



CARLOPS CHURCH

In the community, for the community

Newsletter

Volume 19, Number 10; Oct 2025

Services, October 2025

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

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28 Sept 10am: Rev Dr Tony Foley
5 Oct 10am: Peter Worthington
12 Oct 10am: Fiona Burnett (Harvest)
19 Oct 10am: Rev Dr Tony Foley (Communion)
26 Oct 10am: Murray Campbell
2 Nov 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

Echoes

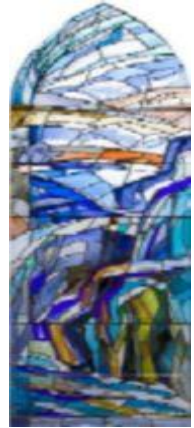
The Mockingbird by Mary Oliver

*All summer the Mockingbird
in his pearl-gray coat
and his white-windowed wings flies
from the hedge to the top of the pine
and begins to sing.*

*But it's neither lilting nor lovely,
for he is the thief of other sounds –
whistles and truck brakes and dry hinges
plus all the songs
of other birds in his neighbourhood.
Mimicking and elaborating,
he sings with humour and bravado*

*So, I have to wait a long time
for the softer voice of his own life
to come through. He begins
by giving up all his usual flutter
and setting down on the pine's forelock
then looking around
as though to make sure he's alone.*

*Then he slaps each wing against his breast,
where his heart is,
and, copying nothing, begins*



*easing into it
as though it was not half so easy
and rollicking,
as though his subject now
was his true self,
which of course was as dark and secret,
as anyone else's
and it was too hard—
perhaps you understand—
to speak or to sing it
to anything or anyone
but the sky.*

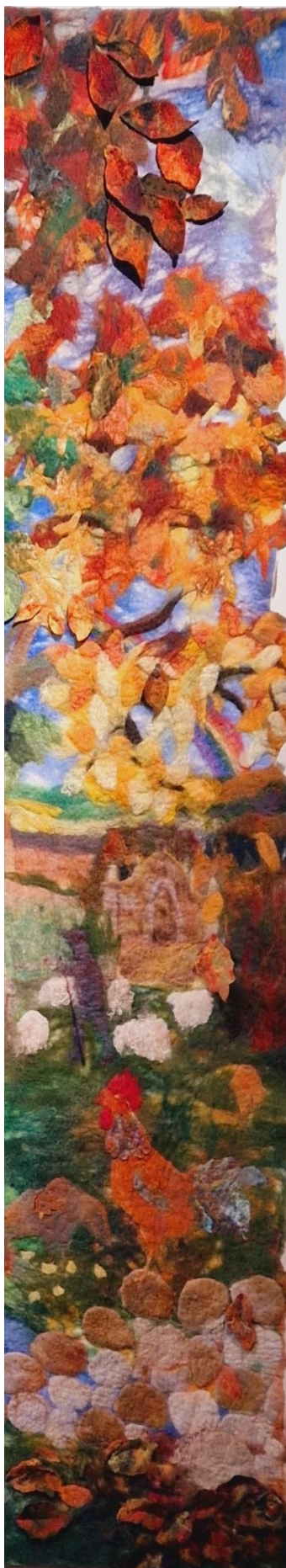
In the poem above Mary speaks of how tempting and easy it often is to be simply an echo of other people's opinions. Of how often like the Mockingbird we simply amplify and repeat what we have heard others say, never taking the time to think, '*What do I really think...*'

Taking the time to hear your own voice can be a bit scary.

But ask yourself, '*Do I really want to be simply a human Mockingbird, a mere echo someone else's opinion?*'

Peace,

Tony



Meteorological Miscellanea

In the last issue I rashly declared that a full summer report would follow this month. Full? The data I have would bore you daft. What I have done is to lump May, June, July and August into one seasonal unit. I have chosen six elements or themes and compared them with 2024's recordings. That way you only have 12 stats to digest to get the picture!

The average daytime maximum temperature over the 4 months was 66.4F. Last year's was 64.6F.

