



# CARLOPS CHURCH

In the community, for the community

## Newsletter

Volume 20, Number 6; June 2026

## Services, June 2026

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

:  
7 June 10am: Colin Herd  
14 June 10am: Rev Chris Levison  
21 June 10am: Isobel Hunter  
28 June 10am: Steven Whalley  
5 July 10am: Colin Herd

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

**We promise you a warm welcome**

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

***Carlops is one of the West Tweeddale linkage of churches***

**[www.westtweeddale.org.uk](http://www.westtweeddale.org.uk)**

# God at Work

I have not managed to get someone to write the main article for this month so I hope you will allow me to offer a reflection as we move into vacancy.

**Colin Herd, Worship Leader**

This reflection is based on 2 Chronicles 20, verses 1-26. The time is some 850 years BC – a long time ago. The Israelites were having difficulty with their different neighbours. The King, Jehoshaphat, instead of calling a war council ‘resolved to enquire of the Lord’.

In front of all the people he stood up and prayed.

Three phrases stand out to me in his prayer: ‘*are you not*’, ‘*did you not*’, and ‘*will you not*’. Present, past and future. Jehoshaphat recognises who God is – **are you not** the God who is in heaven. He recognises what God has done in the past – **did you not** drive out the inhabitants of this land and give it to the descendants of Abraham.

Now this settled state is in jeopardy, but Jehoshaphat recognises that God still has a part to play as he prays, ‘**will you not** judge them’.

After Jehoshaphat had prayed Jahaziel the prophet stood up and exhorted the people not to be afraid or discouraged. But the people still had to go out to the battle lines; ‘go out to face them tomorrow, and the lord will be with you’.

Jehoshaphat and all the people worshipped then they went out to face the enemy and wonderfully they found that their enemies had turned on themselves. God had given Jehoshaphat the victory before he even reached the battlefield. But note, he had to go out. No staying at home just because God was at work.

We can apply this to ourselves. Jesus is still the God **who is** in heaven. He **has dealt** with our sin on the cross and he **will come** again.



Yes, the bible does speak of judgement. But for those who know Jesus there is good news as this chorus tells us:

He did not come to judge the world,  
He did not come to blame,  
He did not only come to seek,  
It was to save He came.  
And when we call him Saviour  
We call Him by His name.

God has given us the victory, but we still need to go out into the battlefield that is the world to bring those who do not know Jesus to a saving knowledge of Him.

## Vacancy

It was sad to bid farewell to Tony Foley, our minister.

He led a final linkage service on Sunday 31 May.

Following his departure there will be two Interim Moderators - Graham Astles and John Urquhart from Penicuik - who will guide us through the vacancy process and chair the Kirk Session Meetings.

We are also looking for a locum who can take services and help with the work of the linkage. The session clerks are meeting regularly, and the worship leaders are stepping up to fill in the gap left by Tony.

**Colin Herd**



## Meteorological Miscellanea

I'll begin with the end of April. It was a month of two halves as "they" say.

In the little more than half the month (16 days) I recorded 2.34 inches of rain. That's 59.44 mm. In the remaining 14 days there was 0.08 inches (2.04mm). It was the driest month since last August.

There were 14 days in April with no rain at all. It was a good time to take a holiday. We did. We drove the 114 miles it takes to reach Keswick in the Lake District where the becks were running low and some not at all. The lakes were lower than usual too.

April went out with 2 days of maximum sunshine – 15.2 hours, and our first 20°C of the year.

May tried to follow but the first day was dull though warm. The near drought was broken on the Friday afternoon. We were upstairs on an open-topped bus in Borrowdale as the rain came lashing in from the west!

Temperatures then plummeted as forecasters' temperatures tend to do. The Jet Stream settled for a northerly wind from the Arctic.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> Altnahara in Sutherland returned a -6°C the coldest UK May night for 5 years. That was followed by snowfall in Shetland.

On the evening of the 9<sup>th</sup> I noticed 0.5°C near Eddleston. By breakfast time on the 10<sup>th</sup> Carlols had a -0.28°C – first frost for 26 days. On the 14<sup>th</sup> there was a fresh 40cm of snow on Cairngorm.

Suddenly the cold Arctic air was cut off and very warm air from Europe spread across the country. Temperatures rose by the day, and forecasters excitedly warned us that records could be broken.



