



# CARLOPS CHURCH

In the community, for the community

## Newsletter

Volume 18, Number 10; October 2024

### Services, October 2024

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

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6 October 10am: Rev Dr Tony Foley  
13 October 10am: David Henderson-Howat  
20 October 10am: Patsy Campbell  
27 October 10am: Rev Dr Tony Foley  
3 November 10am: Steven Whalley

**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



## God Put Faith in a Body

God put faith in a body. In the opening sentences of his gospel John tells us, “*The Word became flesh and lived among us.*” Before that God put faith in a different body when he sent the angel Gabriel to tell Mary that she would conceive in her womb a child and that the child would be the Son of God.

If God put faith in a body, why is it that Christians so often speak of Christian spirituality in disembodied terms? Why, are we so quick to separate the physical from the spiritual, damning one and lauding the other? Why do we assume that truly holy things are invisible. Especially when God chose to be born of a woman’s body just as you and I were.

Bodies matter. That truth we can plainly see from the beginning to the end of the gospels. Jesus fed the hungry. He cleansed the lepers. He gave sight to the blind. He opened the ears of the deaf. He raised the dead to life. He offered his body as proof of his identity when he invited Thomas to touch his wounds.

Christian spirituality should never be portrayed as an escape from or a rejection of our bodies, but rather a deeper engagement with our own bodies and the bodies of others. So many of us aren’t comfortable in our own skin. We don’t know what to make of or do with our bodies. We compare our bodies to others and give way to the deeply destructive standards of what passes in contemporary society for beautiful and acceptable. In Genesis we are told God looked at the bodies he had created and declared them “*very good.*”

What’s your relationship to your body? Do you like your body? Do you respect and care for it? Do you see it as holy and beautiful? Are you listening to it? Is there guilt, judgment, shame, or embarrassment about your body? Do you have joy and gratitude for your body? In what ways are you inhabiting your body? How are you seeing and caring for the bodies of others?

I am asking these questions here because I don’t think we can fully appreciate the significance of the Incarnation and the profound implications of the words “*and the Word became flesh and lived among us,*” until we learn to accept the gift of our own bodies. God put faith in a body.

Peace,  
Tony

# News



## Meteorological Miscellanea

I write this two days after the autumnal equinox. The sun crossed the equator from north to south at 1.44pm BST on Sunday 22nd. It marked the start of astronomical autumn. Summer is over. Some folks may claim that our summer this year ran from Monday 16th September to Thursday 19th September inclusive. Blue sky for heaven's sake! Cirrus clouds! Tuesday 17th's eleven hours of sunshine made it the sunniest day since 31st August. We were soon back to haar, mist, fog and low cloud rolling in from the northeast. You name it. It was back to just dull.

This year January, February, March, April, May and August have all been wetter than average. June and July were actually drier than average, and September still has a chance! My 28-year average for annual rainfall is 45.95 inches (1167mm). So far this year we've clocked 39.65 inches (1007mm) with the three wettest months, on average, still to come.

On a brighter note, did anyone see the Aurora Borealis on 13th September? It was widely reported and as far south as South Sussex! That made several sightings this year and I missed them all. It is always worth stepping outside just before bedtime on a clear night. You never know your luck. Not a clear night was 9th-10th September - the wettest night since Storm Lilian in August. On the 10th it blew a gale gusting to Beaufort Force 9. I didn't sleep much. There's never a dull moment - ah, I've already used the word 'dull'.

*Peter Woolverton, Pyethall*

# **BIG Gathering - A celebration of Faith in West Tweeddale 12<sup>th</sup> October, Broughton Village Hall 10am – 1pm**



We are very pleased to confirm the details for the first Linkage wide gathering, to be held in October. The event will run from 9.45 am (coffee) through to 1pm (lunch). Everyone is invited for all or part of the event, as you wish, and as is convenient.

The topic is **BIG**. Overarching theme of the Ephesians with inputs Big Picture, Big Church, Big God (Ephesians 3 v1 to 21). The main event is being led by Peter Woods, Mission Officer for the Presbytery.

We have planned what we hope will be an enjoyable morning. There will be fun. There will be music. There will be craft (clay – don't wear smart clothes!). There will be food. There will be worship. There will be prayer. There will be laughter. There will be Fellowship.

To book your place, please let Kate Whalley know on [kate@westlinton.com](mailto:kate@westlinton.com) or contact your session clerk. Lifts and transport can be arranged, again, please let Kate or your session clerk know. Kate needs to know if you are planning to stay for lunch for catering numbers, and if you have any dietary needs (vegetarian, allergies etc.).

The event is completely free and everyone is welcome. You can join us for all or part of the morning – and can come and go as you wish. Deadline for registrations is Thursday 10 October.

## Praise Band – appeal for musicians and singers

Can you help?

I am putting together a praise band to participate in the celebration of faith being organised by the parish of West Tweeddale on Saturday 12th October.