The rainfall over the 4 months was 13.63 inches. Last year 20.76 inches fell.

This summer my 'guesstimate' of hours of sunshine was 856. Last year 585.

Days with rainfall this summer totalled 63. Last year 83.

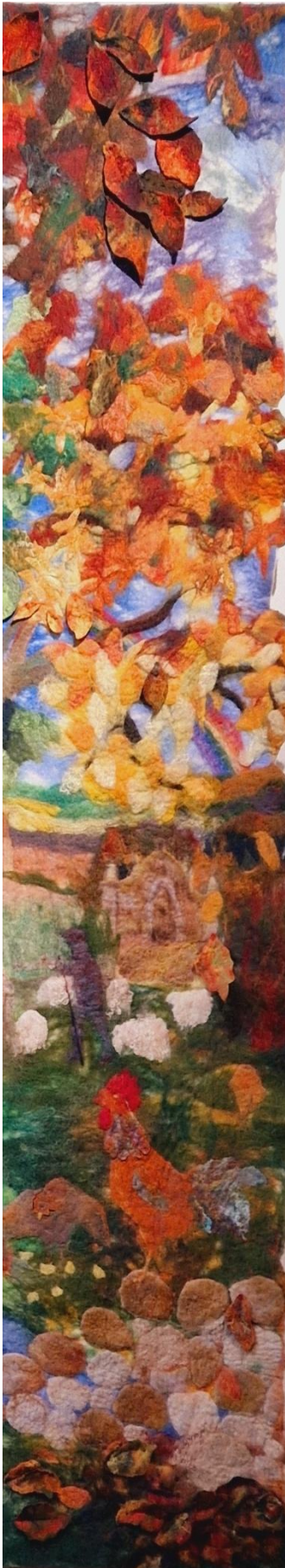
Days with sunshine this summer totalled 119. Last year 109.

Days with temperatures of 65F or more totalled 72. Last year 57.

I think we fared rather well this year.

It's been a good summer for cloudwatchers. I've been fascinated and puzzled. There's more to cumulus than one thinks. There's dramatic cumulonimbus, cumulostratus and stratocumulus cumulogenitus. There's cumulus congestus, cumulus fractus, cumulus humilis and cumulus mediocris. Heavens, there may be more! I think there should be 'low flying cumulus, and 'ice cream cone' cumulus. These can grow upwards quickly but can disappear quickly like a balloon pierced by a pin. Is there a link with the record high sea temperatures this year?

Sunday 21st September brought a surprise - the car windscreen was frozen over. Overnight the temperature had dropped from 55F to 36F as high pressure built and a northerly/Arctic wind set in. It was a joyful day. The next morning brought the real thing - 32F/0C. It was not only the first frost of the winter but the earliest frost on my record by 5



days. The previous record had stood since 1993. The 'high' lasted for 6 days with ground frost each morning. By night the skies were bright, with stars. Wonderful! Thanks to Carlops' low light emission/pollution.

Monday 22nd September was, at 7.19pm, the Autumnal Equinox. Equal day and night. Sun is now only available overhead south of the equator until March next year. A cloudless frosty morning called for a celebration. We climbed Drum Maw from Newlands Church by Whiteside and White Knowe encountering just one other walker. It was great to be on the undulating grassy SW ridge again. After a fine pie for lunch at Whitmuir we returned to Carlops. Strange cumulus clouds had closed in.

Peter Woolverton, Pyethall, 28 September 2025

News



Malawi update

At our talk earlier in September Sheena shared the good news that only the roof needs completed on the building in Makwangwal, Ntcheu District. Several of the trainee teachers have been through their courses too. With the project about to finish a full update will appear in a future issue.

Below are some maps to show the location of the village.



The wider picture in Malawi

The villagers in Makwangwal have a largely subsistence lifestyle and while this gives a degree of self-sufficiency it does mean they are vulnerable to climate change. In recent years southern Malawi has experienced flooding which has wiped out thousands of acres of crops, for example. Periods of drought have also occurred.

85% of the 22 million population live in rural areas. Agriculture makes up a huge part of the economy, with 90% of export revenue coming from this sector.

