



CARLOPS CHURCH

In the community, for the community

Newsletter

Volume 20, Number 4; Apr 2026

Services, April 2026

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

:
5 Apr 10am: Rev Dr Tony Foley
12 Apr 10am: Murray Campbell
19 Apr 10am: David Henderson-Howat
26 Apr 10am: Rev Dr Tony Foley
(Communion)
3 May 10am: Colin Herd

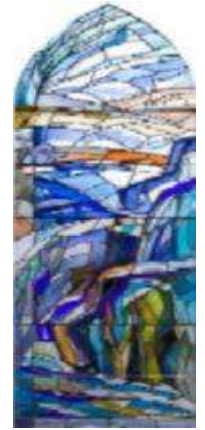
Join us, in the church, and in other activities

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

War, what is it good for?

I have of late, like many of you no doubt, been sorrowing over yet another war, that we humans have chosen to inflict on each other. Ironically the latest is termed a 'War of choice'. Aren't all wars, 'wars of choice'? Aren't all these conflicts ultimately failures of political imagination, of an unwillingness to admit that our personal perspective may be skewed. Speaking of perspectives reminds of Carl Sagan's comment on a photograph of a small blue dot caught on a picture taken from Saturn's rings:

"Look again at that dot. That's here. That's home. That's us. On it everyone you love, everyone you know, everyone you ever heard of, every human being who ever was, lived out their lives. The aggregate of our joy and suffering, thousands of confident religions, ideologies, and economic doctrines, every hunter and forager, every hero and coward, every creator and destroyer of civilization, every king and peasant, every young couple in love, every mother and father, hopeful child, inventor and explorer, every teacher of morals, every corrupt politician, every "superstar," every "supreme leader," every saint and sinner in the history of our species lived there-on a mote of dust suspended in a sunbeam. The Earth is a very small stage in a vast cosmic arena. Think of the endless cruelties visited by the inhabitants of one corner of this pixel on the scarcely distinguishable inhabitants of some other corner, how frequent their misunderstandings, how eager they are to kill one another, how fervent their hatreds. Think of the rivers of blood spilled by all those generals and emperors so that, in glory and triumph, they could become the momentary masters of a fraction of a dot.... There is perhaps no better demonstration of the folly of human conceits than this distant image of our tiny world. To me, it underscores our responsibility to deal kindlier with one another, and to preserve and cherish the pale blue dot, the only home we've ever known."

Recently I came across a painting by the German artist *Johannes Matthaeus Koelz*, titled '*Thou shalt not kill*'. The work is shocking because the crucified figure is dressed as a German soldier captured on a barbed wire fence, his face covered with a gas mask and close by, in the landscape of Calvary there is another dead soldier, killed in battle. On the left are German soldiers and on the right Allied troops, praying to the same God for presumably the same peace. For me the perhaps the most disturbing aspect of the painting are the figures of bishops and priests on either side blessing the weaponry of war. For Christians war is never acceptable and peace is never simply an alternative, it is a non-negotiable necessity.

On the night of Jesus's arrest he commanded Peter to put away his sword. His command to Peter is one of the clearest indications of Jesus's challenge to us all that even when our cause is just there is an alternative to violence and war. This Easter, settle it in your mind and determine it in your heart to, '*Seek peace and pursue it.*' *Psalm 34:14*

Peace, Tony.



Meteorological Miscellanea

Friday 20th March was a fine day. At 13.6C it was the warmest day of the year so far in Carllops. In Gogerddam, in Wales, it was 19C and the warmest place in the UK. In Arizona it was 43.3C and the State's warmest March day on record. Back in Scotland the first official wildfire alert of the year was issued for the NE. It seemed an appropriate day for the Vernal Equinox at 2.46pm UK time.

At 2.46pm the sun was overhead north of the Equator once more and we had gathered for the event on Faw Mount (416m), southeast of Baddingsgill. We were sharp, so we cooied doon in the heather for a few minutes hoping for skylark twitter. We were disappointed. The locale was ours alone.

In due course we descended by the steep west face of the West Top of Faw Mount to recross the Lyne Water.

That evening we traversed Rock Field to Carllops Village Centre to view the Pentland Film Society's screening of "A Real Pain". En route we caught sight of the skimpiest crescent moon setting behind Mount Maw.

