



# CARLOPS CHURCH

In the community, for the community

## Newsletter

Volume 17, Number 2; February 2023

### Services, February 2023

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

5 February 10am: Kevin Scott  
12 February 10am: Colin Herd  
19 February 10am: Rev Dr Tony Foley  
26 February 10am: Rev Chris Levison  
5 March 10am: Prof Murray Campbell

**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

## Be still

*Whatever happens to time, also happens to us*

Sometime around in 1995, human society began to change because human interaction changed. The change started out subtle and unnoticed. The fact that it was unnoticed does not make it any less disturbing. When I think about the time before the internet and mobile phones, it seems like remembering another age, an age when letters came once a day, at set times, by the hands and feet of the postman. The “news” came in three forms – radio, television, print – and usually at six-hour intervals or in the case of the newspaper, once a day.

Those mail and newspaper deliveries punctuated the day like church bells. You could read about events in your newspaper or savour a letter from a friend over breakfast with your tea and toast. If there were developments during the day, you would hear about them on the evening news, or read about them in the next day’s newspaper. You listened to or watched the news when it was broadcast, since there was no other way to hear or see it. Everybody you knew relied on the same sources of news, so when they talked about current events, they did so in terms of a shared reality. Time passed in what now seem like large units, of days and hours, not in milliseconds that are constantly filled with endless updates. Before the internet and mobile phones, a few hours were not such a long time to go between moments of contact with your work or your friends. But after 1995, letters morphed into emails, and for a time, emails had all the depth and complexity of letters. They were a beautiful new form that spliced together the intimacy of what you might write from the heart with the speed the telephone. Then emails deteriorated into something more like text messages, and text messages were reduced to emojis.

Ironically, despite the rapid advances in contemporary technology, even phone calls on our shiny new mobile phones are prone to poor sound quality. “You’re breaking up” has become the anthem of our age. “You’re breaking up” aptly describes what has happened to human connectedness. Our written communication has dwindled to phrases and fragments, while spelling, grammar and punctuation are fly tipped in favour of speed.

Slowly and surely, a restlessness has seized hold of us, a sense that we should be doing something else. There is this inescapable sense that we should be doing at least two things at once, like talking to a friend on the phone and at the same time texting, another friend on the same phone, all while putting the person in the room with us “on hold”. We are now captive to a collective free-floating anxiety about keeping up, of knowing for the sake of knowing, of not being left out or getting behind. Our lives now have ratings measured by how many likes, hearts, or retweets we get on Facebook and Twitter.

In an age when our time is being constantly swallowed and our relationships desiccated by a multitude of “communication” technologies that are deliberately designed to distract our attention and vaporise our life’s time, perhaps the greatest gift you and I can give another this year is the gift of total, uninterrupted, undistracted presence. Did you know that in the Bible, it is God who always

encourages human beings to stop – to “Be still and realise that I am God”. His presence is the gift that God most wants to give to you today. So do yourself a favour this week: put your phone down, turn off your computer, and accept the invitation.

Peace

Tony

# News



## Help us to run social events every week

We are trying to organise a social gathering of some kind in Carlops Church every week throughout this winter, and perhaps longer. This is partly to provide frequent opportunities for people to meet and enjoy company in a safe, warm space; and partly in response to positive reactions to monthly soup lunches and coffee drop-in events.

No tickets are required and there is no entrance fee for these events. We invite a donation to cover costs; most surplus funds are donated to local foodbanks or a named charity. Donation decisions are for you alone and are not a condition of attending. Here is the pattern of what we expect to provide this winter ...

### **Coffee drop-in and Fair Trade stall**

- Coffee, tea, scones, cake or biscuits; plenty of neighbourly chat
- Last Saturday of every month except December; 10.30am to 12noon

### **Soup lunch**

- Choice of home-made soups, roll, coffee and sweet bite; more chat
- Wednesday before last Saturday of the month: September to November, and January to May; 12noon to 1.30pm

### **Cuppa and company**

- Tea and biscuits; chat again!
- Deliberately “low maintenance”, so easy to organise and relaxed to attend
- Every Thursday, 2-4pm, except for weeks with Soup lunch and Coffee drop-in
- Currently planned until April 2023, when we will review it – see below

The response to making these events more frequent has been encouraging and we would like to continue running them. *Coffee drop-in* and *Soup lunch* will continue as described. We will review the new *Cuppa and company* in the spring. We are willing in principle to extend it throughout the year; any decision to do so will depend upon two factors, both of which *you* can influence! First, how many people come to it; second, the willingness and availability of people to help run it every week.

