



CARLOPS CHURCH

In the community, for the community

Newsletter

Volume 20, Number 7; July 2026

Services, July 2026

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

:
5 July 10am: Colin Herd
12 July 10am: Patsy Campbell
19 July 10am: Fiona Burnett
26 July 10am: Peter Worthington
2 August 10am: Rev. Peter Wood

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

How do you Write a Letter?

Dear Friends,

I can well remember at school being taught how to write a letter and how to differentiate between a formal letter and an informal one: do we use “Dear Sir/Madam” or simply “Dear John” and knowing when to use “Yours faithfully” or “Yours sincerely”. I suppose I have got sloppy and now just sign off my emails “Colin”. Social media has changed how we communicate.

The Apostle Paul knew a thing or two about writing letters – he wrote many letters to the churches he had planted, and I am sure that he would have been all over social media if it had been available to him.

Nevertheless, he made good use of what was available. His letters which we still have are instructive and enlightening. What comes over to us is his prayer for the churches. Take, for example, his letter to the Philippians where after the initial salutation his first thought is to give thanks to God every time he remembers them. When we write to our friends do we think in this way? As we think of our sister churches in our Linkage do we give thanks for their faithfulness, or, as Paul puts it, their partnership in the gospel.

We face testing times as we continue in vacancy, but we should take note of how Paul continues to the Philippians:

“And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ - to the glory and praise of God”

As we navigate through the process of vacancy, we need to be aware of the disparate nature of any grouping of people and be prepared to show love and respect in all our discussions and negotiations.



So, as you sign off your next letter or email, think about the person or persons you are writing to; give thanks for them, pray for them, that we all might be filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ.

Yours sincerely,

Colin Herd



Meteorological Miscellanea

'Twas 4pm on the 9th day of June. Showers were forecast, possibly with thunder. Now, meteorologists like a bit of thunder. Anna heard thunder from the Lanark direction. I could see very dark cloud over Mount Maw. It's the lightning that excites me most. I headed up through our wooded garden to see more sky. It was a case of "there's nothing to see here". I lingered.

A rustling of leaves drew my attention to the trees. The wind seemed to be getting up. Suddenly a white curtain of hail broke cover and engulfed me. Hatless and hoodless my head bore the brunt of the attack. I took shelter beneath a young beech tree. I quickly opted for a larger Scots Pine before opting for a shed. Every man should have a shed. What a racket! I was held captive for 10 minutes. I could have skied the hail-covered paths. Some hailstones remained an hour later. During the shower the temperature dropped from 59F (15C) to 48F (9C). I do enjoy nature's wonders!

How's your Latin? Solstice: sol = sun, sistere = to stand still.

The 20th and 21st days of June gave us about 27.5 hours of sunshine to enjoy – a joy after so many **dull** days this month. On the evening of the 20th I pitched my tent at the highest point of our garden and lit a fire. We watched the sun go down until it dropped out at 310 degrees. I then watched the fire die out at 11.30 leaving me with the "Simmer Dim". Early in the morning the sun reappeared on a neat bearing of 50 degrees. The northern horizon was fiery red. When I woke again it was cloudier, midgier and sopping wet with a heavy dew. This year the Solstice occurred at 9.24am. A warm sunny day followed. It was the longest day.

January, February, April and May have all been drier than the 32-year average. March was a smidgeon wetter than average. June has been drier than average too, so far. Thunderstorms lie ahead.



'Twas about 3am on the 26th day of June. There were rumbles, there was a power cut. What followed was astonishing. Lightning flashed continuously for about half an hour. According to "Netweather" there were 5,274 strikes per hour. The action moved on to Edinburgh where Arthur's Seat had been shrouded in haar all afternoon and evening while it was 27C in Carlops. Awesome rumbles returned today. There's never a dull moment!

Peter Woolverton, Pyethall, 26 June 2026



Our Village Talks

Monthly talks and a chance to chat

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

Friday 10 July – *Jump up and Sing!* – start time 6.30pm

Carlops is a singing church, but we are not familiar with the range of songs our young people sing at Sunday Club, Messy Church and at school. We adults want to be taught some of these songs so we can sing them with gusto in church and on other occasions. And also, we need to become less inhibited about the action songs! Some of us are beyond jumping but we can sing and dance – and be joyful doing so.