On leaving the Village Centre the night sky was extraordinary. In the words of Robert Macfarlane "Away from the smog and the light pollution of the city the stars multiplied and the universe seemed deeper, more limpid". As we stood on Kitleyknowe Road it was as if we were within a vast cathedral. We wanted to linger but a warm fireside beckoned. The next morning we read of many sightings of the Northern Lights as far south as Norfolk. Did we miss them?

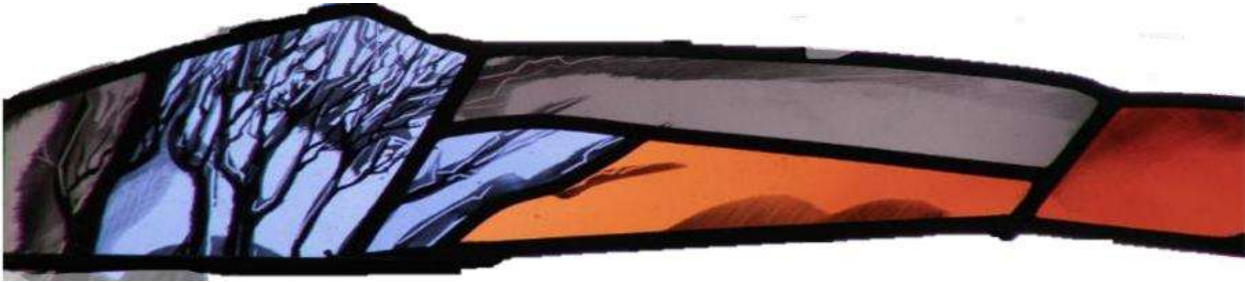
On Saturday 21st March we also read a report by Ben Rich, Lead Weather Presenter. It referred to authorities activating emergency plans as Storm Therese brought wet, windy and wintry weather. Outdoor events were to be called off, some flights were to be cancelled, and warnings were to stay in force throughout the weekend. Significant snow had already fallen over



high ground in the centre of the island around the volcano. Heavy rain was to bring threat of flooding while strong winds and rough seas were also to pose a hazard. Now, where are we? Ah! Tenerife of course, the Canary Islands. Yes!

Finally, some humble stats for precipitation in humble Carlps. So far this year it's close to average – 2.70 inches/68.6mm. The 31-year average is 3.15 inches/80.0mm. Last year 1.76 inches/44.7mm. The wettest was 5.5 inches/139.8mm in 2019. The driest was 1.02 inches/25.9mm in 1996.

Peter Woolverton, Pyethall, 27th March 2026



Our Village Talks

Monthly talks and a chance to chat

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

Friday 10th April 2026 7.30pm – Marianne Hazlewood Local botanical artist Marianne will give a talk on her intricate work, accompanied by some of her pieces.

Friday 15th May 2026 7.30pm – Alex Gray Alex and helpers will give a talk on the different musical influences in Scottish Country Dancing.

Friday 12th June 7.30pm – Chris Levison – But I Don't Believe That Either

Do you feel slightly guilty about not really believing things expected in church?

Or not taking the Bible literally and seeing religious language as metaphor?

Chris explores aspects of the philosophy of a movement known as “Progressive Christianity”.

Last month's talk raised £205 with half of this going to Project Kuyenda in Malawi.

Easter Breakfast – Sunday 5th April in Village Hall

We will host an Easter Breakfast in the Village Hall from 9am – 10am on Easter Sunday, 5th April.

Hope to see you there!

Volunteers most welcome, just contact Mary Levison or Julie Gamble to see how you can help.

Pentecost Sunday Celebration - 24th May 2-5pm,

There will be an event on Pentecost Sunday in the garden of the Manse in West Linton.

The aim is to make people aware of the range of activities in the various parishes that make up 'Church'.

The hope is that it will lead to spiritual growth in or numeric growth from members of our communities.

Leaders of various Church groups will be invited to have a stall to promote their activities.

There will be more details in the near future but if you have any questions, please contact Julie Gamble, Fiona Burnett, Margreat Habeshaw or Steven Whalley.

Steven Whalley

Christian Aid Coffee Morning and Plant Sale – Saturday 30th May, 10.30-12.00

Our May coffee morning will be for Christian Aid and include a plant sale.

All plant donations and baking donations gladly received!

