



# CARLOPS CHURCH

In the community, for the community

## Newsletter

Volume 17, Number 1; January 2023

### Services, January 2023

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

- 1 January 10am: Rev Dr Tony Foley
- 8 January 10am: Dr Peter Worthington
- 5 January 10am: David Henderson-Howat
- 22 January 10am: Fiona Burnett
- 29 January 10am: Sheena Livingstone
- 5 February 10am: Kevin Scott

**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)**

# Our Minister



## Love is an art to be learned

What new skill are you going to try to learn in 2023? Have you considered learning how to love?

Popular culture often presents love as something that happens to us – something that we either fall into or something that strikes us arrow-like. It is seen as something we are either lucky or unlucky in. In other words, love is something we have no control over. But is this true?

In his classic work *The Art of Loving* the world-renowned psychologist and philosopher Erich Fromm eloquently argues that love is a skill we must hone. That it is something we must commit ourselves to learning how to do well for “to love without knowing how to love wounds the person we love.” In the same way that artists and musicians apprentice themselves to learning through continual practice all the demanding skills needed to help to make them masters of their craft human beings must learn how to love well. In *The Art of Loving*, Fromm puts it thus:

*The first step to take is to become aware that love is an art, just as living is an art; if we want to learn how to love we must proceed in the same way we have to proceed if we want to learn any other art, say music, painting, carpentry, or the art of medicine or engineering. What are the necessary steps in learning any art? The process of learning an art can be divided conveniently into two parts: one, the mastery of the theory; the other, the mastery of the practice. If I want to learn the art of medicine, I must first know the facts about the human body, and about various diseases. When I have all this theoretical knowledge, I am by no means competent in the art of medicine. I shall become a master in this art only after a great deal of practice, until eventually the results of my theoretical knowledge and the results of my practice are blended into one – my intuition, the essence of the mastery of any art. But, aside from learning the theory and practice, there is a third factor necessary to becoming a master in any art – the mastery of the art must be a matter of ultimate concern; there must be nothing else in the world more important than the art. This holds true for music, for medicine, for carpentry – and for love. And, maybe, here lies the answer to the question of why people in our culture try so rarely to learn this art, in spite of their obvious failures: in spite of the deep-seated craving for love, almost everything else is considered to be more important than love: success, prestige, money, power – almost all our energy is used for the learning of how to achieve these aims, and almost none to learn the art of loving.*

Many centuries before Fromm, Jesus taught his followers that to love another was a choice they must decide to make – a verb they must choose to do. I leave you with one last question.

*What do you think your life would look like at the end of 2023 if you started the year by deciding to commit yourself to learning how to love well?*

Peace

Tony

# News



## Happy New Year

We wish all readers a happy, successful and satisfying 2023, and we look forward to meeting you at events in and around Carlops Church and Hall.

## Linkage Directory

The West Tweeddale linkage *Directory* for 2023 is now available. To obtain a copy, contact Rennie McElroy, details at the end of the *Newsletter*.

The default format is electronic; a PDF file will be sent to you sent by email. The *Directory* will not be posted on the website, to avoid exposing people's personal details to the internet.

A paper copy can be provided if you require it. Please specify *print version* in your request to Rennie McElroy. Alternatively, a printed copy may be collected from the Church Office in the Old Church Hall, West Linton. It may be useful to telephone in advance (01968 733 112) to ensure that a stock of print copies is available when you visit.

## West Tweeddale Guild

The Guild's next meeting will be held on Wednesday 18 January 2023 at 2.30pm, in Broughton Village Hall. Please note the change of venue. Isobel Hunter will be telling us about her recent expedition to Namibia and Botswana – surely not familiar places for most of us! All are welcome.

The meeting following that will be held on Wednesday 15 February 2023 at 2.30pm, in Carlops Church. The Carlops Eco Group will organise this meeting, with an invited speaker, Judith Macleod of Eco-Congregation Scotland, talking about eco-matters and passing on home energy-saving advice.

Margaret Habeshaw

## New Session Clerk for St Andrew's

We wish Kevin Scott well as he takes up new duties as Session Clerk at St Andrew's Church West Linton. Kevin is well-known to Carlops supporters as he has led services regularly in Carlops Church for several years. We wish you good achievements, good satisfaction and good luck, Kevin.

# From the General Kirk Session

## Monday 12 December 2022

Rev Dr Tony Foley convened the GKS via Zoom on one of the coldest evenings of 2022.

### Presbytery of Melrose and Peebles *Mission plan*

A *Mission Plan* was approved by Presbytery of Melrose and Peebles (PMP) on 6.12.22 and discussed with the Church of Scotland's Implementation Group (CoSIG) on 15.12.22. Some changes requested by CoSIG were agreed, others resisted; the latter included re-categorisation of some churches, and PMP restated the reasons for the *Plan's* approach. CoSIG will reconsider and may or may not accept PMP's case.