Murray Campbell, our organist, and Ann Lyon will be there to lead and support the music and there is likely to be a supply of instruments for some young percussionists. There will be time for juice and cake before we finish at 7.30pm.

Friday 14 August 7pm - *Summer Garden Party at Birchbrae, Macbiehill*

Come to Birchbrae at Macbiehill (EH46 7AZ) for a relaxing wander round the garden accompanied by seasonal refreshments. An opportunity to see the development of the garden since it's early beginnings in 2020. A list of the plants that have been successful at this altitude will be available to people new to gardening in this area.

Friday 11 September 7.30pm – Gus Fisher, stone carver *The 98 Lost Names of the D-Day British Normandy Memorial*

Stone carver Gus Fisher has been involved with the British Normandy Memorial from the early stages of its creation and earlier this year he helped to complete the hand carving of an additional 98 names that have come to light since the Memorial opened to the public in 2021. These men were remembered in the D-Day ceremonies of the 5th and 6th June 2026 and now rightly join the 22,500 fallen on the Memorial.

In this talk, Gus will give insights into the traditional skill of hand carved lettering.

All the 'Our Village Talks' events are held in the church, unless a different venue is noted in the advertising.

Fundraiser at Cairdean House Summer Fete

A conversation about the teddies Nan Buchan knits for charity led to the church and the Carlops Malawi project receiving a £500 donation from Cairdean House (Care UK) and an invite to have a stall at their Summer Fete, held on Saturday 27th June.

Mary McElroy and Nan provided the stall on the day and a further £100 was raised. This money will go a long way toward training new teachers, providing school resources and supporting health care and vaccinations as part of our project in rural Malawi.



Many thanks are due to Nan for championing this cause – a great result!

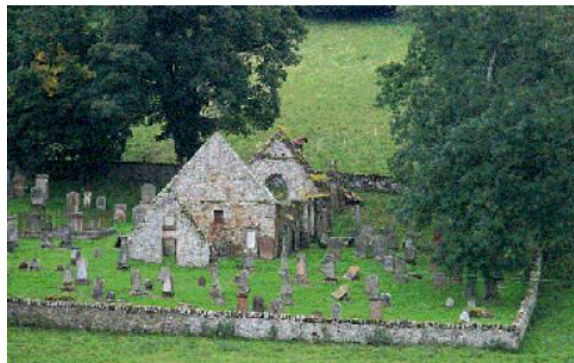
Newlands Open-Air Communion Service and picnic- Sunday 9 August at 3pm

There will be an open-air Communion service followed by a picnic for the whole West Tweeddale linkage at the site of the old Newlands church on Sunday 9th August at 3pm. Parking will be in the car park opposite the current Newlands Church. Everyone should bring their own picnic and folding chairs or a rug to sit on.

In the event of the weather not co-operating we will take refuge for the service and the picnic in the current church. Everyone is welcome.

For more information contact Jean Howat:

howatjean@gmail.com



Sunday Club

Our annual Prize Giving Services which took place this year at the morning services in both St Andrew's and Carlops on Sunday 3rd May, were very well attended. This proved to be an excellent arrangement and allowed the children who attend both churches the opportunity to have their gifts presented within their own church.

How lovely it was to see our Sunday Club families joining us for the Pentecost event in the manse garden on Sunday 24th May. In beautiful sunshine and amazing, safe surroundings, the children played games, did some crafting and ate ice creams. Their parents (and some grandparents) joined in with everything, especially with the singing and the games! It was a joy to observe the families enjoying the company of others over a cup of tea and cake in the marquee. This event provided us with an



opportunity to be able to showcase the beautiful artwork the children have created at Sunday Club over the past year or so too. Please look out for our bunting and artwork in the church and in

Carlops Church over the summer!

As we move into the holiday period, there are plans to have two 'Child Friendly' events during the summer prior to Sunday Club resuming on Sunday 6th September.

Pop these dates in your diaries:

Friday 10th July – 'Jump and Sing' An evening of singing Children's Hymns and Praise Songs in Carlops Church between 6:30pm and 7:30pm

Sunday 23rd August – A Summer Family Service in St Andrew's at 11:30am

Have a lovely summer everyone.

