



# CARLOPS CHURCH

In the community, for the community

## Newsletter

Volume 18, Number 11; November 2024

### Services, November 2024

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

:  
3 November 10am: Steven Whalley  
10 November 10am: Murray Campbell  
17 November 10am: Sheena Livingstone  
24 November 10am: Fiona Burnett  
1 December 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)**

# A Poem to Ponder



## *Again the Air is Full* by Wendell Berry, from *The Small Porch*

Again the air is full  
of falling: the fall of the leaves  
in the weighty season that bring  
all home again to the lowly  
miracle from which they came.

Nature, the mother and maker,  
requires that life take form,  
enflesh itself in the shapes  
and habits of the world's unnumbered  
kinds. And then she requires  
each one at last to shed  
its guise, giving up  
its matter to the life to come.

Think of a world of no fall  
no gravity calling downward,  
homeward, bringing all  
by the light uprisen down  
to rest in the resting land  
– a world, instead, where all  
that dies would fly upward  
and outward, nameless and alone.

How sterile then would be  
the earth, seasonless the year.

...

The year is the showing forth  
of the heavenly love that is  
the being of the present world.

The leaves, opening and at last  
falling, hold a while  
the beauty of God who made them  
by the work and care of Nature,  
His vicar and our mother.

His only is the light  
of which all things are made,  
the beauty that they are,  
the delight that is our prayer.

# News



## Meteorological Miscellanea

My favourite time of day to step out in Carlops is late evening. Tractors have ceased rumbling by, articulated lorries have reached their destination, white van man has finished his deliveries, and the boy racers have given us a break. I can hear the trickle of the Carlops Burn and the towit of an owl and occasionally an answering towoo. Sometimes it is pitch dark, sometimes there is a canopy of stars, sometimes there is moonlight, very occasionally there is the greatest show on Earth. On the evening of 10th October, the Aurora Borealis gave me its finest show since April 2000. I stood in awe for 15 minutes watching the pulsating red wash across the heavens.

Another show came from the Hunter Moon which was HUGE and fiery as it rose in the NE. The full moon demanded a double take when first spotted. The Hunter Moon follows September's Harvest Moon when animals have fewer places to hide in harvested fields. It's also known as the Travel Moon and the Kindly Moon.

The 14th of October was a remarkable day in as much as the sun shone - unusual for this year. In fact, it shone for an uninterrupted 9.3 hours from sunrise to sunset. The blue sky hosted a few wisps of Cirrus and some saltires - evidence of the passage of folk in tubes on some Great Circle flights above 30,000 feet.

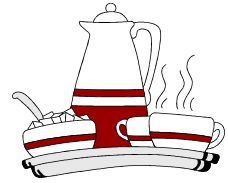
On the 20th of October we were battened down and ready for Storm Ashley - the 1st storm of winter 2024-25. Gusts of up to Beaufort 11 were forecast. The maximum on the Beaufort Scale is 12. Well, it was windy, but it never got out of hand although the leaves were travelling horizontally.

Talking of leaves - what about our Autumn Colours? They have been magnificent this year I thought, cheering up our currently ugly world. There must have been something beneficial about our spring and summer.

*Peter Woolverton, Pyethall*



## Soup Lunch for the Community in Carlops Church



Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024 12noon-1.30pm

You are warmly invited to our November soup lunch event where there will be a choice of four homemade soups followed by tea/coffee and home baking.

Everyone will be made welcome and can join in the buzz of lively conversation. There is no set charge, but a donation is requested and can be made by cash or card.

There will be no soup lunch in December, but from January until May 2025 there will be a lunch on the second Wednesday of each month. We hope to welcome you to one or all of these.

## Report from the Stated Annual Meeting

The Stated Annual Meeting was held after the service on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October and chaired by Rev Chris Levison. Attendance was healthy.

The financial summary for 2023 was presented beautifully by our out-going Treasurer, Mary McElroy, and the full report can be viewed on the Carlops Church website [Reports and procedures - Carlops church.](#)

Anna Wolverton (Eco-Group) and Gill Gold (Property) gave summaries of activities in those areas, which were received with gratitude.

Our Session Clerk, Murray Campbell, presented a review of the year and grateful thanks were expressed to Mary and Rennie McElroy who have given many years of service in their former roles as Treasurer and Newsletter Editor.

Chris thanked Murray and Patsy warmly for their attendance via Zoom from California (at some unthinkable hour of the morning) and thanked all who contributed reports.

## **General Kirk Session – 28<sup>th</sup> November 7.30pm @ Carlops Church**

A General Kirk Session for the linkage will be held in Carlops Church on 28<sup>th</sup> November.  
Meet at 7pm for a chat and a hot drink before business starts at 7.30pm

## **Carlops Advent Garden – Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December 3.45pm for 4pm**

Led by Gerda Stevenson, this simple, beautiful and atmospheric event is for the whole family. A gorgeous spiral of moss is constructed in the church and dotted with woodland creatures. Children walk round the spiral and light their own candle, which is held snugly in a cored apple, then retrace their steps, placing their candle somewhere in the moss.

Some candles and apple will be available on the day, you may bring your own if you can.



# Christian Aid Update

## Christian Aid Week May 2024

How much do you think CA raised nationally during CA Week?

You'll have to read a bit more to find out.....

Do you remember the week's theme featuring Aline Nibogora in Burundi? Poverty pushed her to the brink of survival. She was abused, homeless and hungry. But Aline pushed back harder. Driven by hope, faith and the love of her children, Aline was able to fight against the inhumanity of poverty and build herself a new life. "I thank God because the Village Savings and Loan Association have allowed me to see that a bright future for me and my children is really possible".