The PMP team found this a difficult meeting; they found CoSIG reluctant to engage in real discussion, instead seeming intent on pressing certain issues irrespective of any background explained and case made.

Fiona Burnett expressed concern that an exercise largely and intentionally about physical resources should be termed *Mission plan*; this risks conveying impression that the church is primarily about buildings, rather than activity.

### Manse report

General Trustees have agreed standards for manses to meet; these are fair and reasonable. All manses should achieve an energy rating of C. Our manse is rated E; this is poor; the manse is difficult and expensive to heat. Professional opinion is that it is not feasible to achieve C for the present manse.

Manse Committee has discussed the future of manse provision and concluded a new (or another) building offers the best solution, but further discussion of this was overtaken by events (vacancy, interim ministry etc). This issue should now be revisited, and decisions made to enable action.

All six congregations share the manse's costs, but it is owned by St Andrew's. St Andrew's currently faces several issues with buildings. Manse committee would like St Andrew's Kirk Session to discuss future manse provision and formulate proposals. Its discussion might include selling present manse and building a new manse in adjacent grounds, and/or building or purchasing property elsewhere.

### Linkage directory

Michelle Fraser is updating the directory. An electronic version may be provided to GKS members. Some members expressed concern about a solely electronic edition; they felt that hard copy should be available for other church supporters. They noted that posting the directory on the websites would expose personal details of many people to the internet; and argued that posting on websites and requiring people to approach through password control would be impractical. These issues will be considered as the update is completed and produced. (*This matter is now resolved; see article above in this issue Ed*)

### Winter warmers

Fiona Burnett reported that a working group had made good progress. Their focus is on signposting and advertising existing activities throughout the linkage. This activity seems to be prompting people to organise additional events and winter warmer work is going on in all linkage parishes. Further activity is planned, including joint ventures with local foodbank(s) in January.

### Pastoral care

Margaret Habeshaw offered to lead a teach-in on talk-therapy for a group of about 12 people. Those interested in taking part, please contact Margaret Habeshaw or Michelle Fraser

### Whim Hall

Representatives of linkage churches have visited in the past for services and other activities. Currently, St Mungo's hold services there, 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. Whim Hall would welcome additional support from our linkage: eg, short service of hymn, reading, prayer. Margaret Habeshaw suggested a small group (2-4 people) might be formed to deliver such services. Those interested in helping, please contact Margaret Habeshaw or Michelle Fraser

## The linkage-wide website

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

### Purpose and status

We hope you will enjoy exploring this linkage-wide website and use it regularly. It has been created by a cross-linkage working group on communications and is supported by the General Kirk Session. The site aims to give West Tweeddale linkage a clear internet presence and identity. It will co-exist with the websites of individual linkage churches, not replace them. It may duplicate some content, but all publicity is good publicity if you write it properly – and we believe the working group has done that!

It behoves us to support and promote the whole linkage as well as any individual church; that is what the site aims to do. Readers will note that the title page of this *Newsletter* now displays both the familiar Carlops Church website address, and that of the new linkage site.

### Target audience

The site is intended to serve two broad groups. For **existing supporters** of the linkage churches, it should provide reliable information about what is happening in the linkage, with contact details. For **visitors**, those new to our district, and people thinking about church and wanting to know more, it will provide a description of our churches and, more importantly, a feel for what we are like, what we do, and how. The site focuses on people and how they get on together, rather than buildings; it advertises what happens throughout the week, as well as on Sunday.

### Outline content

The site has four main elements and makes much use of illustration and video. Content is still being added, but the site's present structure will persist. **Home** explains what a linkage is; which churches comprise our linkage; our geographical position; and advertises future events in all six churches. **Welcome** describes the churches and provides links to their websites. The description of each church is by a member of that church and conveys its character and nature – what it is like to visit and support. **About us** introduces our minister and our people; in video interviews they talk about what their church means to them, what they get from it and what they give to it. See if you agree! The section also describes church organisation and governance: relationship with Church of Scotland, Presbytery, etc. **Things we do** covers services, cultural and social activities, work in and for our communities, and support for charities.

In drafting material, the working group tried to express what our linkage and its churches are like, as well as advertise their existence. Read carefully; a lot of policy is included: how we do things; why we do things; what are our aims; what we want our linkage to “feel like” to regular supporters and to visitors.

### Finally

We reiterate that this site is not intended to replace either the Carlops Church website, or this *Newsletter*. Both will be maintained alongside the linkage site, and we hope they will continue to act as a prime source of Carlops-related information.

We hope you find the site useful and interesting. We need feedback and invite comment, criticism, and suggestions, particularly about what the site says about the character of our churches and their supporters, and our approach towards serving the whole community, as well as a Sunday congregation. Send remarks to Rennie McElroy or Neil Robinson, the site’s webmaster ([neil@glenholm.co.uk](mailto:neil@glenholm.co.uk)); they will ensure that your views are considered by the working group.