On the 25<sup>th</sup> 24.4°C was recorded in Carlpos. That same day Kew Gardens came up with 34.8°C – the warmest May day in the UK since 1944.

What follows? The countryside is getting very dry, lawns are turning brown and fires have already broken out.

***Peter Woolverton, Pyethall, 26 May 2026***



## **Our Village Talks**

### **Monthly talks and a chance to chat**

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

#### **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> 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”.

#### **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July - Singing Hymns together – start time TBC**

Not a talk, but an opportunity to enjoy singing favourite hymns together, led and encouraged by

Murray Campell.

To ensure as many favourites as possible can be included please send your requests to

Gill at [gill.gold@outlook.com](mailto:gill.gold@outlook.com)

Start time may be 6.30pm so we can accommodate some younger participants!

Look out for further advertising

## Latest News from Linton Lifts

We are urgently seeking volunteers to drive clients to and from their medical appointments! Our service is proving very popular and we really do need more drivers who can spare some time to help local people who find it extremely difficult to get to hospitals, clinics, dentists and even the West Linton Medical Centre.



Holiday time is proving even more tricky as our existing drivers need time off!

Please come forward to help support this very valuable service – it doesn't take long to acquire a PVG certificate and learn the ropes! I am always very happy to discuss how we do things with any prospective volunteers over a cup of coffee – please email me on [margarettorrance6@icloud.com](mailto:margarettorrance6@icloud.com) to arrange a meeting.

**Margaret Torrance**

## Would you love to have space to 'Grow Your Own'?

My back garden contains what amounts to an allotment with 8 vegetable beds going unused since my veg growing husband has had to retire from producing wonderful wholesome food after 50 years of cultivation.

It makes us sad to see it unused, and we would like to offer the beds to someone who has a family to feed but not enough growing space at home.

Please email me on [margarettorrance6@icloud.com](mailto:margarettorrance6@icloud.com) to arrange a visit!

**Margaret Torrance**

# A great day in the Manse garden – Pentecost Sunday event



Our event at the Manse garden on 24<sup>th</sup> May was a sunny occasion with high spirits and a lovely atmosphere

We wanted to celebrate Pentecost by showcasing all the groups who support the community across the linkage. There were stalls from all the Church groups from our 6 churches. There was also a marquee for tea, coffee and cakes plus we had ice cream, music and singing, competitions and a parachute game which was particularly enjoyed by the children (and some of us adults).

The choice of dates was important as Pentecost represents the Birthday of the Church, when the disciples received the Holy Spirit. After they left the room where they were gathered they started to tell others about Jesus.

What was inside the room went out into the world. They had 3,000 followers that day. Our event may not have seen those numbers, but it did take the essence of our church activities into the community. We pray it will bring people closer to the teaching of Jesus.

We would like to thank all those who helped with setting up, organising stalls, providing refreshments and activities for making it such a memorable day.

We did also launch a survey where we are asking how we can make the church and its activities more relevant. Anyone can fill it out at this link [Church Survey](#)  
If you can share the link with friends and family that would help enormously.

We also have a page where those who are interested in our activities can find more info [West Tweeddale Parishes](#)

**Steven Whalley**

## Soup Lunch – break until September

Soup Lunch is taking its usual break over June, July and August and will return in September for another season of hearty chowder and chat, of broth and blethers.

## QR Code now available for making donations

Mary McElroy has worked some magic to make it possible for people to donate to the church via QR code now.

A QR code is just an image you can scan with your mobile phone camera – it contains a link to a website where donations can be made.

Our QR code looks like this.



It takes you to our page on the Give a Little website, image of this on the right.

This allows people to donate from anywhere, so we can use it on posters advertising our events and activities. It also gives those in the building another way to donate.



**Carlops Church**  
doors open, lights on  
working in and with  
the community  
for everyone

Not just Sunday  
but also  
Monday to Saturday

**Your donations help  
maintain our building**

Select donation amount:

£5 £10 £15 +  
Other

Tap for more information

# The Column

## The Hares of Kitleyknowe

This spring at Kitleyknowe, we have been visited regularly by hares – two adults and a leveret. We haven't seen all three together; usually it's a singleton, less often, one adult with the leveret. This is the fourth or fifth spring we've seen them. They visit roughly four days out of six for about three weeks; then there's a gap for several days, sometimes up to a fortnight, before they re-appear. They are seen most frequently in the evening as the light begins to fade, currently (28th May), about 8.30pm; they stay for 20 to 50 minutes each time.