If you'd like to read about the economies of life for the average person in Malawi there is a recent story on the BBC News site [Malawi inflation - BBC News](#)

A General Election was held in Mid-September and ex-President Peter Mutharika was re-elected. Inflation is at 30%, there is a fuel shortage and a lack of foreign currency available (which prevents business loans and hinders growth).

[Malawi General Election 2025 - BBC News](#)



Our Village Talks

Monthly talks and a chance to chat

(Raising funds for Malawi and Carlops Church, suggested £5 donation per event)

Friday 10 October, 7.30pm

An Excavation of Mine - Reflections from a Pentland Artist

Artist Shelagh Atkinson introduces us to her archive and takes us through the process of working with Art360 Scotland to build this compilation of her work.

Friday 14 November, 7.30pm

The Life and Works of John Buchan

Ted Shields will present on John Buchan, 1st Baron Tweedsmuir, the Scottish novelist and historian who served as Governor General of Canada and is best known for his iconic novel *The Thirty-Nine Steps*.

Friday 5 December, 7.30pm

Songs from Africa

Guitarist Tom Salter's account of his work and travel in Mali, Zimbabwe and The Democratic Republic of Congo. With a taste of some traditional African food. *(Please note this is a change to advertised date for December event).*

Event report – Friends of the Pentlands

Andrew Marsden on Conservation, Protection & Enhancement

Have you ever been overcome with the feeling that you'd like nothing better than to go out in the wind and rain and help with heavy labour in a ditch in the Pentlands?

This is the effect of the talk given by Andrew Marsden from Friends of the Pentlands on 12th September.

He talked with great clarity on the work being undertaken by volunteers to maintain and extend access to the Regional Park for all of us who use the hills.

Did you know that sheep fleece can be used as a robust membrane to make paths in boggy areas? It acts as a base for stone paths to be laid on and prevents the stones from being trod into the soft ground. This method allows for free drainage and helps prevent erosion.



The method of 'spiling' is used to shore up eroding riverbanks using willow. Firstly, willow stakes are driven in along the bank, then osier willow lengths are woven around them and tied in to form a living fence. The area behind the fence is filled in and the fast and thickly growing willow holds it in place.

Beyond that there is the creation of new areas for nature and for people to monitor nature in those places, including a wildlife conservation area at Patieshill by Carlops.

If you wish to know more about the work, to volunteer or become a member have a look at their website

[Friends of the Pentlands – Conserving, Protecting and Enhancing](#)

**CHARITY CONCERT
AND AFTERNOON TEA WITH**



Join us for our fund-raising afternoon when we will be
singing
a selection of mainly light music with favourites such
as
**Eriskay Love Lilt, Vilia and a few treats from South
Pacific**

Carlops Village Hall
3.00 pm, Saturday, 4th October 2025
Entry £10 at the door

Linton Lifts
the organisation getting you to your
NHS appointments and home again

Newlands Church Harvest Supper, Saturday 4th October 6.30pm

Newlands Church are holding their **Harvest Supper** on Saturday 4th October at 6.30pm. This is always a lovely occasion.

It will be a potluck supper, where everyone brings food to share and there will be a collection in aid of Bethany Christian Trust.

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

howatjean@gmail.com 01968 660677

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

Harvest service in Carlops, Sunday 12th October

Our Harvest service will be held on 12th October; Fiona Burnett will be taking the service.

If you are able to contribute any food items we are collecting for the foodbank in Penicuik.

Stated Annual Meeting, Sunday 19th October

We will hold the Stated Annual Meeting to summarise the church accounts after the morning service on 19th October.

Scotland Demands Better – March in Edinburgh Saturday 25th October

This organisation, which counts The Church of Scotland among its funders, aims to bring people together to demand improvements in the lives of everyone across Scotland – better jobs with fair conditions, better investment in affordable housing, public services and the natural environment.

[Scotland Demands Better - Policies](#)

They have organised a march and rally in Edinburgh on Saturday 25th Oct.