If you play an instrument (ANY instrument) or sing, could you come and join us?

We will be leading 4 hymns for which I can provide the music. If your instrument plays in a different key, parts can be provided in the correct key for you.

The hymns will be:

*Gather us in* by Marty Haugen

*Knowing you* by Graham Kendrick

*Seek ye first* by Karen Lafferty

*Shine Jesus shine* by Graham Kendrick.

Please contact me to let me know that you are interested, and I will send you the music.

With thanks, Anne Dawson, 07748638933

## **Treasurer Duties**

After 18 years of bearing the grand title of Treasurer, Mary McElroy has stepped down and handed the reins to Anna Wolverton.

Many heartfelt thanks to Mary for her service in this position over the years and congratulations to Anna for accepting the post.

Perhaps will we see Mary's reminiscences in print in the newsletter in the near future!

## **Stated Annual Meeting Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October, after service**

Our Stated Annual Meeting to update all on monetary matters will be held in the church after the service on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October.

This will include some discussion on a redesign of the area around the front of the church and ideas for raising funds for current and future building projects.

## **Harvest Service, Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October**

Our Harvest service will take place on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October at our usual time of 10am. David Henerson-Howat will lead us.

Donations of food will be given to our local foodbank.

## Happy 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday to Tweedsmuir Kirk



Tweedsmuir Kirk will celebrate 150 years on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> October.  
The day of celebration will include their Harvest service at 10am.  
Kirk open 9am until 4pm for visitors and to receive donations for the Peebles foodbank.

A local choir led by conductor Tom Celeketic will perform at 2pm.  
Anne Dawson, our organist, will share some of her favourite hymns.

Coffee and cake will be available throughout the day and friends of Tweedsmuir Kirk will be on hand to share the history of Tweedsmuir Kirk and chat about some of the famous people buried in the graveyard.



## Linton Lifts – Appeal

*A not-for-profit group*

*Offering you opportunities to be a good neighbour*

Could you spare a few hours occasionally to take a neighbour to a medical appointment? Linton Lifts gives you the chance to make new friends in your own area by offering a door-to-door service to wherever the appointment is, since in some cases it takes three buses to get there and three buses back. Patients are often in an anxious state, and perhaps are quite elderly and/or no longer driving – a friendly face can make all the difference.

Drivers are reimbursed by the statutory mileage allowance and clients are simply asked to make a donation to Linton Lifts to cover this. Clients must be able to access a car without assistance (we cannot take wheelchair users, sorry) but we do take along carers when required.

We are in the foothills of running this service and in order to feel able to advertise it more widely **we need more drivers** to make themselves available so that no-one is asked to drive too frequently. When a request is made Margaret puts out a call to see who is available on the relevant day, so no need to have a day set aside on a regular basis – it's more whenever you happen to be free to help.

**For more information**, please email [margarettorrance6@icloud.com](mailto:margarettorrance6@icloud.com), or phone Margaret on 01968 660 678 (leave a message if it is not answered).

*Thank you*

*Margaret Torrance  
Convenor, Linton Lifts*



# The Open Gate - Solution Focussed Brief Therapy



## Got a problem?

Stressed? Anxious? Depressed?  
Parenting difficulties? Relationship issues?  
Whatever the problem – large or small, recent or  
long-standing, Solution Focussed Brief Therapy  
can help.

Ask for an appointment at

## THE OPEN GATE

In **Newlands Centre, Romanno Bridge**

**Fridays 2pm to 5pm.**

Anyone who wants help for their problem is  
welcome, and will be seen by arrangement. There  
is no 'Drop-in'.

**PHONE OR TEXT 07535 898 244**

**SFBT is enjoyable and helps quickly, usually within 1-3  
sessions. All sessions are free and confidential.**

(This is a different service to the help offered by our Pastoral group at the end of the newsletter)


## Our Regular Events



**Monthly Drop in Coffee Morning**

**Drop-in Coffee Morning**  
Carlops Church on the last Saturday each month.  
10.30am to 12 noon.

### Cuppa & Company



**Carlops Church**  
**Thursdays**  
**2-4pm**



## *Cyaelic Psalm Singing*

**Weekly on a Tuesday**

**Carlops Church**  
**7:30-9:30pm**

## Soup Lunch, Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October

Our next soup lunch is on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October  
Hope to see you there!

If you can volunteer to make soup or help on the day, please email me at [julieggamble@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:julieggamble@yahoo.co.uk)  
and I'll get the message to appropriate person.

## Events Across the Parish

[West Tweeddale Parishes - Calendar](#)

This link details all forthcoming events, some of which are highlighted below.

## Harvest Supper – Newlands, Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October 6.30pm

We will be holding our **Harvest Supper** at Newlands church on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October at 6.30pm.  
It will be a potluck supper, where everyone brings food to share and there will be a collection in aid  
of a charity which is tbc.