So now, an invitation and gentle arm twist! If we are to run these events every week, we need more people to help: laying tables, making tea, bringing cake or biscuits, serving tables, washing dishes. You don't need to be a member of Carlops Church; you don't need to do all the jobs; you don't need to turn up every week; you can pick and choose; expenses will be refunded. All help is welcome, no matter who offers it, or however occasional it may be. If you could help in any way, at any time, please sign up on the rota sheet on the notice board at the back of the church, or speak to any of the following ...

Nan Buchan                    T 01968 678 352            E [nan.buchan@hotmail.com](mailto:nan.buchan@hotmail.com)  
 Mary Levison                T 01968 674 566            E [marylevison@btinternet.com](mailto:marylevison@btinternet.com)  
 Mary McElroy                T 01968 661 042            E [maryhmcElroy@outlook.com](mailto:maryhmcElroy@outlook.com)

We are committed to providing opportunities for Carlops people to meet regularly in a friendly setting. The pattern and nature of events offered may change from time to time, but the frequency will be maintained for as long as we can manage it. Your attendance and your practical support will influence how much we can do. We look forward to seeing and hearing from you soon.

## Carlops Church’s charitable donations, 2022

2022 saw a return to something like Carlops Church’s normal pattern of charitable donations after the disruption of the previous two calendar years. The Treasurer has provided this summary of the charities supported and the sums of money donated. These funds come principally from donations made by supporters at the social events the Church organises and from occasional special appeals.

<b>Beneficiary charity</b>	<b>Carlops Church activity</b>	<b>Sums donated</b>
DEC Ukraine	Easter breakfast	£ 350.00
DEC Pakistan	Coffee drop-in(s)	£ 250.00
Broomhill Day Centre	Harvest coffee drop-in	£ 100.00
Food Facts Friends	Harvest collection	£ 123.40
	Cuppa & company and other	£ 189.47
Women’s Aid	“Not shoebox” appeal	£ 480.00
Salvation Army	Christmas Eve carol service	£ 250.85
Mary’s Meals	Penny prayers coins	£ 130.50
	Special collection	£ 130.00
<b>Total for 2022</b>		<b>£2,004.22</b>

# The Column



## A Kitleyknowe torrent, 30th December 2022

Around mid-morning on Friday 30th December 2022, when the torrential rainstorm that had begun the previous evening was slackening, this Kitleyknovian walked out to survey the wetted local world. The height of the Kitleyknowe road above Carlops Burn and the slope of the surrounding fields had prevented severe flooding, but the road was awash all along its length and across most of its width. The wind had not been severe, so mature trees and major boughs were unharmed, but rain had torn many smaller branches from their parent trees. Carlops Burn was in such spate as I have not seen in near thirty years. At 11 am, its normal course could not be discerned; its meanders and grassy beaches all submerged; the water formed an almost straight-line torrent from Rogersrigg culvert to Kitley Brig.



Upstream of the roads to Rogersrigg and Back Carlops, the meadow where Icelandic ponies graze and snooze was a lake; the footbridge to the Rock Field was all but overtopped; and at the last bend before the A702, the burn flowed three inches deep across the roadway.

Chocolate water rushed and swirled and gurgled, throwing mud-cream spray into the air. Young waterfalls developed wherever a sharper fall in the ground level occurred. A dipper trying to go upstream was forced to fly along the bank, unable to progress on and below the surface in its habitual manner. Had it been buzzard-sized, it might have had sufficient power for that!

Once the rain stopped, water levels subsided fairly quickly. By 2pm, the road was largely free of flowing and standing water. A semblance of curvature had returned to the stream's course. Kitley

Brig, which has deteriorated steadily over recent years, was spared the imminent collapse which had seemed possible three hours earlier.

