



CARLOPS CHURCH

In the community, for the community

Newsletter

Volume 20, Number 5; May 2026

Services, May 2026

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

:
3 May 10am: Colin Herd
10 May 10am: Peter Worthington
17 May 10am: Rev Dr Tony Foley
24 May 10am: Steven Whalley
31 May 10am: Patsy Campbell

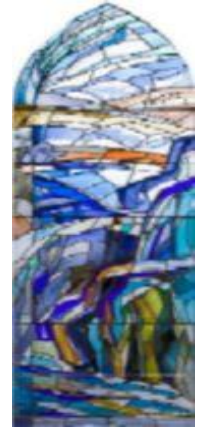
Join us, in the church, and in other activities

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

Conscience

The best poems ask the most important questions of us, sometimes aslant sometimes directly. Wendell Berry's poem below is almost brutal in its directness. Yet it asks questions that for the good for our hearts and minds and souls are worth considering. Because they ask us to think about when in pursuit of national and personal objectives, how morally 'flexible' our conscience might be. Our conscience, like all the 'muscles' we are born with, needs to be developed, and our innate sense of fairness honed often by questions prompted by circumstance or conversation.

Berry's poem reminds me of the prophet Micah's statement - '... the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.'

Micha 6:8

That statement is made in a socio-political context of moral and spiritual confusion. A context where the cloak of religious/political nationalism, sadly not for the first nor last time, is used to cover a multitude of moral failings. Read the poem and let the words and the questions do their work.

THE QUESTIONNAIRE by Wendell Berry

*How much poison are you willing
to eat for the success of the free market
and global trade? Please,
name your preferred poisons.*

*For the sake of goodness, how much
evil are you willing to do?*

*Fill in the following blanks
with the names of your favourite
evils and acts of hatred.*

*What sacrifices are you prepared
to make for culture and civilization?
Please list the monuments, shrines,
and works of art you would
most willingly destroy.*

*In the name of patriotism and
the flag, how much of our beloved
land are you willing to desecrate?
List in the following spaces
the mountains, rivers, towns, farms
you could most readily do without.
State briefly the ideas, ideals, or hopes,
the energy sources, the kinds of security,
for which you would kill a child.
Name, please, the children whom
you would be willing to kill.*

Peace, Tony.



Meteorological Miscellanea

Carlops Soup aficionados are meteorologically sensitive.

On Wed 11th March, I was fortunate to hear the latest Carlops Soup Song. Let me run a soupçon of lines past you.

“It still feels like winter; we need to recoup, so cheer up and eat it, there’s nothing to beat it.” “It’s tasty to eat and its great fun to boot. It brings us together, whatever the weather.” Try “mud, mud glorious mud” for the tune.

On Fri 17th April our Pentland Film Society screened their last film of the season. Before “Women at War” an AGM was held and before that I overheard a conversation about the severity or otherwise of our winter just past. That gave me an idea for a comparison with last year. So it’s Jan, Feb and Mar – 2025 v. Jan, Feb and Mar – 2026.

First: average temperatures, (apologies to degrees C fans. Being over the hill my data is of the Fahrenheit variety.) (JG – I have added the equivalents!)

Average daily maxima: Jan, Feb, Mar 2025: 37.9F, 42.3F, 49.7F
: 3.2C, 5.7C, 9.8C

Average daily maxima: Jan, Feb, Mar 2026: 37.8F, 41.9F, 48.5F
: 3.2C, 5.5C, 9.1C

So, a bit colder.

Average daily minima: Jan, Feb, Mar 2025: 30.9F, 34.2F, 36.1F
: -0.6C, 1.2C, 2.2C

Average daily minima: Jan, Feb, Mar 2026: 31.4F, 35.7F, 35.7F
: -0.3C, 2.0C, 2.0C

So, just March was slightly colder.

Precipitation: Jan 2026 2.65ins (2025 3.54 ins)
Feb 2026 3.72 ins (2025 1.88 ins)
Mar 2026 3.35 ins (2025 1.76 ins)



Snow fell on 8 days in Jan 2026 (up from 7)

5 days in Feb 2026 (down from 6)

7 days in Mar 2026 (up from 2)

So, March noticeably snowier this year.

