

# Carlops Parish Church

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



## NEWSLETTER

Volume 15, Number 10 October 2021

### Services, October 2021

Services are held in church and are also available via Zoom  
Contact [sessionclerk@carlopschurch.org](mailto:sessionclerk@carlopschurch.org) for the link to Carlops' Zoom services

26 September 10am	Colin Herd
3 October 10am	Rev Chris Levison <i>Harvest thanksgiving</i>
10 October 10am	Rev Nancy Norman
Q7 October 10am	Dr Patsy Campbell
24 October 10am	Rev Nancy Norman
31 October 10am	tba

## **Goodbye and fare ye well from Calum Macdougall**

In this, my final minister's letter before the induction of Dr Tony Foley towards the end of the month, I want to offer my warmest good wishes and to assure you of my continuing thoughts and prayers as you look forward to the next stage in your faith journey together.

The transition from having been part of a three-way linking, now to being in a charge of six congregations, can seem a daunting prospect. It will take time to adjust. In some respects, things will be different, not least the need to get used to having a reduced "share" of the minister. That very fact, however, may have very positive consequences, for it should help to release more gifts for shared ministry among the folk of the congregations. The priesthood of all believers will become an increasingly vital reality in all six congregations, for, even in churches where talents abound and levels of commitment are high, there will always be scope for the discerning of experiences and skills that can be used in the service of the Church.

The nature of parish ministry is changing rapidly, due both to the alarming shortage of ministers and to the continuing decline in membership. We could so easily be tempted to move towards a siege mentality, allowing the main focus of our efforts to be concentrated merely on preserving what we have. That would be so wrong, and it would be a betrayal of our historic and traditional understanding of *parish* church and *parish* ministry. Tony Foley comes to us, not as chaplain to our members, but as minister to our congregations and parishes. As such, much of his time and effort will be concentrated in the wider parish communities, including, of course, in our local schools. Please encourage and support him in that essential element of ministry.

In all my years in parish ministry I continually marvelled that not only had I been given a people to love, but that that love was more than reciprocated, all in the name of Jesus Christ. I know your welcome to Tony, as he takes up his charge, will be enthusiastic and sincere. Support him, care for Yvonne and him and, in Christ's name, love him dearly.

May God's richest blessing always be with you.

Calum

## **Welcome to our new minister, Rev Dr Anthony Foley**

Rev Dr Anthony (Tony) Foley was elected our new minister by a vote of members and adherents after he preached as sole nominee on Sunday 29 August 2021. Arrangements to confirm his appointment are in hand. We look forward to welcoming Dr Foley to Carlops soon.

Presbytery has provisionally determined that Dr Foley's induction service will be held in St Andrew's West Linton on 25 October 2021. Arrangements are still being made. More information when it is available

## **Services in Carlops Church resume**

Services are resuming in Carlops Church, thanks mainly to a great deal of investigatory and testing work by Murray and Patsy Campbell. Services will be held in the church from Sunday 26 September 2021, at the usual time of 10am. Initially, worshippers are asked to bear with some continuing experimentation as new methods and technologies settle down.

These and many future services in Carlops Church will be *blended*; that is, they will also be available via Zoom, using the new information and audiovisual technology acquired recently. In addition, some service leaders may make their contribution – reading, prayer and/or reflection – by Zoom.

Several of our supporters find Zoom worship suits their needs better than visiting the church. Their reasons are varied and range over physical and psychological issues. All these reasons are valid, and Carlops will respect and observe them. It is planned that Zoomers will be able to see the interior of the church and the service leader(s), while those in the church will be able to see Zoomers, projected on to the wall behind the communion table.

This is not a simple return to “the old days”. Coronavirus is still present; precautions remain essential; some procedures will be requested of those attending the church. If you wish to attend, you must advise Murray Campbell in advance, so that numbers can be tailored to socially distanced places available. Other measures are likely to include: one-metre distancing; defined walkways into, around and out of the church; hand-sanitising; mask-wearing; recording contact details of those attending; no indoor coffee and chat just yet.

Some of these measures may seem oppressive at first sight. Carlops Church believes they are necessary and cites four principal reasons for continuing caution. First, we regularly attract a congregation larger than can be accommodated with some measure of social distancing. Second, we have many supporters in the most vulnerable, over 75 age group. Third, current coronavirus infection rates are very high. Fourth, the church has a formal duty of care for its supporters. Some measures may go further than statutory requirements; Carlops would rather be prudently cautious now, than sorry later.

Considerable thought, planning and testing have gone into the deceptively simple matter of re-opening the church. Thanks to all who helped. Especial appreciation and gratitude are extended to Murray and Patsy Campbell, who have led the process and have undertaken most of the thinking and work involved.

## **Harvest thanksgiving donations**

Our harvest thanksgiving service is on Sunday 3 October 2021. Numbers able to attend in person will be limited, so we invite you to donate cash, instead of the traditional harvest produce. All monies will be gifted to local foodbanks.

Donate by BACS to Carlops Church: sort code 80-09-39, account 00246459; or send a cheque payable to Carlops Church to Mary McElroy, Marfield View, Carlops EH26 9 NJ. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

## Taking the Carlops eco-challenge

This year's Carlops Eco-service suggested how we can all act to counter climate change. The service issued this challenge ...

*Everyone: do one thing for the environment, once a week, in each of three areas ...*

*Energy use and transport*

*Food and diet*

*Use of consumer products*

We are creating an online notice board on the church website where you can record the actions you take. We hope this may generate interest and help us to exchange ideas. It will be easy to use, and we expect to release it in time for the start of COP26. Please give it a try and help Carlops to help the planet.

