



CARLOPS CHURCH

In the community, for the community

Newsletter

Volume 18, Number 8; August 2024

Services, August 2024

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

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4 August 10am: Rev Dr Tony Foley
11 August 10am: Kevin Scott
18 August 10am: Peter Worthington
25 August 10am: Rev Dr Tony Foley
1 September 10am: Chris Levison

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



“What’s wrong with these people?”

Sometimes when dealing with irritating cold callers or difficult people on the phone, I will exclaim, “*What’s wrong with these people?*” Actually, I do this more often than I like to admit and not just on the other end of the phone. Sometimes I do it when listening to or reading this or that reporter, other car drivers, and certain politicians. My wife recently admonished me: “*Nobody is one of ‘those people.’ Be careful because you are in danger of slipping into the realm of the collective slur and that’s morally sloppy and morally corrupting. You don’t really know that person, but you do know that they are a person.*”

She’s right of course. I do sometimes allow my momentary annoyance to slide into a widening pool of irritation that pushes others into “*kinds.*” Individual persons can very quickly become “*Those people*” who work for insurance companies or “*Those people*” who work for the airlines, university administrators and ecclesial bureaucrats, and so on and so on. If I am not careful my world can quickly become populated with a series of anonymous, irritating ‘*They.*’ It can become “peopled” with individuals whom I have transformed into amorphous vexations to my personal well-being. I am of course exaggerating a little, but you get my point.

My wife was right when she also pointed out that I am ‘*those people,*’ and that ‘*those people are God’s (Ps. 144:3); and God is the God of each and every one of them.*’ Yes, there are ‘*kinds,*’ ‘*types,*’ and categories that have a collective character—a “*they.*” In the Bible, Israel is a “*they,*” beloved by God. In the same way that the Church is a “*they.*” But each ‘*they*’ is made up of those who were created as singular. And God knows each one before his or her appearance, knows each one by name (Ps. 139:16; 147:4).

Names are important in the Bible and for good reason. Being called by one’s name can in the best sense be a profoundly affirming way of acknowledging the humanity of another. Of acknowledging that the person you are engaging with is also known to God and made in the image of God. Just in case you ever find yourself irritated and tempted to resort to the impersonal language of ‘*They,*’ let me leave with my wife’s admonishment; “*Nobody is one of ‘those people.’ You are in danger of slipping into the realm of the collective slur. It’s morally sloppy and morally corrupting. You don’t really know that person, but you do know that they are a person.*”

Peace, Tony

News



Meteorological Miscellanea

First, going back a bit to 13th June and that overnight temperature of 3.3C. A late report, just in, from Kitleyknowe, beats that with 0C. That introduces us to microclimatology. Microclimates are localised climates that are specific to areas like gardens. Weather conditions can differ from the overall climate in the area. They can hugely influence the health of plants and which varieties will thrive.

Well, how has it been since 24th June? Well, in a word, dull. We have to go back to 1st June for a fully sunny day. I pull back the curtain each morning and it's "dull". It's almost onomatopoeic? It has been a 'hotchpotch' summer so far with no lasting fine spells as our driving jet stream bobs about. Daily maxima have been "up and down". For example: 12th July maximum 19.4C, 13th maximum down to 13.1C, 14th maximum back up 21.9C. Warmer it has been, with 7 days so far this month reaching 20C or more. We had just 6 in June.

Dull yes, but July, so far, has not been as wet as May and June. We are on course for an average total. There was a thunderstorm on the 16th of July in the early afternoon, but it was a 'glancing blow'. It was darker to the north and east. Flooding was reported at Straiton and on main roads in Edinburgh.

Windy it has been, particularly between the 3rd and the 5th. It was gusting Beaufort Force 7 which meant that it felt like 6C with the windchill. But hey, spare a thought for Londoners who toasted in 31.9C on the 19th.

Peter Woolverton, Pyethall

Rev. Rola Sleiman, minister from Lebanon, Peebles Old Parish Church, Tues 6th August 2pm

Peebles Old Parish Church is going to have a special service on Tuesday 6th August at 2pm to hear from Rev. Rola Sleiman. Rola is the Minister at the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Tripoli in northern Lebanon.

This will be an opportunity to hear about her ministry and the situation of Christians in Lebanon.

There will be afternoon tea served after the service.

The service will be led by Rev. Aftab Gohar, Minister of the linkage of Peebles Old Parish Church, Stobo Church and Eddleston Church. This linkage is currently thinking about twinning with one of the Churches in Lebanon but everyone is welcome to come along.

The visit has been organised with the help of Presbytery's World Mission group.

Columns – Do you have something to share?

Contributions for *The Column* are sought for forthcoming issues. If you have anything you'd like to share – a thought, a poem - it will be gratefully received.

Email to julieggamble@yahoo.co.uk

Bridge players - Charity Event Sat 21st Sept 2 – 5pm St Mary's Hall, Biggar

To raise funds for Cancer Research UK, Biggar Bridge Club invite you to an afternoon of social bridge including afternoon tea and prizes.