Lying snow on 11 days in Jan 2026 (down from 17)

10 days in Feb 2026 (up from 4)

8 days in Mar 2026 (up from 1)

My sunshine figures are careful estimates, not having a Campbell-Stokes recorder (a glass sphere).

Hours of sunshine Jan 2026: 67.9 hr (down from 89.8 hr)

Feb 2026: 40 hr (down from 66.6 hr)

Mar 2026: 145.2 hr (down from 174.7 hr)

So, duller, duller and duller.

I hope this isn't too heavy on stats.

Finally, to not cheer you up, a quote from Issue 1714 of the Big Issue:

“Britain is now 10% wetter than it was in the late 20th century and six of the ten wettest winters on record have occurred in the last 20 years.”

Peter Woolverton, Pyethall, 24.4.2026 Max sun now!



Our Village Talks

Monthly talks and a chance to chat

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

Friday 15th May 2026 7.30pm – Alex Gray – Music and Dance

Alex will use his huge wealth of experience to take us through the 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”.

Our Minister's last Carlops service

Rev Dr Tony Foley will give his last service in Carlops on Sunday 17th May. His last day as Minister is 30th May. If you wish to contact Tony before then please see his details on the 'Contacts' page of this newsletter.

Interim Moderator Appointed

On 29th April Presbytery Council approved the appointment of Rev Graham Astles, Minister at Penicuik North Kirk, as our Interim Moderator.

Christian Aid Coffee Morning and Plant Sale – Sat 30th May 10.30-12

Our May coffee morning will be for Christian Aid and include a plant sale, so we are hoping for good weather!

All plant donations and baking donations gladly received.





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

The festival of Pentecost, or Whitsun as it is sometimes called happens 50 days after Easter and celebrates the beginnings of the Christian Church. It's the church's birthday if you like and unlike Christmas and Easter, is not really celebrated outside the church. This year though, West Tweeddale Parishes want to change all this around and invite you to an afternoon of fun, activities and entertainment to celebrate Pentecost.

We are inviting all the organisations throughout the parishes which have a link with the church, big or small to set up a stall or activity promoting their organisation. This will include, amongst other things, games, activities, storytelling, music etc. It's a way of highlighting how the Church and organisations work together to make our community thrive. It's also giving an opportunity for these organisations to advertise what they are doing and attract more people to join them. There will be refreshments on sale, birthday cake to hand out, (after all it is the birthday of the church!), and there might be a treasure hunt or two to take part in. We'd like to end the afternoon in praise of God for the joy of Pentecost, so we'll have an open-air Songs of Praise.

Look out for posters, save the date and come along on Sunday afternoon, 24th May to the manse garden in West Linton (across the road from St. Andrew's Church) for a fun packed afternoon. And if you are interested in having a stall or helping on the day, please contact Fiona Burnett (fiona@glenholm.co.uk, Tel 07944 196234) for more details.

It's good to talk - Linked to the Pentecost event, we are looking for volunteers who would be happy to have a conversation with anyone who has questions about faith or church in general. People might want to know more about being a Christian, perhaps you would be happy sharing your

experiences. If you wish to volunteer, please let Steven Whalley know.

stevenwhalley.westlinton@gmail.com

Volunteers needed – Please let Julie know if you can help on the day – volunteers are needed to run a stall showing all the things that happen at Carlops Church. We also need help with teas and coffees.



COME AND JOIN THE CELEBRATION!

Sunday 24th May 2-5pm,
Manse Garden, West Linton
Music, games, activities,
refreshments and
info stalls of local groups.

THE CHURCH ACTIVE IN OUR COMMUNITY



**WEST TWEEDDALE
CHURCHES**

Report - Linton Singers' Mozart at Salzburg concert (raising funds for teacher training in Malawi).

Saturday, 18th April 2026 at Greyfriars Kirk, Edinburgh was the venue for an evening of wonderful music by Mozart. The Linton Singers choir and orchestra presented a concert including “Te Deum Laudamus”, “The Solemn Vespers” and the splendid “Coronation Mass in C Major”. The choir and orchestra were conducted by Murray Campbell. The soloists were Soprano – Caroline Gold, Hannah Haynes – Mezzo Soprano, Theodore Rankine Fourdraine – Tenor and Mike Chad – Bass and we very much appreciated their contribution to the programme.