The Linton Singers – Mozart at Salzburg – Greyfriars Kirk, Saturday 18th April, 7pm



The Linton Singers

A Charity Concert supporting
Teacher Training for our school in Malawi

MOZART AT SALZBURG

Conductor: Murray Campbell
Coronation Mass in C Major
Te Deum Laudamus
Solemn Vespers
including the well known aria Laudate Dominum

Saturday, 18th April 2026 at 7.00pm
Greyfriars Kirk, Greyfriars Place, Edinburgh, EH1 2QQ

Tickets via [Eventbrite](#) £15 at the door or from the choir



West Linton Sunday Club – dates and Prize Giving

On Sunday 5th April there will be no Sunday Club because of school holidays, however as it happens to be Easter Sunday that day all our families will be invited to the Easter Service and our Easter Egg Hunt in church that morning.

Our annual Prize Giving will take place at the morning services in **both Carlops and St Andrew's** on **Sunday 3rd May**. This is a new development to accommodate our children who attend both churches.

As Sunday 7th June falls on the same day as the Whipman service in the marquee, there will be no Sunday Club.

After the school summer holidays, Sunday Club will resume on Sunday 6th September. We would like to express our sincere thanks to you all for your continued support of us in what we are doing with the children and for welcoming them and their families. *Ann and Kate*

Carlops Community Garden – Green Gym

Saturday and Sunday 18th and 19th April from 2pm

- Please come and join us as we start our 2026 planting season! Clearing our planters, moving compost, digging holes for relocation of soft fruit bushes.
- Bring your own gloves, and wheelbarrow or spade if you have them. Any spare soft fruit bushes which need a home?
- There will be cake!
- Regular weekly sessions will re-start on **Wednesday 22nd April 6.30 - 8.00** - all welcome!

Thank you to all our generous supporters who contribute towards the costs of grass and hedge cutting, insurance and maintenance. For anyone new, an annual donation of up to £20 per family would be really appreciated. Standing orders welcome. Please use your name as the reference.

Bank account details:

Carlops Community Garden Group

80-22-60

25320467

Bethany Care Van

Earlier in the month the West Linton Boys Brigade raised over £200 to support the Bethany Care Van. We record our gratitude and congratulations to the boys (and their leaders) for this wonderful sum.

Many of you will know that once a month, on a Sunday evening, a team of three from the West Linton Churches take the Bethany Care Van out. They distribute food and clothing for homeless people in central Edinburgh, typically helping around 40-50 people each time.

Although there are three serving from the van there are many more who give their time and talents to make it possible. This includes the people making soup, baking, buying bread rolls fruit and crisps and importantly biscuits (chocolate or otherwise).

As well as the food, the West Linton team also provides clothing, which other teams don't. In that regard the money raised by the BB's and, as you may remember, the offering at our joint Christmas services, are very welcome. Robert Higgins has always, magically, supplied the clothes.

Our thanks go to Robert who, until recently and after many years, has headed this activity and to Peter Woodfield who has stepped in.

If you want to know more, please speak to Robert, Michael Knott, Kate Whalley or any of the other volunteers.

Steven Whalley

The Column

A new season

A couple of weeks ago Carlops Village Hall held a Spring Clean Tabletop sale. The church had 2 tables full of the surplus, the unneeded and the well-used, in many different categories.

The catharsis of the Spring clean is in part the first use of our reawakened energy as we, like last year's seeds, respond to the generally increasing temperature and daylight.

It feels like anything is possible, and once the house has been dealt with the garden is the next to fall into focus. I don't 'put my garden to bed' for the Winter. So, when Spring springs the green bursts out below the stalks of last year's plants. I enjoy cutting things back at this point but, if the plant is going to grow tall again, I leave the old stalks in as supports. Don't throw the old material away, it can be added to your insect hotel if you have one. All the hollow stems are 5-star luxuries there.

Leaving the garden to itself brings great opportunities to see your winter garden friends. The teasel heads have fed the goldfinch, the wren has bustled about in the moss and leaves, the stoat (half in ermine) has been in around the raised beds. Partridges and hares have used the long grass to hunker down. The voles have built their tunnels under there and you see the odd entrance, a neat round hole in the dead yellow strands. At night the owls come, watching for a meal.

But now the curlews are back and the oystercatchers, the wagtails, the chiffchaffs. We are waiting for the cuckoo and the swallows, swifts and martins. Have you ever heard whooper swans flying at night? It's a strange sound, coming toward you in the pitch-black night – thank goodness for the Merlin app! They fly non-stop on their migration north to their breeding territories in Iceland.

If you have a dog, you'll notice they have so much more to smell on their walks. It's important work for them and requires a long sleep on the sofa afterward!

