



CARLOPS CHURCH

In the community, for the community

Newsletter

Volume 18, Number 6; June 2024

Services, June 2024

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

:
2 June 10am: Chris Levison
9 June 10am: Rev Dr Tony Foley
16 June 10am: Patsy Campbell
23 June 10am: Mary McElroy
30 June 10am: Rev Dr Tony Foley
7 July 10am: Fiona Burnett

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

Our Minister



Language Matters – beware of misplaced metaphors

Metaphors, it's pretty much impossible to speak without them.

We constantly use them to refer to ourselves or others, or God. The Bible is full of them. We use them every day, in so many ways but the danger of using them so much is that we forget that they are metaphors. For example, isn't there something quite pleasing about being able to say, 'I'm going to recharge this weekend.' But of course, the more we use mechanistic metaphors to describe ourselves the more likely we are to forget that we are using mechanistic language.

Before we know it, we unconsciously start to think that we really do need to "recharge," that we really do need to "update people," that our "wires really are crossed." Before we know it, we end up talking about ourselves as computers that need to 'process things.' Until one morning we wake up to find we have, without realising it, become increasingly functional in relating to all by imposing on ourselves and others language that is better used for talking about machines not human beings.

Take another example, think of how often we talk about love. How often do we speak about love as though it was some kind of disease? How often do we say of a person, 'Oh, she's just lovesick.' It is as though love is some unfortunate thing that happens to us, something we 'fall into' or 'fell out of.' All of which makes love sounds like unfortunate accident, something outside of our control.

Of course, if we insist on describing love as something that just happens to us, then it's something that can stop happening to us, something about which we don't really have choice. Jesus taught that love is a habit of the heart rather than a feeling in the heart. He speaks of loving others as a choice we intentionally make on a daily basis. He taught us that the more we practice this habit the more obvious it will become to others that we are his disciples. Perhaps that is why when the writers of the New Testament spoke of church, they used relational metaphors like 'brothers and sisters,' 'family,' 'friends.' The language we use to describe ourselves and others inevitably affects the way we relate to ourselves and others. Beware of misplaced metaphors.

Peace,
Tony

News



Meteorological Miscellanea

First, a look back to April - a month of 'two halves'. There was the first half (1st to 15th) with 95% of the rainfall, and the second half with the timid remaining 5% of the month's total. April finished on a warm note too - 20.8C on the 30th. Not knowing of Carlops the media settled for 18C in Edinburgh as the warmest spot in Scotland.

At the time of writing (18th May) the dry weather continues - just 1.10 inches (28mm) so far.

Dry Mays I have known, the top four, are as follows:

2018: 0.76" (19mm) 2020: 1.42" (36mm) 2010: 1.47" (37mm) and 2017: 1.59" (40mm).

The wettest? It was 1997 with 5.58" (142mm). Update next month!

The big weather event of May so far was 'space weather'. The Aurora Borealis was seen widely on the night of Friday 10th. Some of you struck lucky. We stared in expectation for a while before turning in and missing it. Down south, and I mean New Caledonia in the South Pacific, the islanders enjoyed the Aurora Australis. It was reported as the "Great Storm" and one of the most widespread auroral displays of the past 500 years!

Going on holiday can be awkward for amateur meteorologists. We were away recently for a week in Yorkshire. Some detective work followed. There are stats available for Edinburgh (Gogarbank/Airport) and Drumalbin (South Lanarkshire, by Tinto) - we are somewhere in between. Fortunately, there are meteorologists in Nine Mile Burn willing to share their data. Our rain gauge held 1.02" on our return but there was little supporting evidence of that much. 'Local weather' is often fascinating - we heard of sharp showers over the Pentland Hills on 3rd and 4th May which went much of the way towards my total.

Peter Woolverton



Thanks for getting involved

A big thanks to everyone who helped get behind the fundraising efforts for Christian Aid across West Tweeddale in May, especially to Mary Levison for organising the Carlops event and to all who contributed plants to our sale. The few remaining will be available for sale during Cuppa and Company on Thursday 30th May 2-4pm

Among them are some lovely houseplants, sets of 20 snowdrop bulbs and a few edibles.

A report with totals will be forthcoming.

Christian Aid Cryptic Quiz

If you are still puzzling over the answers to the quiz they are available from Robert Higgins!