The orchestra was made up of twenty-four invited musicians assembled by Margaret Torrance.

Below are a few notes on the music in the programme.



Mozart at Salzburg

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was born in Salzburg on 27th January 1756. His father Leopold, a respected violinist and composer, was employed as Vice-Kapellmeister in the court orchestra of Salzburg Archbishop Sigismund Christoph von Schrattenbach. Leopold personally undertook the musical education of his prodigiously gifted son Wolfgang and his sister Nannerl. Between 1762 and 1773 the family undertook

several European tours, including visits to musical centres in Germany, France, England and Italy. During this period Mozart composed numerous choral works for performance in Salzburg Cathedral, including the Te Deum Laudamus, a remarkably accomplished work for a boy just entering his teenage years.

Te Deum Laudamus, KV141

This short early work is closely modelled on a setting of the Te Deum Laudamus text by Michael Haydn, composed in 1760. Like the other two pieces in the programme it is scored for an orchestra without flutes or clarinets, but including brass, timpani and organ.

Solemn Vespers, K339

Despite its common title, the Solemn Vespers is a far from a solemn sequence of five Psalms and a Magnificat, composed for evening prayer at Salzburg Cathedral. Its moods range from exuberant joy to exquisite tenderness and beauty.

1. Dixit Dominus (Psalm 110)
2. Confitebor tibi (Psalm 111)
3. Beatus vir (Psalm 112)
4. Laudate pueri (Psalm 113)
5. Laudate Dominus (Psalm 117) – This was sung as a soprano solo and is probably the most well-known part of the Vespers
6. Magnificat

Coronation Mass in C Major, K317

The first performance of this mass was probably in Salzburg Cathedral on Easter Sunday in 1779. As required by Archbishop Colloredo, it lasts well under forty five minutes. It gained its title Coronation Mass in the nineteenth century, probably because its festive character led to it being chosen frequently to celebrate coronations in the Austrian Imperial Court.

1. Kyrie
2. Gloria
3. Credo
4. Sanctus
5. Benedictus

6. Agnus Dei

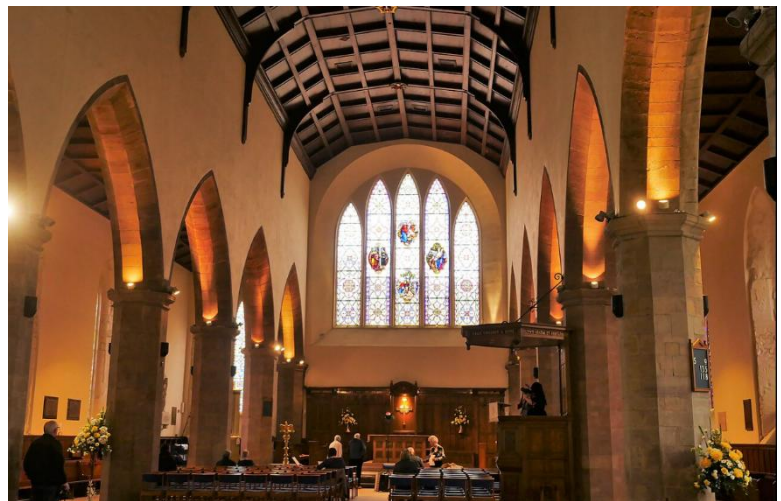
The choir have spent several months preparing for this concert and our rehearsals have been accompanied by Jean Arulanantham on piano. Jean did a wonderful job providing us with a full accompaniment for these very demanding works.

Our initial plans were to give the concert at the Canongate Kirk in Edinburgh and to this end advertising posters, flyers and tickets had been printed. Three weeks before the concert I received a message from the Administrator at the

Canongate Kirk saying that the church had been having major refurbishment work carried out, but there had been significant delays, and the church would not be available for our concert.

This news came as a shock as we had booked the instrumentalists and soloists, however as always Murray was very positive, and a decision was made to look at alternative venues. Quite unusually Greyfriars Kirk did not have a booking for 18th April and as a helpful gesture they agreed to make their facilities available at a reduced rate.