Rennie McElroy *Editor and Member, Linkage Communications working group*

## Messy Church update

The next Messy Church event is on Sunday 15 January 2023, 4-6pm; in the New Church Hall, West Linton. The theme is *The Good Samaritan*; we will start with a Bible story and then the children will do a range of craft activities, followed by a song and a prayer, and finish off with a meal together.

Children from babies to P7 are welcome; all must be accompanied by an adult.

Future Messy Church events include ...

Sunday 19 February Jesus the Healer

Sunday 12 March The Feeding of the 5,000 (Messy Church goes wild outside!)

For more information, contact Jean Howat [howatjean@gmail.com](mailto:howatjean@gmail.com)

# The Column



## The Column, 2007-2022

I invited readers to contribute articles for the *Column* in the first issue of this *Newsletter* (January 2007), suggesting that articles *should have some bearing on life in our parish and should express a view, suggest developments, and be reflective, provocative, entertaining.*

Contributions have met the specification and testify to columnists' ingenuity and breadth of interest: Carlops Church issues, both serious and less so; Carlops life and people; community projects; good causes and charities; wildlife, weather and eco matters; quirks, whimsy and gentle fun-poking; and more. Amongst the prose, 29 poems have been received: three composed by their contributors, the rest quoted from third party writers, some well-known, some not, but all cogent and engaging.

Several *Columns* have done verifiable good, focussing Carlops people's innate generosity on deserving causes. Most notably, the May 2010 item *Supporting Mary's Meals; a Malawi-based project for 2010+*, which kickstarted the Carlops Kitchen project for Mary's Meals. That project exceeded its financial target by 150% within three months and still attracts donations twelve years later.

192 *Columns* have been published, contributed by 44 people, most but not all from Carlops; one came from Wisconsin, USA! 65 *Columns* are from the Editor's own pen (I wrote *brain* first, then decided upon stricter accuracy); too many probably, but to some extent, needs must. For the rest: 1 person has contributed 15 *Columns*; 2 people have contributed 12 each; 1 person has contributed 9; 2 people, 7 each; 3 people, 5 each; 7 people, 4 each; 2 people, 3 each; 5 people, 2 each; and 20 people have contributed 1 *Column* each. The numbers of contributors and *Columns* don't match because some articles have two authors. These data suggest that *The Column* has achieved what salespeople call *good market penetration* and is doing a worthwhile job. A less encouraging statistic is that there have been only four new contributors in the last 50 *Columns*.

Comment has been favourable, but slight; the *Columns* attracting most comment are ...

- *To catch a saint* September 2010 (proposing a patron saint for Carlops)
- *Church, coffee, chat and comedy* March 2015 (after the service in Carlops Church)
- *Who mowed the lawns of Eden?* October 2019 (a gardener's poem about *Genesis*)

More comment would be welcome. All and any views, please: from *good, keep it up*, through *some change needed*, down to *for goodness' sake, drop it!* Please tell me what you think – about individual pieces and/or *The Column* generally. And if you would like to read any *Column(s)* again, contact me and I will send you a copy.

The *Column* drawer is all but empty again, and unusually, recent requests for copy elicited a limited response, making contributions that were provided doubly welcome. I hope this indulgent review of *Columns* past may inspire people to contribute. I look forward to hearing from *you* soon.

Rennie McElroy *Editor*

# Diary



## Forthcoming events

**Midweek cuppa and company** Thursday 12 January 2023, 2-4pm

**Soup lunch** Wednesday 25 January 2023 12noon-1.30pm

**Drop-in coffee & Fair Trade stall** Saturday 28 January 2023; 10.30am-12noon

**Midweek cuppa and company** Thursday 9 February 2023, 2-4pm

**Eco Group and West Tweeddale Guild** Wednesday 15 February 2023; 2.30pm. Speaker, Judith Macleod of Eco-congregation Scotland

**Soup lunch** Wednesday 22 February 2023; 12noon-1.30pm

**Drop-in coffee & Fair Trade stall** Saturday 25 February 2023; 10.30am-12noon

**Midweek cuppa and company** Thursday 9 March 2023, 2-4pm

**Man(!) Soup lunch** Wednesday 22 March 2023; 12noon-1.30pm

**Drop-in coffee & Fair Trade stall** Saturday 25 March 2023; 10.30am-12noon

## Contacts

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**Christian Aid: Mary Levison**

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**Church bookings: Sheena Livingstone**

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

**Coffee and cuppa events: Mary Levison and Mary McElroy**

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Telephone 01968 661 042 Email [maryhmcclroy@outlook.com](mailto:maryhmcclroy@outlook.com)  
*Assistance required and always welcome; contact Mary or Mary if you can help!*

**Eco Group: Anna Woolverton**

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**Session Clerk and Organist: Murray Campbell**

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**Soup lunch co-ordinator: Nan Buchan**

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*Assistance required and always welcome; contact Nan if you can help*

**Sunday School: Julie Gamble**

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**Treasurer: Mary McElroy**

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## Material for next issue

To Rennie McElroy by Monday 23 January 2023