Best wishes

Ann Lyon and Kate Whalley

West Tweeddale Church Survey

We are keen to know what our local communities think about church. If you have time to fill out this brief, anonymous questionnaire and pass on to others to do the same we'd be very grateful

[West Tweeddale Parishes - Questionnaire](#)

The survey runs until 31st July 2026



Christian Aid – thanks for donations

The May soup lunch, coffee morning and plant sale were raising money for Christian Aid, and what a result! Soup lunch £114.50 Coffee morning & plant sale £194, so a total of £308.50 was able to be transferred.

In addition, members of the community filled envelopes with cash and cheques – a Carlops total of £370, topped up by the Gift Aid which Christian Aid will be able to claim.

Well done, Carlops!

Anna Woolverton



The Column

In June Chris Levison gave a talk about Progressive Christianity, a movement which revises what we may call 'traditional' Biblical Christianity and considers the scientific and social learnings of the last 2 millennia in relation to Christian faith and belief today.

The 8 points of Progressive Christianity

1. Seek God, however understood, guided by the life and teachings of Jesus.
2. Affirm that there are many ways to experience the sacred and that we can draw on diverse sources of wisdom on our spiritual journey.
3. Recognise that following Jesus leads us to act with compassion and to confront evil.
4. Place hospitality at the centre of our communal and worshipping life and see the sharing of bread and wine as an expression of our common humanity.
5. Seek to build communities that seek to accept all who wish to share companionship without insisting on conformity.
6. Know that the way we behave towards others is the fullest expression of our faith, of what we believe.
7. Gain more insight in the search for understanding than we do in certainty.
8. Work together within and beyond the Church to achieve a just, peaceful and sustainable world.

Chris cited this quote from Professor John Swinton who is master of Christ's college in Aberdeen -

“Theological education is important, not because it gives people easy answers to difficult questions. It does not. Not because it shields us from the ambiguities of the age. It cannot. It matters because it helps us learn how to inhabit the world faithfully. It forms habits of attention, prayer, discernment and compassion. It teaches us to see beyond panic, beyond ideology, beyond the endless temptation to reduce human beings to problems to be solved or threats to be managed. It reminds us that every person bears the image of God, and that even in dangerous times we are called to resist fear’s distortion of our humanity. That is a powerful gift to a fragile world.”

If you are interested in discussions about faith and religion, look out for mentions of forthcoming discussion or study groups which usually happen around Advent (weeks before Christmas) and Lent (weeks before Easter).

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

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 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

Interim Moderator for West Tweeddale: Graham Astles

Email: GAstles@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 7 July	7.30-9.30pm	Gaelic Psalm Singing
Thursday 9 July	2.30-4.30pm	Carlops Cafe
Friday 10 July	6.30pm	Jump up and Sing! – singing children's hymns together
Tuesday 14 July	7.30-9.30pm	Gaelic Psalm Singing
Thursday 16 July	2.30-4.30pm	Carlops Cafe
Tuesday 21 July	7.30-9.30pm	Gaelic Psalm Singing
Thursday 23 July	2.30-4.30pm	Carlops Cafe
Saturday 25 July	10.30-12pm	Carlops Café and Fair-Trade Stall
Tuesday 28 July	7.30-9.30pm	Gaelic Psalm Singing
Thursday 30 July	2.30-4.30pm	Carlops Cafe
Tuesday 4 August	7.30-9.30pm	Gaelic Psalm Singing
Thursday 6 August	2.30-4.30pm	Carlops Cafe
Tuesday 11 August	7.30-9.30pm	Gaelic Psalm Singing
Thursday 13 August	2.30-4.30pm	Carlops Cafe
Friday 14 August	7pm	Summer Garden Party, Birchbrae, Macbiehill
Tuesday 18 August	7.30-9.30pm	Gaelic Psalm Singing
Thursday 20 August	2.30-4.30pm	Carlops Cafe
Tuesday 25 August	7.30-9.30pm	Gaelic Psalm Singing
Thursday 27 August	2.30-4.30pm	Carlops Cafe
Saturday 29 August	10.30-12pm	Carlops Café and Fair-Trade Stall

Material for next issue

To Julie Gamble by Monday 27 July 2026 please