Everyone is warmly invited and if you would like a ticket, please contact Jean Howat –  
[howatjean@gmail.com](mailto:howatjean@gmail.com) 01968 660677

Can you also indicate if you will be bringing a savoury or a sweet dish.

## The Guild 16<sup>th</sup> Oct, 2pm, Broughton Village Hall

Our next meeting will be held on Wed 16<sup>th</sup> October at 2 pm in Broughton Village Hall at 2pm, when  
we will be hearing about the work of BEAT.

This charity is one which has been supported by the National Guild over the past 3 years, and  
which works to help with the growing problem of eating disorders in Scotland.

As always, you don't need to be a Guild member to attend, and any visitor will receive a warm welcome, as well as tea and cake!



Messy Church will be starting later this autumn, in November. Dates to be confirmed in October.

Sessions start on a Sunday at 4pm prompt in the New Church Hall at West Linton and finish at 6pm.

All children from babies to P7 are most welcome to come and join in the fun!

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. All children **MUST** be accompanied by an adult.

Please do consider joining us for an afternoon of fun activities and a family meal together.

For more information contact Jean Howat (01968 660677) [howatjean@gmail.com](mailto:howatjean@gmail.com)

# The Column

## A prayer

*Each week at our service we have a prayer from a person in the church family. Recently it was Sophie's turn, and she offered the following, partly familiar, words*

Dear Lord

The crown weighs heavily on our leaders  
We seek their guidance  
Grant them the courage to change the things that they can change  
Help them to bring a miracle of peace to the lands of Gaza  
And of Ukraine, and to the peoples of Israel and Russia

The crown of thorns weighs heavily  
And our lives are encircled with fear and troubles  
Help us to bear what seems unbearable  
Grant us the wisdom to know what we cannot change  
Grant us the serenity to accept the things we cannot change

For a few moments of silence, we think of those who face sadness and loss

A child wears a crown of daisies  
Bonny and blithe, unhindered by what they cannot do and do not know  
Bring to us a time of innocence  
Across our nation, let us be at ease with each other  
With the unfolding of the day, let us be at peace with ourselves

*Sophie Pilgrim*

## 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](mailto:julieggamble@yahoo.co.uk)

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:tfoley@churchofscotland.org) or our pastoral group lead Jean Howat [howatjean@gmail.com](mailto:howatjean@gmail.com)

# Diary notes



## Forthcoming events

**Gaelic Psalm Singing**, Tuesday 1 October 2024, 7.30–9.30pm

**Cuppa and company**, Thursday 3 October 2024, 2-4pm

**Gaelic Psalm Singing**, Tuesday 8 October 2024, 7.30–9.30pm

**Soup Lunch**, Wednesday 9 October 2024, 12 -1.30pm

**Cuppa and company**, Thursday 10 October 2024, 2-4pm

**Gaelic Psalm Singing**, Tuesday 15 October 2024, 7.30–9.30pm

**Cuppa and company**, Thursday 17 October 2024, 2-4pm

**Gaelic Psalm Singing**, Tuesday 22 October 2024, 7.30–9.30pm

**Cuppa and company**, Thursday 24 October 2024, 2-4pm

**Coffee drop-in**, Saturday 26 October 2024, 10.30am-12noon

**Gaelic Psalm Singing**, Tuesday 29 October 2024, 7.30–9.30pm

**Cuppa and company**, Thursday 31 October 2024, 2-4pm

**Gaelic Psalm Singing**, Tuesday 5 November 2024, 7.30–9.30pm

**Cuppa and company**, Thursday 7 November 2024, 2-4pm

**Gaelic Psalm Singing**, Tuesday 12 November 2024, 7.30–9.30pm

**Soup Lunch**, Wednesday 13 November 2024, 12 -1.30pm

**Cuppa and company**, Thursday 14 November 2024, 2-4pm

**Gaelic Psalm Singing**, Tuesday 19 November 2024, 7.30–9.30pm

**Cuppa and company**, Thursday 21 November 2024, 2-4pm

**Gaelic Psalm Singing**, Tuesday 26 November 2024, 7.30–9.30pm

**Cuppa and company**, Thursday 28 November 2024, 2-4pm

**Coffee drop-in**, Saturday 30 November 2024, 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: Kate Whalley**

Telephone 01968 733 112

**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](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**

Telephone 01968 674 566

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

**Eco Group: Anna Woolverton**

Telephone 01968 660 382

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

**Flowers: Hilary Watt**

Telephone 01899 221 100

Email [hilarywatt91f@btinternet.com](mailto:hilarywatt91f@btinternet.com)

**Newsletter and website: Julie Gamble**

Telephone 01968 661 042

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

**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)

**Treasurer: Mary McElroy**

Telephone 01968 661 042

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

## Material for next issue

To Julie Gamble by Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> October