Tickets £10

Contact Isobel Hunter on 07955 876 179 or isobel@skirlinghouse.com

Linton Lifts – Volunteer Drivers Required

We are a community group and looking for
VOLUNTEER DRIVERS
to take people living in Carlops and West
Linton to and from their NHS appointments.

You could make a huge difference to
someone's life and in return, you would be
REIMBURSED FOR YOUR MILEAGE.



Getting to NHS appointments and home again

Contact margarettorrance6@icloud.com



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!

SanctuaryFirst

The Praise Ceilidh

Experience The Joy of The Dance



Traditional
Scottish dancing
with original music



Scan Me

St Cuthberts Parish Church
Venue no. 122

Purchase Tickets via the Fringe website

5th 8th 20th & 24th

Afternoon show £6

3:00pm - 4:00pm

Evening Show with live band £15

6:30pm - 8:30pm

The Column

I really enjoyed reading Julie's column in the first edition of the Carlops Church Newsletter for which she acted as editor. Her description of the scrape at Nine Mile Burn with the lapwings was interesting and positive, but it plunged me into reflective mood and started me thinking about the changes that I have seen taking place in the wildlife around Silverburn since I came to live here 45 years ago. (How quickly they have sped by!) The sad reality is that, as one of the older generation, I now seem to spend a lot of time with friends bemoaning the fact that we can no longer see or hear birds and animals that used to be common and which we took for granted. Julie's sighting of the flocks of lapwings brought this home to me in force.

In the 1980s Bob and I delighted in the sight and sound of lapwings and curlews in the field below our house. They were numerous and welcome visitors, and it never crossed our minds that by 2024 their distinctive calls would be silenced, and they would be long gone. The fact that the road running through Silverburn is called Hopelands Road is evidence of the fact that curlews once abounded here. Hopelands is actually a corruption of Whauplands, with whaup being the Scots word for curlew. How wonderful it would be if the whaups returned to the lands around the village! Meanwhile it is a delight to know that, only four miles along the A702, Julie and Nine Mile Burn residents can still enjoy the 'peewit' call of the lapwing.

Swallows used to nest in our garden hut and to make frequent attempts to nest in the garage if the door was left open. We have not had a nest for at least 15 years. They do continue to build in Silverburn village although a recent decline in numbers has been noticed.

And apparently, it's not just Silverburn that's affected in this way. Mary and Rennie McElroy report from Kitleyknowe that for their first several years there, 1994 until about 2005, curlews and lapwings were sighted almost every day in the field behind their house – the latter often wheeling elegantly and ostentatiously in their courtship flight. Now, lapwings visit only rarely and the curlews have moved across the moor, about 500 metres further from the small cluster of houses. At Kitleyknowe too, swallows used to build on the house eaves and return each year to their old nest, which they refurbished. Then one year, a squabble of sparrows took over the nest in the autumn and defended it next spring when its rightful owners returned. Rebuffed, the swallows have found new sites elsewhere.

But to end on a cheerier note – At Kitleyknowe, nuthatch, woodpecker and long-tailed tits have joined the list of "usual suspects" while in Silverburn nuthatches and redpolls are now common and a tall beech tree has even had a 15-minute visit from a golden eagle!

Nan Buchan (Silverburn) Rennie McElroy (Kitleyknowe)

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

Diary notes



Forthcoming events

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

Gaelic Psalm Singing, Tuesday 6 August 2024, 7.30–9.30pm

Cuppa and company, Thursday 8 August 2024, 2-4pm

Gaelic Psalm Singing, Tuesday 13 August 2024, 7.30–9.30pm

Cuppa and company, Thursday 15 August 2024, 2-4pm

Gaelic Psalm Singing, Tuesday 20 August 2024, 7.30–9.30pm

Cuppa and company, Thursday 22 August 2024, 2-4pm

Gaelic Psalm Singing, Tuesday 27 August 2024, 7.30–9.30pm

Cuppa and company, Thursday 29 August 2024, 2-4pm

Coffee drop-in, Saturday 31 August 2024, 10.30am-12noon

Gaelic Psalm Singing, Tuesday 3 September 2024, 7.30–9.30pm

Cuppa and company, Thursday 5 September 2024, 2-4pm

Gaelic Psalm Singing, Tuesday 10 September 2024, 7.30–9.30pm

Soup Lunch, Wednesday 11 September 2024, 12 -1.30pm

Cuppa and company, Thursday 12 September 2024, 2-4pm

Gaelic Psalm Singing, Tuesday 17 September 2024, 7.30–9.30pm

Cuppa and company, Thursday 19 September 2024, 2-4pm

Gaelic Psalm Singing, Tuesday 24 September 2024, 7.30–9.30pm

Cuppa and company, Thursday 26 September 2024, 2-4pm

Coffee drop-in, Saturday 28 September 2024, 10.30am-12noon

Contacts

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Church Administrator: Kate Whalley

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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 and Cuppa & company: Mary Levison and Mary McElroy

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Newsletter and website: Julie Gamble

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Session Clerk and Organist: Murray Campbell

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Soup lunch: Nan Buchan

Telephone 01968 678 352

Email nan.buchan@hotmail.co.uk

Treasurer: Mary McElroy

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Material for next issue

To Julie Gamble by Thursday 22 August