Rennie McElroy *for the Eco-service and Website teams*

## Future Newsletter issues

As a new year approaches, so too, does a new volume of the *Newsletter*. Time to ponder change and to move on.

I have distributed the *Newsletter* electronically since the first lockdown began, in March 2020, but I still post paper copies to a few readers who do not use a computer. At present, I format each issue as if it were a print-and-fold product and circulate this version as well as the read-on-screen format. I started this because, like most of us, I expected and hoped that coronavirus and its attendant restrictions might be of short duration. Clearly, that is not the case. I believe it is time to make a permanent change.

I plan to stop producing the print-and-fold version. The December 2021 issue will be the last in that format, unless a majority of readers contact me before 1 December 2021 to request that it be continued. But note ...

- Those who prefer a paper copy can print the read-on-screen version.
- I will continue to post a printed *Newsletter* to those who currently receive it that way; but it will be in normal A4 page format, not a trifold as at present.

There are several editorial and production advantages.

- I will no longer have to torture submissions to make them fit a limited, closely defined space ...
- ... or invent space-fillers when material is scarce ...
- ... or hold items to next month when there is a glut.
- All the current types of content will still feature.
- Colour and photographic material will be available, because constraints imposed by the limitations and cost of photocopying will no longer apply.
- The value of carefully preserved paper copies will soar on world markets.

The printed trifold format served well for 15 years – 180 issues. I hope the wholly electronic product may serve as well, and I hope you may write for it. Please contact me if you have questions or require more information.

Rennie McElroy *Editor*

## **Help Christian Aid fight Covid-19**

Fully vaccinated against Covid-19? Free, expert treatment from the NHS if you become ill? We are fortunate; many are not.

At this year's General Assembly, Jim Wallace (No, not *that* one – the Moderator!) announced that the Church of Scotland will support a campaign to help people in poorer countries who have not had the opportunity of vaccination. This followed Assembly approving a Faith Impact Forum deliverance urging government to ensure that Covid-19 vaccines are made available to resource-poor countries, on the basis of clinical need, to preserve life.

As well as advocating a just roll-out of vaccines, Jim Wallace asked us to support Christian Aid's work with vulnerable communities to limit the impact of coronavirus on livelihoods and personal safety. By providing basics like clean water, soap, masks and hand sanitiser, we can help people stay safer as they wait for a vaccine. Here is a practical opportunity to contribute to global justice and give expression to loving our neighbours.

Let us respond generously in gratitude for what we have received. What price would you put on your free (and prompt) vaccination? Will you donate to CA to support their campaign? Donate online at [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk) or send your cheque to Christian Aid Scotland, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh EH1 1EL Thank you in advance for your support.

Robert Higgins, *Chair, Linkage Christian Aid Committee*

## **Eco art exhibition**

St Cuthbert's Church is organising an exhibition featuring artwork in all media, focused on eco-issues, to support COP26.

*Theme* Our precious and precarious world

*At* St Cuthbert's Church, Lothian Road, Edinburgh

*When* 26-30 October 2021, 12noon-5pm

The exhibition is free. As well as viewing it, you can submit work yourself. Submit works at St Cuthbert's, 14-23 October 2021, 11am-2pm. Works are not for sale; they will be returned but are submitted at the artist's own risk.

More information from Emily Addis: T 07946 531 333, E [artintern@stcuthberts-edinburgh.uk](mailto:artintern@stcuthberts-edinburgh.uk) and/or Martin Pearce: T 07913 625 394, E [martin.j.pearce@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:martin.j.pearce@blueyonder.co.uk)

## The Column Clouds

They say that every cloud has a silver lining. On looking back to the 1930s, it is difficult to imagine that the very heavy clouds then gathering all over Europe could possibly have a silver lining.

But after the outbreak of war, neighbours got to know each other as never before: being involved in ARP (Air Raid Precautions) duties; digging up flower gardens to plant vegetables, then sharing the produce; helping with transport; handing down children's clothes that were outgrown but not outworn. As well as, of course, welcoming refugees from Europe and evacuated children from bombed cities in our own country. By the end of the war, we had a much freer caring and sharing society.

Now in our own day we are struggling with the effects of a worldwide pandemic. Our lives have been regulated and restricted as never before, but our sharing, caring society has been evident in many aspects of life.

Some years ago, I realised that my sight was failing and put this down to the declining of daylight of autumn and the possibility that I might need new spectacles. On seeking advice, I was shocked to learn that I was suffering from the very common eye condition of *old age* and was approaching the stage when I might no longer drive safely. So sadly, I gave up my much-loved little car and resigned myself to sitting in the passenger seat for the rest of my life. To my great delight, I found much pleasure not only looking at the countryside, but also looking at the sky –the blue, and the infinitely varying clouds.

I realised that clouds in all their forms have great beauty and do not at all need a silver lining.

Elizabeth Dunbar

## Forthcoming events

**A Scientific History of Musical Instruments;** Friday 1 October 2021, 7pm, via Zoom.

Murray and Patsy Campbell will take us on a musical tour through time with the rebec, gemshorn, portative organ, serpent and more. Zoom link data follows

*Join Zoom meeting; 1 October 2021; 7pm*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84607389803?pwd=YnFFUEEx5NTBOTURzVFZISUpiZl1lZz09>

*Meeting ID 846 0738 9803; Passcode 326281*

**Talk by Sustainable West Linton;** speaker & title tba Friday 29 October 2021, 7pm; via Zoom

**Tales and Fables from round about Carlops,** Friday 3 December 2021, 7pm; via Zoom

## **Material for next issue**

To [info@carlopschurch.org](mailto:info@carlopschurch.org) by Monday 25 October 2021

**End**