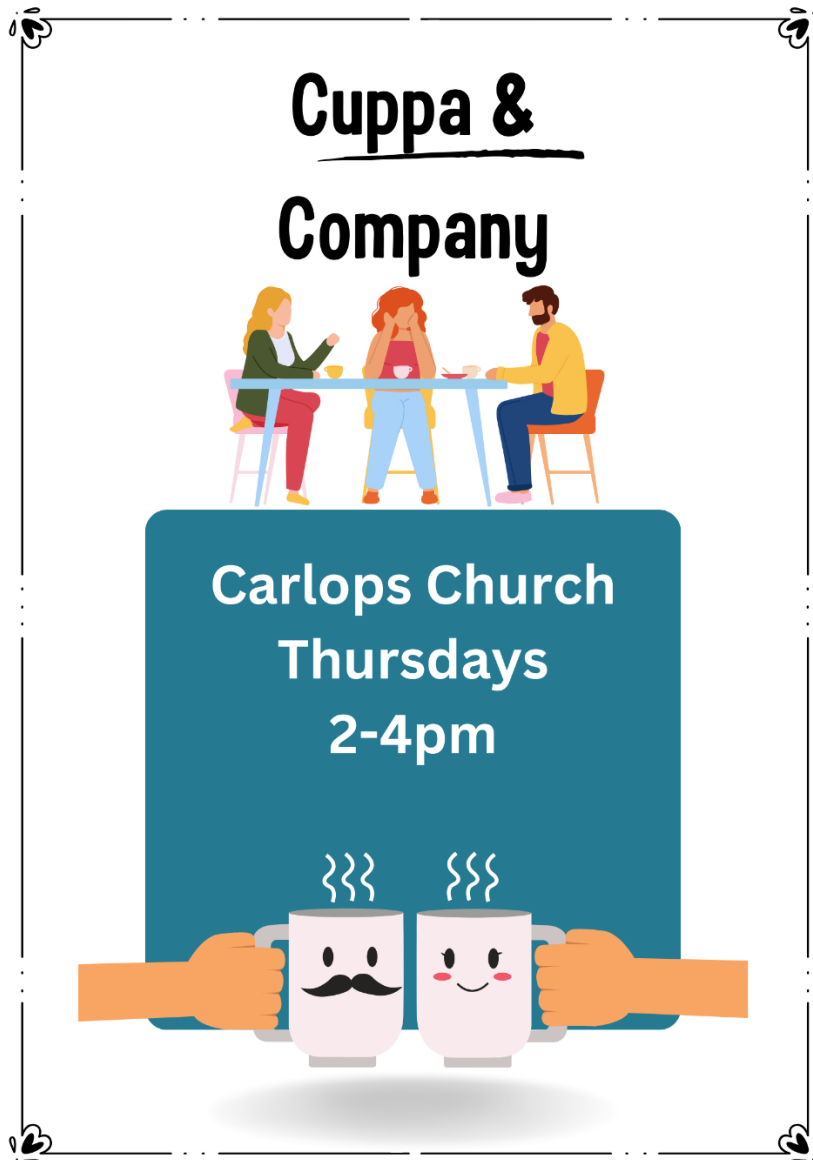
higfam72@gmail.com

Kate Whalley – Linkage Administrator

We welcome Kate, a familiar face to many, to the role of linkage administrator.

Kate will be in the linkage office in West Linton most Friday mornings from 9.30 to 12.30, and in the Old Church Hall on Friday afternoon from 2.00 to 4.00pm.

Office phone number is 01968 733 112.



Cuppa and Company – help over the summer

Help will be required to run our weekly Cuppa and Company on Thursdays over the summer as regular helpers go on holiday at various times.

Helping could involve

- baking
- getting the tables ready
- serving and chatting
- helping to clear up

If you think you can help, please let us know!

Merlin Bird ID app from Cornell University's Lab of Ornithology

The newsletter is not usually a place for endorsing apps, but this one is worth a mention and is free (with no ads).

This is a wonderful app which is clever enough to identify birds by their sound. You can go for a walk or take your beverage of choice out into the garden and set the app up to listen and identify the birds around you. Many of us are already enjoying it and discovering the sounds of birds we did not think of as frequent neighbours.