The march starts at The Scottish Parliament at 11am and heads to the Meadows where the rally runs from 1pm to 4.30pm with musical acts, speeches, food stalls and free activities for kids.

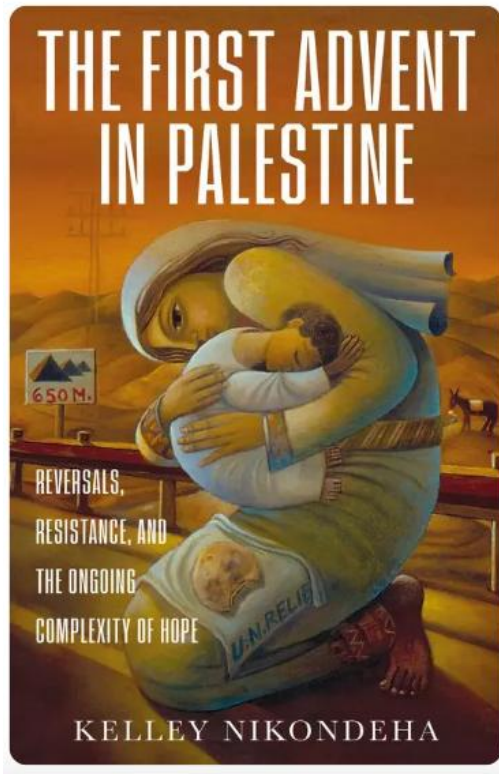
Christmas is Coming...

The days before Christmas seem to get busier every year. For the sake of your diaries here are the events we know about so far.



Advent Studies 2025 – The First Advent in Palestine

by Kelley Nikondeha



“When we picture the first Advent, we see Mary and Joseph huddled by a manger. We picture Gabriel, magi, and shepherds tending their flocks. A shining star against a midnight sky. But this harmonized version has lifted the Advent story out of its context—those who experienced the first Advent had to travel through great darkness to reach the hope that shining star announced. Trusted scholar and community organizer Kelley Nikondeha takes us back, to where the landscape of Palestine is once again the geographic, socioeconomic, and political backdrop for the Advent story.

This book has been chosen for the 2025 Advent Studies series across the linkage. The dates for the linkage-wide meetings will be available in due course.

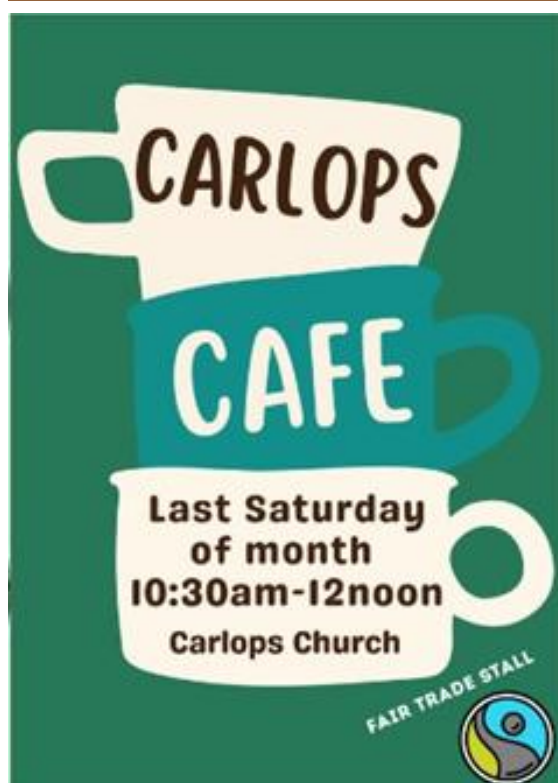
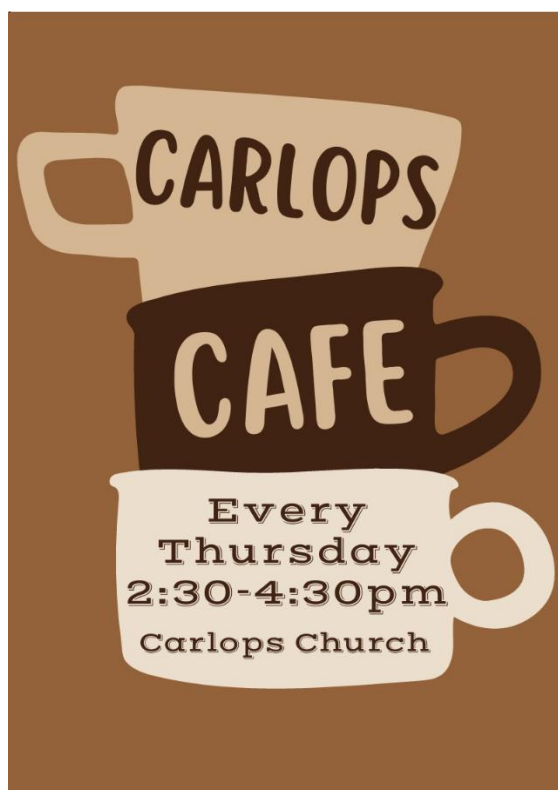
Murray is open to having a study group here in Carlops, as we did last year. For those interested, please speak to him about what time and day suits you.