Carlops' weather recorder Peter Woolverton also observed the storm's aftermath, and reports that, on this occasion, Carlops was upstaged by West Linton, where the Lyne ford was impassable and the Millennium footbridge torpedoed by a washed-away tree. Peter writes ...



“Anyone out on the Kitleyknowe Road on the evening of 29th December 2022 would have encountered swathes of black ice as rain began to fall on a frozen surface. Overnight however, the temperature rose from 0°C to 5.5°C. At 7am, I measured the overnight rainfall: 0.37 inches was less than expected. Heavier rain throughout the morning produced a further 1.18 inches in under five hours. Total rainfall for the day was 1.62 inches.

“Rennie is rightly impressed by the condition of Carlops Burn, though I have photographs of it in similar flood on 26th April 2000. On that occasion, 1.23 inches of rain fell on the 25th, and 1.83 inches on the 26th: 3.06 inches for the two-day event. The 2000 storm delivered more rain than 2022, but over a longer period. It was the intensity of rainfall in the morning of 29th December 2022 that made the difference, helped by more rapid run-off from a partially frozen surface.

“December 2022 was the classic ‘month of two halves’: precipitation over the first 15 days was 0.85 inches and over the remaining 16 days, 4.83 inches. During 2022, I noted an equal hottest day and an equal coldest day on record. I confidently predict more records in this new year of 2023.”

Rennie McElroy and Peter Woolverton

# Diary



## Forthcoming events

**Coffee drop-in and Fair Trade stall** Saturday 28 January 2023; 10.30am-12noon

**Cuppa and company** Thursday 2 February 2023, 2-4pm

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

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

**Cuppa and company** Thursday 16 February 2023, 2-4pm

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

**Coffee drop-in and Fair Trade stall** Saturday 25 February 2023; 10.30am-12noon

**Cuppa and company** Thursday 2 March 2023, 2-4pm

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

**Cuppa and company** Thursday 16 March 2023, 2-4pm

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

**Coffee drop-in and Fair Trade stall** Saturday 25 March 2023; 10.30am-12noon

**Cuppa and company** Thursday 30 March 2023, 2-4pm

**Cuppa and company** Thursday 6 April 2023, 2-4pm

**Cuppa and company** Thursday 13 April 2023, 2-4pm

**Cuppa and company** Thursday 20 April 2023, 2-4pm

**Soup lunch** Wednesday 26 April 2023; 12noon-1.30pm

**Coffee drop-in and Fair Trade stall** Saturday 29 April 2023, 10.30am-12noon



## Contacts

### **Minister: Rev Dr Tony Foley**

Telephone 01968 660 221  
Mobile 07793 294 000

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

### **Church Administrator: Michelle Fraser**

Telephone 01968 733 112

Email [cos1560.tweed@outlook.com](mailto:cos1560.tweed@outlook.com)

### **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 and Cuppa & company: Mary Levison and Mary McElroy**

Telephone 01968 674 566

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

Telephone 01968 661 042

Email [maryhmcElroy@outlook.com](mailto:maryhmcElroy@outlook.com)

*Assistance required and always welcome; contact Mary or Mary if you can help!*

### **Eco Group: Anna Woolverton**

Telephone 01968 660 382

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

### **Flowers: Hilary Watt**

Telephone 01899 221 100

Email [hilarywatt9lf@btinternet.com](mailto:hilarywatt9lf@btinternet.com)

### **Newsletter and website: Rennie McElroy**

Telephone 01968 661 042

Email [rennie.mcelroy@btinternet.com](mailto:rennie.mcelroy@btinternet.com)

### **Session Clerk and Organist: Murray Campbell**

Telephone 01968 660 530

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

### **Soup lunch: Nan Buchan**

Telephone 01968 678 352

Email [nan.buchan@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:nan.buchan@hotmail.co.uk)

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

### **Sunday School: Julie Gamble**

Telephone 07980 258 381

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

### **Treasurer: Mary McElroy**

Telephone 01968 661 042

Email [maryhmcElroy@outlook.com](mailto:maryhmcElroy@outlook.com)

## Material for next issue

To Rennie McElroy by Monday 20 February 2023