 June 10am: Dr Patsy Campbell  
26 June 10am: Steven Whalley

**Join us, in the church, or in other activities**

**We promise you a warm welcome**

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

# Our Minister



## Disturbance versus distress

*Everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of the human freedoms—to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way.*

Viktor E. Frankl, *Man's Search for Meaning*

I lived in Taiwan for 15 years. During that time cockroaches became a normal part of everyday life. One of my most vivid memories of cockroach encounters happened while visiting one of my favourite eating places in our village. That day, a group of American tourists stopped to try some of the local cuisine. As they sat at table a medium-sized brown cockroach flew and landed on one of the ladies. She immediately started screaming out of fear and agitation. With a panic-stricken face and trembling voice, she started jumping up and down, waving her hands in the air, desperately trying to get rid of the cockroach. As the table toppled over sending food and dishes to the floor, her reaction quickly spread to everyone in her group who also got panicky. The lady finally managed to push the cockroach away, but it quickly landed on another lady in the group. She too immediately jumped up and started screaming and waving her hands in the air.

The owner of the café rushed out to help and as he did, the cockroach landed on him. He stood perfectly still, composed himself and watched the behaviour of the cockroach as it moved across his shirt. Then he quickly and quietly seized the cockroach in his hand and threw it out of the café. The visitors made loud protests about hygiene and, refusing to pay for their meal, they quickly left the café. As a bemused observer, it made me wonder who or what was responsible for their histrionic behaviour? Was it the cockroach? If so, then why was the café-owner not disturbed? He managed it near to perfection, without any histrionics. It was not the cockroach itself, but the inability of those people to manage the disturbance caused by the cockroach, which caused their distress.

Watching this scenario, I realised that often, it is not what happens to us that distresses us most, but our response to those things that disturbs or disrupts our everyday lives, that exacerbates our distress. In other words, it is not our problems, but our reaction to our problems, that creates most of the chaos in our life. Perhaps that is part of what Jesus was getting at when he said ...

*Here's another old saying that deserves a second look: "Eye for eye, tooth for tooth." Is that going to get us anywhere? Here's what I propose: "Don't hit back at all." If someone strikes you, stand there and take it. If someone drags you into court and sues for the shirt off your back, gift-wrap your best coat and make a present of it. And if someone takes unfair advantage of you, use the occasion to practice the servant life. No more tit-for-tat stuff. Live generously.*

Matthew 5:38-42

Peace

Tony

# News



## Eco-Congregation Scotland Annual Gathering Dunblane, 30 April 2022

Eco-congregation Scotland's 2022 Gathering was held in Dunblane and was also available via Zoom. The programme included talks by well-known environmentalists and workshops led by Eco-congregation staff. Anna Woolverton and I attended via Zoom, to represent Carlops Church.

The morning session provided interesting and inspiring talks from five guest speakers and was followed in the afternoon by a choice of several workshops.

**Alastair Macintosh, honorary professor and research fellow at Glasgow University**, is a writer, academic and activist involved with Scottish land reform and global climate change. He stressed ...

- When dealing with climate justice, we must recognise the diversity of cultures.
- Climate change is being driven by injustice. To address this requires the motivation to act against consumerism, defined here as the rich buying more than they need. The task God has set us is to overcome consumerism.
- *Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth*; but we must also make the earth worth being inherited. We can all do our bit, but this alone will not be enough; we must also bombard councillors, MSPs and MPs with demands for action.

**Dr Maureen Seir, Director of Interfaith Scotland**, undertook doctoral research for five years in Samoa and won a Fulbright Scholarship in 2007. She now works with Sister Isobel Smythe, a former colleague of Chris Levison who spoke at one of our evening events in Carlops before the pandemic began. Dr Seir noted ...

- We do not all need to be experts. We can seek the support and experience of experts to educate us in what we could and should do.
- The planet is sacred to all faiths, so all must tackle the (environmental) crisis. Cohesion between faiths is essential. Climate change is a human crisis, not a climate crisis.
- Courage and sacrifice are needed in order to achieve rapid and unprecedented change.

**Margaret Warnock, formerly Programme Co-ordinator, Eco-congregation Scotland**

- This year, Eco-congregation Scotland is celebrating its coming of age and should now go out into the world as an adult. Margaret recalled the setting up of Eco-congregation Scotland in 2001; by 2006 there were 100 member churches; today there are there are 586.
- Margaret encouraged the Scottish local eco networks to work together to further the aims of the organisation.
- She, too, asked us to lobby politicians for action.