They come frequently to a three-metres square grass and paved area just outside our French windows: part-patio, part-gateway (always open) to our rough paddock. This provides ready access to the paddock with its varying grass levels and clumps of trees, and to our garden with its shrubs and vegetable beds. There are good sightlines all around. Hares' primary defence mechanisms are speed and agility, so they may choose this spot because it can afford warning of approaching danger, and there is ample cover nearby. Or perhaps they just like the fact that the occasional Carllops sun warms the slabs and they can toast while they preen!

The hares seem remarkably calm. They nibble grass. They groom: scratching ears, licking paws, washing face. They go on alert: sitting up tall, ears pricked, head a-swivel to check surroundings. They lollop lithely along the meandering paths we keep cut in the paddock. Surprisingly, they tolerate us humans if we approach slowly and quietly to watch them.

At other times, they hide in plain sight; their camouflage is astounding. The leveret once sat (was placed?) in a clump of shrubs and although we knew precisely where it was, it took up to 30 seconds to relocate it if we looked away for a moment. It's in the photograph; can you spot it, reader?



There have been some memorable, if perhaps zoologically unsound moments ...

A hare returned the “I’m watching you” compliment by approaching our French windows and pressing its nose against the glass. Drawn by its own reflection, rather than our beauty, we suspect!

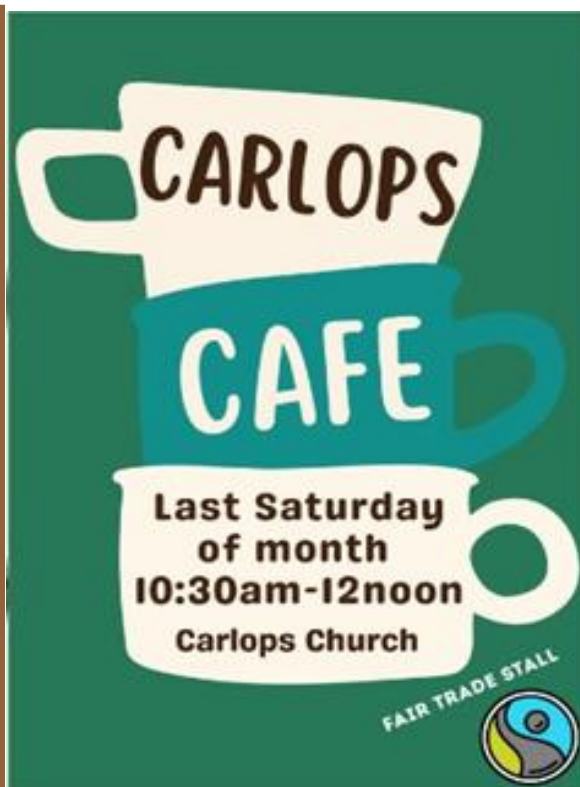
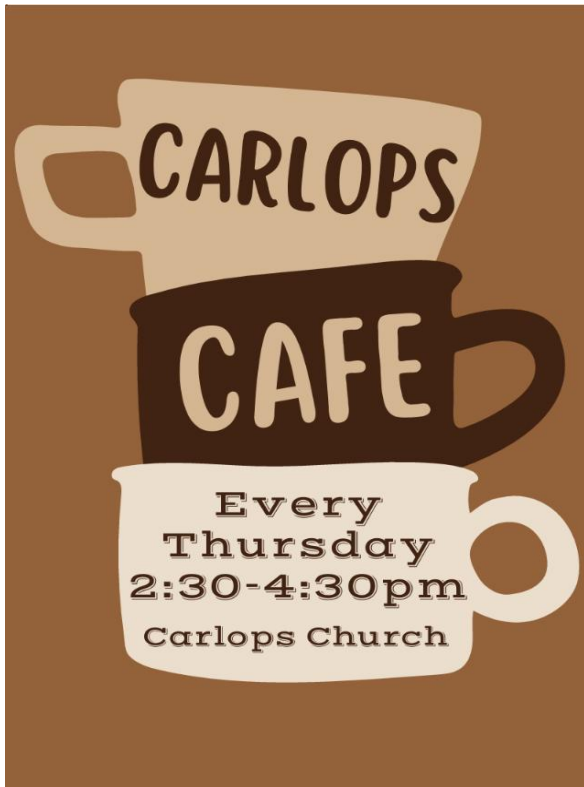
Winning a face-off with the red avenger – a marmalade cat that formerly thought it owned Kitleyknowe. Hare and avenger met in the gateway between garden and paddock; both froze; both exchanged and held hard Paddington stares; until eventually the red avenger broke eye contact and stalked away with that cat-like air of: “You didn’t see that and anyway, it didn’t really happen”. The hare snuffled, washed its face, and went back to nibbling grass.