Greyfriars is a large city venue for a small Borders choir and initially I did wonder what size of audience we would have. However, on arrival for the afternoon rehearsal, I became more confident as that part of town was buzzing with tourists and Greyfriars have a good advertising system. Just before 7.30 p.m the choir and soloists were dressed and ready for the performance and people kept on arriving and the Kirk was filling nicely.



A big audience is good for the performers but also for the charity. People were very generous and the choir have been able to transfer £800 to the Malawi charity that Sheena Livingstone has been supporting. Sheena also took the initiative to ask for donations in collecting cans and this added a further £400 approximately.

Gillian Gold, 29 April 2026

A Tour of our Linked Congregations

A Tour of our Linked Congregations Some time ago, Tony, in his Reflection spoke movingly about the need for unity, not just in Church of course but naturally he was also thinking globally, given the parlous state of parts of the world. His words gave me pause to ponder. I asked myself what practical action can I take to foster unity? Without need for further thought, I both felt and knew that I was being guided to visit all the Churches in the linkage. I set about my individual “tour” of the linkage and what a time I’ve enjoyed whilst gaining enrichment for my soul.

Visiting all our beautiful Churches, meeting new people, hearing a range of reflections, singing out joyously. In one Church we even enjoyed a sung “collection” so beautiful to hear a solo voice with an organist accompaniment. I’ve attended a Lenten meeting and sung the hymn “Take My Life” in a Café.

Perhaps it goes without saying that coffee and home-made cakes were enjoyed in friendly fellowship with others. In one Church, coffee was served both before - and after - the Service. In the words of Psalm 133:1: "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!".

Elaine Robinson

The Column

The International Serpentarium returns to Carlops!



Members of the International Serpentarium at Carlops Church in May 2022

Can you name the only musical instrument specifically designed for performance in churches? Not the pipe organ, which was first used to accompany circus entertainments in Ancient Greece and Rome. It was in fact the serpent, a sinuous black wind instrument which was invented around 1590 by the priest in the French city of Auxerre to boost the male voices in his cathedral choir. Serpents were later taken up by military bands, and even featured in orchestral scores by major composers including Berlioz, Mendelssohn and Wagner. In the mid-nineteenth century its role in orchestras and

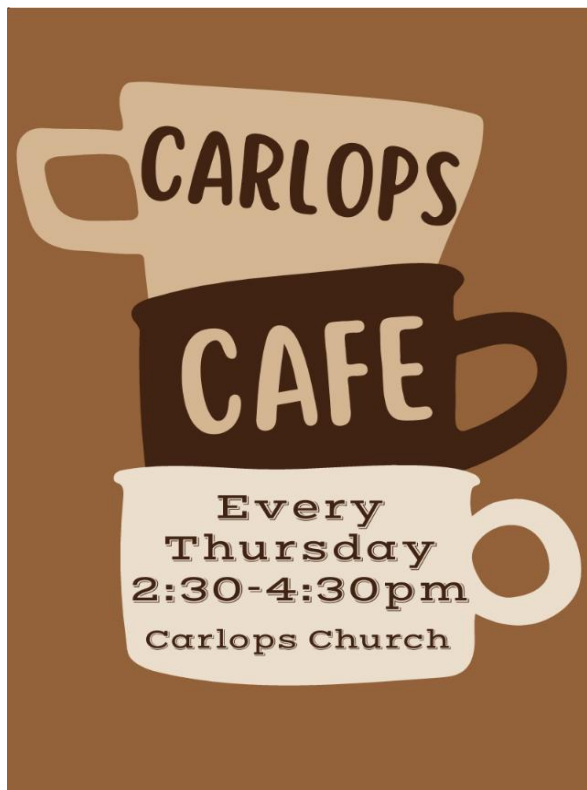
bands was largely taken over by the valved tuba, but it lingered on as a curiosity until the late twentieth century, when Christopher Monk spearheaded a remarkable revival of interest in the making and playing of serpents. In 1990 Christopher organised a concert to celebrate the supposed four hundredth birthday of the instrument, and the church of St John's Smith Square in London resonated to the amazing sound of over fifty serpents playing an arrangement of Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture.