**Laura Young, Programme Manager, Tearfund Scotland** runs an environmental platform on Instagram called *Less waste Laura*. It is a space for education, activists and sharing tips to encourage young people to become eco warriors. Laura emphasised ...

- It is important to foster conversations between eco-congregation church members and non-religious friends in the community, to raise awareness of what actions individuals can take, and to help people work together in a cause almost everyone supports.
- Laura also emphasised the need to keep communicating with politicians.

**Stephen Watt, Young Christian's Climate Network** described the Young Christians' pilgrimage from the south of England to Glasgow for COP26; he expressed gratitude for the hospitality, food and encouragement they received from churches in Scotland

After lunch there was a choice of workshops; often a keynote talk followed by group discussion. I attended *Houses and heating*, chaired by Judith Macleod, Programme Manager for Eco-congregation Scotland. The group discussions were interesting though they did not throw up new ideas. There was a warning that not all old buildings are suitable for modern-day insulation methods; damage can arise from condensation and "sweating" and this can be costly to rectify. Seek expert opinion before carrying out such work.

Rev David Coleman, chaplain to Eco-congregation Scotland, led a service to close the Gathering.

Nan Buchan

## **Baddingsill Garden open day**

### **Saturday 29 May 2022, 2-5pm**

On Sunday 29 May 2022, the garden at Baddingsill House will be open in aid of Refugee Action. Please come along and enjoy this beautiful woodland garden tucked away in the heart of the Pentland Hills. There will be teas, coffees and home baking available, and a plant stall by Potty Perennials. And bring the children along as well, for a fun treasure hunt and a bouncy castle.

### **The Garden**

Baddingsill is a woodland garden situated at 1,000 feet above sea level in the Pentland Hills. The Lyne Water runs through it, and there are spectacular woodland and riverside walks, along with rhododendrons, azaleas, carpets of bluebells and a wonderful collection of mature trees. The garden was established in 1950-51 and has since been tended by four generations of the Marshall family. The present family moved in in 2019, with no gardening experience to speak of, so it has been a steep learning curve! The most recent addition to the garden is a vegetable plot, which started as a lockdown project and is still under construction but now producing its second season of veggies. At this time of year, the garden is bursting into bloom for its short but intense growing season.

### **Refugee Action**

Refugee Action provides advice, guidance and practical support to refugees and asylum seekers arriving and settling in the UK – everything from helping children into schools, to support with booking doctor's appointments, to ensuring people get a hot meal when they first arrive. Refugee Action also campaigns for change in the asylum system, collaborating with those who have direct experience of the systems they are working to improve. It is a small charity that has been working with refugees and asylum seekers in the UK since 1981.

## Practicalities

- Sunday 29 May 2022; 2-5pm at Baddinsgill House, EH46 7HL
- Admission £4.50 (children free)
- All profits to Refugee Action
- Dogs on leads welcome
- Parking: there will be ample parking a short walk from the garden
- Mobility: anyone with mobility issues can be dropped off at the house itself; just speak to the parking helpers when you arrive

## Cross-linkage Communications working group

*Three cross-linkage working groups were established some months ago, on Communications, Pastoral care, and Worship. Here is a progress report from the Communications group.*

### Remit (as the group interprets the broad guidance it received)

- To establish an identity for the linkage on the internet and on social media
- To propose good communications practice and promulgate it throughout the linkage
- To provide linkage churches and their supporters with support on communications matters
- **Not** to constrain or interfere with existing practices that work satisfactorily in individual churches

### Principal current tasks

- Developing a website describing the linkage, its character, policies and activities, to inform the wider community, as well as the congregations
- Designing that website to support and complement individual church sites, not replace them
- Preparing a code of desirable communications practice to assist the linkage

### Progress to date

- Website structure discussed, designed and tested
- Site's textual content drafted; video and other illustrative material being developed
- Site approaching prototype status
- YouTube channel created; initial content posted
  - Visit [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and type *West Tweeddale Parish Churches* into the search box
- Preliminary version of advice on communications practice drafted; to be discussed
- Before autumn, the working group expects to have ...
  - website ready for consideration and approval by Kirk Sessions
  - guide to good communications practice ready for discussion and adoption

### Membership

Barbara Allison, Skirling  
Colin Herd, St Andrew's  
Christine Leith, St Andrew's  
Rennie McElroy, Carllops  
Christine Paterson, Tweedsmuir  
Neil Robinson, Broughton *Chair*  
Ilka Roehe, Kirkurd & Newlands

## Cross-linkage Pastoral care group

*Three cross-linkage working groups were established some months ago, on Communications, Pastoral care, and Worship. Here is an outline of the work of Pastoral Care group.*

We are a group of people working throughout the linkage who are here to reach out to anyone who is struggling in any way. We have no specific remit, but we just want to be present with people, to listen and to create an ethos of caring and loving in West Tweeddale. We are happy to visit, go for a coffee or just have a chat on the phone.