Julie Gamble

Our regular events



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

DONATIONS TO SELL NEEDED

**CHRISTIAN AID
CAR BOOT SALE**

**SKIRLING
VILLAGE
GREEN**

**SUNDAY
10 MAY
2026**

**1:30 -
4:30 PM
VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**



**HELP WITH THE TEAS, HELPING IN THE KITCHEN,
SERVING TEAS , BAKING FOR THE TEAS,
MANNING THE CHRISTIAN AID STALL, GENERAL
ASSISTANCE IN SET UP & TAKE DOWN**

CONTACT ISOBEL HUNTER

Christian Aid Week around the Linkage

10-16 May 2026

Christian Aid Week will soon be upon us! Christian Aid Week in Scotland raised over £780,000 last year. Its theme is “Where Hardship means Hunger...urban farmers can grow hope”.

This year, we’re raising funds for our global work by sharing stories about Kenya. A debt crisis is trapping people in poverty. Kenya spends more paying back debt than it does on public services such as healthcare and education.

CA’s partner, Beacon of Hope, is encouraging rural Kenyans who have had to move to the cities because of drought and crop failures to use much smaller urban spaces in their neighborhoods to grow their own food to feed their families. Hardship often leads to hunger but for farmers like Fridah, gardens grow hope! For more details, explore the CA website at caweek.org

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

** CA service at St. Andrew’s church will be on Sunday 10th May.

** The popular CA Scotland cryptic Quiz will be back with its theme of “Sport or Game”.

Hard copy and digital formats will be available in due course (but not the answers yet!). Optional discretionary donation welcome.

** CA Car Boot Sale, Skirling Village Green, Sunday 10th May, 130pm – 430pm

Saleable items needed for the CA stall.

Also volunteers to help serve teas and provide home baking.

See posters locally - contact Isobel Hunter if you can be of assistance.

** Book Sale, Holy Corner, Morningside United church, Saturday 9th to Monday 11th May.

All proceeds are donated to CA.

How to Donate

Ideally donate online at www.christianaid.org.uk All your money goes directly to CA with no hidden deductions reducing its value.

If you still prefer to use the traditional CA envelope, these will be available to pick up from the church at Sunday services during May.

Robert Higgins, CA Chair

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.

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: TBC

Telephone

Newsletter and website: Julie Gamble

Telephone 07980 258 381

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

Telephone/text 07980 836 817

Email bridgetwilcox@hotmail.com

Diary notes



Forthcoming events

Thursday 2 April	2.30-4.30pm	Carlops Cafe
Sunday 5 April	9am	Easter Breakfast in Village Hall
Tuesday 7 April	7.30-9.30pm	Gaelic Psalm Singing
Wednesday 8 April	12.30 – 2pm	Soup Lunch
Thursday 9 April	2.30-4.30pm	Carlops Cafe
Friday 10 April	7.30-8.30pm	Our Village Talks –Marianne Hazlewood – Botanical art
Tuesday 14 April	7.30-9.30pm	Gaelic Psalm Singing
Thursday 16 April	2.30-4.30pm	Carlops Cafe
Tuesday 21 April	7.30-9.30pm	Gaelic Psalm Singing
Thursday 23 April	2.30-4.30pm	Carlops Cafe
Saturday 25 April	10.30-12pm	Coffee Drop-in (Carlops Café) and Fair Trade Stall
Tuesday 28 April	7.30-9.30pm	Gaelic Psalm Singing
Thursday 30 April	2.30-4.30pm	Carlops Cafe
Tuesday 5 May	7.30-9.30pm	Gaelic Psalm Singing
Thursday 7 May	2.30-4.30pm	Carlops Cafe
Tuesday 12 May	7.30-9.30pm	Gaelic Psalm Singing
Wednesday 13 May	12.30 – 2pm	Soup Lunch
Thursday 14 May	2.30-4.30pm	Carlops Cafe
Friday 15 May	7.30-8.30pm	Our Village Talks – Alex Gray,

**Music's influence on Scottish
Country Dancing**

Tuesday 19 May	7.30-9.30pm	Gaelic Psalm Singing
Thursday 21 May	2.30-4.30pm	Carlops Cafe
Tuesday 26 May	7.30-9.30pm	Gaelic Psalm Singing
Thursday 28 May	2.30-4.30pm	Carlops Cafe
Saturday 30 May	10.30-12pm	Christian Aid Coffee Drop-in, plant sale and Fair Trade Stall

Material for next issue

To Julie Gamble by Monday 27th April 2026 please