Since then a smaller group of serpent enthusiasts have gathered every two years over the May Bank Holiday weekend to enjoy the very special pleasure of playing in a serpent ensemble. The group has included serpentists from the United States, Australia, and several European countries, and has become known as the International Serpentarium. In recent years the meetings have alternated between the south of England and Scotland, and on two previous occasions Carlops has hosted the event.

This year the Serpentarium returns to Carlops. On this occasion the group includes three professional performers who form the London Serpent Trio, and they will be presenting a concert in Carlops Village Hall on Friday 22nd May at 7.30pm. It is in fact the 50th Anniversary concert of this unique ensemble, founded originally by Christopher Monk and led now by Phil Humphries. Details are available at https://www.euchmi.ed.ac.uk/am/LST_concert.png.

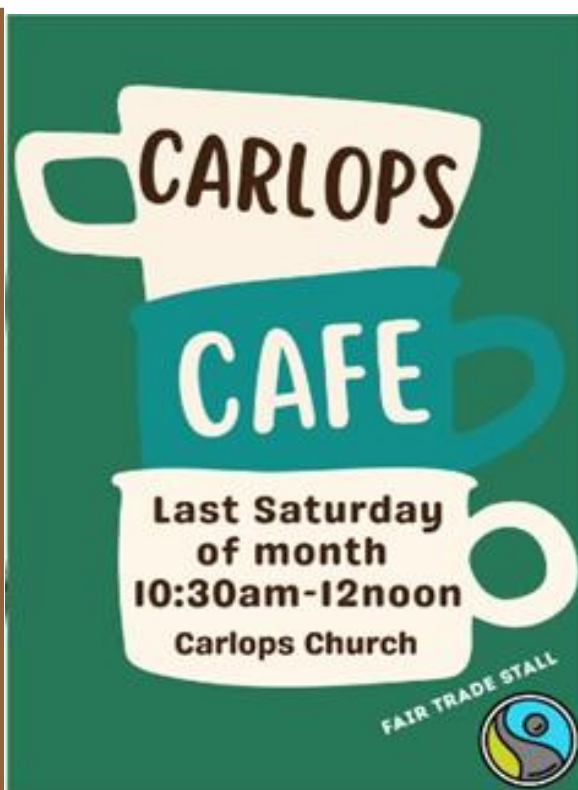
Over the weekend the unmistakable sound of serpents rehearsing will be audible to anyone passing the church and the village hall. If the doors are open you are welcome to take a peek at this strange (but very Carlops) activity. The Serpentarium will conclude with the traditional free concert by the massed ensemble of serpents in Carlops Church on Sunday 24th May at 7.30pm.

Our regular events




CARLOPS
CAFE

Every
Thursday
2:30-4:30pm
Carlops Church



CARLOPS
CAFE

Last Saturday
of month
10:30am-12noon
Carlops Church

FAIR TRADE STALL 



Gaelic Psalm Singing

Seinneadh nan Salm
Gàidhlig

With **Rob MacNeacail**

TUESDAYS
7.30PM-
9.30PM
CARLOPS
CHURCH



SOUP LUNCH



2ND WEDNESDAY OF THE
MONTH, CARLOPS CHURCH
12.30-2PM



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

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
Tuesday 2 June	7.30-9.30pm	Gaelic Psalm Singing
Thursday 4 June	2.30-4.30pm	Carlops Cafe
Tuesday 9 June	7.30-9.30pm	Gaelic Psalm Singing
Wednesday 10 June	12.30 – 2pm	Soup Lunch
Thursday 11 June	2.30-4.30pm	Carlops Cafe
Friday 12 June	7.30-8.30pm	Our Village Talks – Chris Levison – But I don’t Believe that Either

Tuesday 16 June	7.30-9.30pm	Gaelic Psalm Singing
Thursday 18 June	2.30-4.30pm	Carlops Cafe
Tuesday 23 June	7.30-9.30pm	Gaelic Psalm Singing
Thursday 25 June	2.30-4.30pm	Carlops Cafe
Saturday 27 June	10.30-12pm	Coffee Drop-in (Carlops Café) and Fair Trade Stall

Material for next issue

To Julie Gamble by Tuesday 26 May 2026 please