Anything that we hear will be treated with total confidentiality.

Please do get in touch if you would like to speak to any of us or if you know of someone who is in need of support. Contact me in person or at [howatjean@gmail.com](mailto:howatjean@gmail.com)

Jean Howat *Convenor*



# The Column

## A “Friendliness” of Pheasants

There have not been many years during my life in Silverburn when I have not developed a friendship with a pheasant. The dangerous life led by these birds means that usually the relationship lasts no longer than one year, or two years at the very most, before the inevitable happens. Always it has been the colourful males of the species that have had the courage to interact, while the inconspicuous brown females appear to be much more timid.

I initiate matters by throwing seed in the direction of a pheasant foraging below my bird table and things develop quickly from there. After two or three weeks my friend has gained confidence and is happily running to me when I appear and feeding from my hand. There is a merry clucking sound as he feeds, and as I talk to him, I have the chance to admire the beautiful iridescent blues and greens of the feathers on his head and neck and the patterns on his body.

My friends the pheasant have surprised me with their widely differing personalities and one of the most memorable was the one that came and knocked on the glass door with its beak until it received its breakfast. If kept waiting for too long a time it had a decidedly annoyed look in its eye. One waited till we were seated in the sun on the patio, crept up behind and gave a sharp peck through the spaces in the back of the chairs – sometimes on Bob’s bare back. Another had a habit of parading back and forth under the kitchen window crowing noisily until fed. All these instances were related to food but two years ago I had a friend who followed me around as I worked in the garden and only seemed to want the company.

A previous gamekeeper on Penicuik Estate had a collection of exotic pheasants from all over the world. To complete a project with a class at Eastfield Primary School, I received permission from Sir John Clerk to take the pupils to see the birds and talk to the gamekeeper. It was a very successful outing, apart from the consternation caused when I announced that we were walking from the school to the estate and not taking motor transport!

On returning to school, we wrote “thank you” letters to Sir John and I sent on, uncorrected, the one that said “Dear Sir John, Thank you for letting us go and see all your *peasants*.” I’m sure Sir John appreciated that!

Pheasants belong to the family *Phasianidae* and can be found world-wide, often in introduced or captive populations. They eat grains, roots and berries, and in summer, green shoots, insects, spiders, earthworms and snails.

My 2021 pheasant disappeared at the start of September, perhaps falling prey to a fox or a stoat. I hope I find a friend in 2022.

Nan Buchan

# Diary



## Contacts

**Minister: Rev Dr Tony Foley**

Telephone 07793 294 000

Email [TFoley@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:TFoley@churchofscotland.org.uk)

**Christian Aid: Mary Levison**

Telephone 01968 674 566

Email [marylevison@btinternet.com](mailto:marylevison@btinternet.com)

**Church bookings: Sheena Livingstone**

Telephone 01968 661 282

Email [sheena@deanfoot.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:sheena@deanfoot.onmicrosoft.com)

**Cultural and social events:**

*Position vacant; expressions of interest invited: contact Murray Campbell, Mary McElroy, or Rennie McElroy*

**Eco Group: Anna Woolverton**

Telephone 01968 660 382

Email [annapye@btinternet.com](mailto:annapye@btinternet.com)

**Flowers: Hilary Watt**

Telephone 01899 221 100

Email [hilarywatt9lf@btinternet.com](mailto:hilarywatt9lf@btinternet.com)

**Newsletter and website: Rennie McElroy**

Telephone 01968 661 042

Email [rennie.mcelroy@btinternet.com](mailto:rennie.mcelroy@btinternet.com)

**Session Clerk and Organist: Murray Campbell**

Telephone 01968 660 530

Email [d.m.campbell@ed.ac.uk](mailto:d.m.campbell@ed.ac.uk)

**Sunday School: Julie Gamble**

Telephone 07980 258 381

Email [julieggamble@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:julieggamble@yahoo.co.uk)

**Treasurer: Mary McElroy**

Telephone 01968 661 042

Email [maryhmcElroy@outlook.com](mailto:maryhmcElroy@outlook.com)

## Material for next issue

To Rennie McElroy by Monday 20 June 2022