One year, a single adult hare took up residence in the shrub-filled raised bed at the front of our house. It stayed there, just under our sitting-room window, unmoving, all day long, every day, for about three weeks. We assume it moved at night to feed but can’t be sure. Sick? Tired? Or just lazy? Then one day, it was gone. It stayed away for several weeks before it returned, now demonstrating more usual hare behaviours.

Fascinating. Baffling. But wonderful to watch and we are glad it happens.

**Rennie McElroy**

## Our regular events



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

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:tfoley@churchofscotland.org) or our pastoral group lead Jean Howat [howatjean@gmail.com](mailto: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

**Interim Moderator for West Tweeddale: Graham Astles**

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

**Church Administrator: Kate Whalley**

Telephone 01968 733 112

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

**Church bookings: Sheena Livingstone**

Telephone 01968 661 282

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

**Coffee drop-in, Carlops Café and Soup Lunch : Mary Levison**

Telephone 01968 674 566

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

**Treasurer and Eco Group: Anna Woolverton**

Telephone 01968 660 382

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

**Flowers: TBC**

Telephone

**Newsletter and website: Julie Gamble**

Telephone 07980 258 381

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

**Session Clerk and Organist: Murray Campbell**

Telephone 01968 660 530

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

**Request a card for someone: Bridget Wilcox**

Telephone/text 07980 836 817

Email [bridgetwilcox@hotmail.com](mailto:bridgetwilcox@hotmail.com)

# Diary notes



## Forthcoming events

Tuesday 2 June	7.30-9.30pm	<b>Gaelic Psalm Singing</b>
Thursday 4 June	2.30-4.30pm	<b>Carlops Cafe</b>
Tuesday 9 June	7.30-9.30pm	<b>Gaelic Psalm Singing</b>
Thursday 11 June	2.30-4.30pm	<b>Carlops Cafe</b>
Friday 12 June	7.30-8.30pm	<b>Our Village Talks – Chris Levison – But I don't Believe that Either</b>
Tuesday 16 June	7.30-9.30pm	<b>Gaelic Psalm Singing</b>
Thursday 18 June	2.30-4.30pm	<b>Carlops Cafe</b>
Tuesday 23 June	7.30-9.30pm	<b>Gaelic Psalm Singing</b>
Thursday 25 June	2.30-4.30pm	<b>Carlops Cafe</b>
Saturday 27 June	10.30-12pm	<b>Coffee Drop-in (Carlops Café) and Fair Trade Stall</b>
Tuesday 30 June	7.30-9.30pm	<b>Gaelic Psalm Singing</b>
Thursday 2 July	2.30-4.30pm	<b>Carlops Cafe</b>
Tuesday 7 July	7.30-9.30pm	<b>Gaelic Psalm Singing</b>
Thursday 9 July	2.30-4.30pm	<b>Carlops Cafe</b>
Friday 10 July	TBC – 6.30pm or 7.30pm	<b>Our Village Talks – Singing hymns together</b>
Tuesday 14 July	7.30-9.30pm	<b>Gaelic Psalm Singing</b>
Thursday 16 July	2.30-4.30pm	<b>Carlops Cafe</b>

Tuesday 21 July	7.30-9.30pm	<b>Gaelic Psalm Singing</b>
Saturday 25 July	10.30-12pm	<b>Coffee Drop-in (Carlops Café) and Fair Trade Stall</b>
Tuesday 28 July	7.30-9.30pm	<b>Gaelic Psalm Singing</b>
Thursday 30 July	2.30-4.30pm	<b>Carlops Cafe</b>

## **Material for next issue**

To Julie Gamble by Friday 26 June 2026 please