Your local bookshop would be happy to order this for you – perhaps if we knew numbers we could order as a group.

Hardback ISBN 9781506474793

Paperback ISBN 9798889838258

Our regular events



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

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 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

The Column

The World on our Doorstep – Delights from the Festivals

In August the whole world seems to come to Edinburgh, and I like to take advantage of it.

In the days where amateur companies could afford to come, I frequented the Fringe. I've always enjoyed Usher Hall concerts, and this year a highlight was a tour de force on the didgeridoo by indigenous Australian player William Barton, accompanied by the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra.

These days my favourite is the Book Festival, where you can hear speakers on every imaginable topic. I heard from editors of stories from inside Gaza on the rich culture of the people there, and how their books were looted and taken to Israel, from a Ukrainian novelist of his two-day journey to get to Edinburgh, there being no civilian planes out of the country. He had a remarkable sense of humour. Yulia Navalnaya, widow of the Russian opposition leader, spoke of her determination to carry on her husband's work.

Closer to home, Henry McLeish spoke about his involvement in the setting up of the Scottish Parliament and his belief that politics should be consensual rather than combative to achieve lasting results. Andy Wightman spends an inordinate amount of time in the archives of the National Library of Scotland researching land ownership in Scotland. Did you know that today you have to jump through a number of hoops to own a small amount of croft land in Scotland, but that all you need is money to buy a huge Highland estate?

Alastair Moffat, a native of Kelso, spoke entertainingly about the changes he has seen since his 1950's childhood, including the miles food now travels to our tables.

I must admit I didn't know that stand-up comic Mark Watson has written a number of novels and that his ambition is to be on the best-seller list.

For those of us less able, the beauty of the Book Festival is that most of the events are streamed and can also be accessed online for a month or so after the event. What's not to love?

Bridget Wilcox

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 below) 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.



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.

Diary notes



Forthcoming events

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 – Artist Shelagh Atkinson
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
Tuesday 4 November	7.30-9.30pm	Gaelic Psalm Singing
Thursday 6 November	2.30-4.30pm	Carlops Café
Tuesday 11 November	7.30-9.30pm	Gaelic Psalm Singing
Wednesday 12 November	12.30-2pm	Soup Lunch
Thursday 13 November	2.30-4.30pm	Carlops Café
Friday 14 November	7.30-8.30pm	Talk – Life and works of John Buchan
Tuesday 18 November	7.30-9.30pm	Gaelic Psalm Singing

Thursday 20 November	2.30-4.30pm	Carlops Café
Tuesday 25 November	7.30-9.30pm	Gaelic Psalm Singing
Thursday 27 November	2.30-4.30	Carlops Café
Friday 28 November	10am	Wreath Making Class with Gill
		Gold £15 (proceeds to the church)
Saturday 29 November	10.30-12 noon	Coffee drop-in (Carlops Café)
		and Fair Trade stall

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 hilarywatt91f@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 Friday 24th October please