Personally, I was delighted to hear a snipe and a woodcock not far from home and a common crossbill in nearby Scots pine trees. I had seen a (silent) snipe a few days before but would not have been able to identify it by sound alone. Now I know the unmistakable sound of the winnowing snipe, a bird perfectly named 'heatherbleat'. (This Scots name for the snipe also survives in Northern Ireland).

The app has other identification aids which are great, but the sound ID is the most impressive. Cornell University's website describes its development as follows.

***Sound ID** was developed in-house at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, led by Dr. Grant Van Horn with assistance from Dr. Benjamin Hoffman. Sound ID uses recordings archived in the Macaulay Library to learn how to recognize the vocalizations of different bird species. Sound ID is trained on audio recordings that are first converted to visual representations (spectrograms), then analyzed using computer vision tools similar to those that power Photo ID.*

Happy listening,

Julie

Carlops Rural Products Show – Saturday 17th August

The annual Rural Products Show will be held in the Village Hall on Saturday 17th August.

The fine details will be circulated shortly and with plenty of categories to enter you are sure to find one that fits your own particular skills.

There are categories for veg, fruits, pot plants (some of us have already received our 'Fuchsia from judge's seedling' – thanks Jean!), cut flowers, baking and other produce, preserves and handicrafts. Children have their own special classes which will be judged in 3 age groups, and are also encouraged to enter the main classes.

If you need help

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 minister tfoley@churchofscotland.org or our pastoral group lead Jean Howat howatjean@gmail.com

The Column

A Fishy Tale

Before coming to live in Silverburn we lived in West Linton and at that time the River Lyne was a very healthy salmon river. Believe it or not we used to rack our brains for different ways to cook salmon. Frequently we wakened in the morning to find a fish, freshly caught in the Lyne, on our doorstep. Friends from Edinburgh used to love to come to visit us to feast on what was for us at that time a usually unaffordable treat.

This is how that situation arose: -

In 1961 Bob obtained a teaching post in West Linton Junior Secondary School where he taught maths, science, woodwork, metal work, and sometimes gardening (about which he knew nothing). He must have been a fairly popular teacher because the salmon left on our doorstep was the results of night time poaching by his pupils – though the fact has never to this day been acknowledged in words. There is however one story worth recording!

The boys choose what they would like to make in the metal work class and one lad choose a gaff. The completed items were usually laid along the window sill for display and one day when Bob was sitting quietly at his desk, about to start eating his lunch, much to his surprise, the window creaked up; a hand came through and the gaff disappeared. It was returned in the same manner just before afternoon classes!

Nothing was ever said of this matter to the class but Bob was known to enjoy telling the tale. The school janitor was much beloved by the teenage lads. If they fell in the river while poaching during their lunch hour he used to dry them off in the school boiler room before afternoon lessons. I am sure this story must resonate with quite a few adults still living in West Linton.

I am afraid the Lyne, like most of the Scottish rivers, is no longer the salmon river that it once was but I hope the Linton lads still manage to evade the bailiffs and enjoy the occasional bit of fun.!

Nan Buchan

Diary notes



Forthcoming events

Cuppa and company, Thursday 30 May 2024, 2-4pm

Gaelic Psalm Singing, Tuesday 4 June 2024, 7.30–9.30pm

Cuppa and company, Thursday 6 June 2024, 2-4pm

Gaelic Psalm Singing, Tuesday 4 June 2024, 7.30–9.30pm

Cuppa and company, Thursday 13 June 2024, 2-4pm

Gaelic Psalm Singing, Tuesday 18 June 2024, 7.30–9.30pm

Cuppa and company, Thursday 20 June 2024, 2-4pm

Gaelic Psalm Singing, Tuesday 25 June 2024, 7.30–9.30pm

Cuppa and company, Thursday 27 June 2024, 2-4pm

Coffee drop-in, Saturday 29 June 2024, 10.30am-12noon

Cuppa and company, Thursday 4 July 2024, 2-4pm

Cuppa and company, Thursday 11 July 2024, 2-4pm

Cuppa and company, Thursday 18 July 2024, 2-4pm

Cuppa and company, Thursday 25 July 2024, 2-4pm

Coffee drop-in, Saturday 27 July 2024, 10.30am-12noon

Cuppa and company, Thursday 1 August 2024, 2-4pm

Contacts

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Church bookings: Sheena Livingstone

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Session Clerk and Organist: Murray Campbell

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Material for next issue

To Julie Gamble by Monday 24 June