Harvest of Hope campaign

CA Harvest of Hope campaign featured Nyarai Zirugo's story about the difficulties faced by farmers in Zimbabwe associated with the climate crisis especially drought has resulted in declining productivity and food security. The money raised will help many more farmers like Nyarai to survive and thrive in a time of climate chaos.

Christmas 2024 Appeal

Read Sheda's story online on the CA website. She was forced to flee war-torn Sudan with her daughter Saida and granddaughter Mariem. There is precious little room for comfort and joy when you've left everything behind to just survive, but with help from CA partner Smile Again Africa Development Organisation, Sheda is now rebuilding her family's life in the Wedwell refugee camp. Her story is a hard one, but filled with courage and hope.

As we celebrate the coming of the Prince of Peace, please remember those whose lives have been torn apart by war.

## Christian Aid Scotland Carol Service

**New Town Church, George Street, Edinburgh Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2024 at 6.30pm**

This special local event has a Theme of Peace and will include many carols led by Siskin Green and Fischy Music.

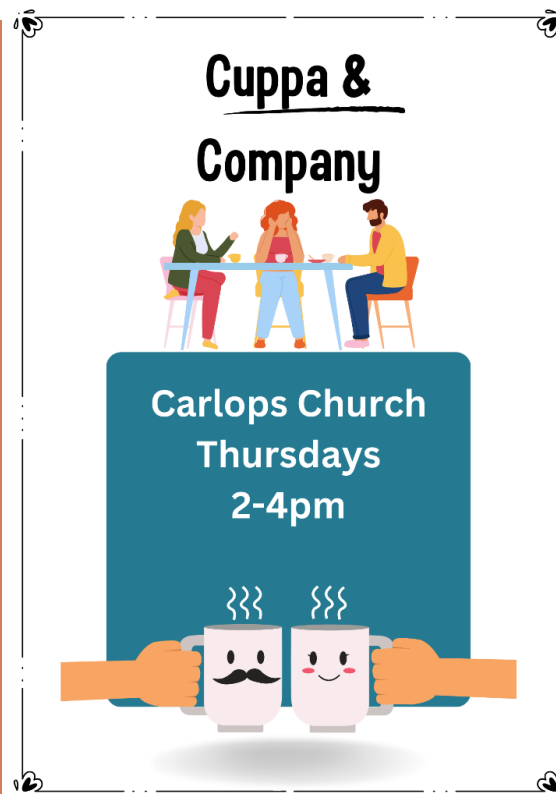
The keynote address will be delivered by John Bell from the Iona Community.

\*\*\*\*\*CA WEEK TOTAL\*\*\*\*\*

**£4,446,337.00 !!**

Robert Higgins, CA chair

## Our regular events







*Celtic Psalm Singing*

**Weekly on a Tuesday**

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

**Garvald Lantern Festival and Story –  
Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November @ 6pm**





Messy Church will be starting again this winter on the following Sundays at the New Church Hall in West Linton:

Sunday 24 November – Zaccheus

Sunday 15 December – Christmas

Sunday 19 January – The house built on rock

Sunday 9 February – Lost and Found Sunday

16 March – The Seed and the Sower

Sessions start at 4pm prompt 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)

## 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 Column

## When the sermon saved the day

*The sermon can never be too short. A common throwaway: half in jest, half in earnest; irreverent but not malign; at worst a bit inconsiderate of someone's effort to help, explain and prompt constructive thought. You will certainly have heard it said. How often have you heard someone say otherwise? You probably don't need both hands to count.*

But here's a scenario that bucks the trend. A Carlops worshipper listens, responds, realises, panics, thinks, "persuades"(!), hopes fervently, is rescued. All *sotto voce* ...

**Call to worship** "Oh good, it's X this Sunday. Always interesting to hear. Provokes sometimes but helps too. Stirs up the brain cells and gets you thinking."

**Reading** "Ah; the feeding of the five thousand. Lots of options here. Wonder what path he'll take today."

**Ten seconds later** *Feeding? Feeding!* I forgot I'm supposed to be doing the coffee this morning. It's not set up for after the service. And worse – I've no milk with me. No biscuits either. Hordes of Carlops people expecting coffee (well, twenty anyway). All looking at me. Disappointed. What can I do-o-o?"

**Blind panic, overridden by hymn, during which** "Idea! Nudge other half. Whisper. 'Help. We're on coffee today.' (Clever – that change of pronoun, from I to we – sharing it!) 'But we didn't bring the stuff we need for it. You nip out during this hymn: West Linton Co-op or Shaz the newsagent: milk and biscuits. Back here asap and leave them in the kitchen and sneak back in. You'll just have time during the sermon – if you *really* move yourself.' Other half: 'OK: so, we need milk and biscuits. But how come it's me?' Moi, with severest hard Paddington stare: 'Just do it. Now!' Nods and goes. Thank goodness."

**Hymn over – Reflection** “Please go on for long enough. *But the coffee.* Hmm. Good point: yes. *But the coffee.* Uh-huh. Maybe; not so sure about ... *But the coffee.* That reminds me of ... *But the coffee.* Oh, I can’t focus! That’s hopeful: X says there are three points to make; so still two to go. *But the coffee.* Second point. Third. Oh good – a *but also.* And now a *last of all.* Lucky me! *But the coffee.* At least it’s a long last hymn; six verses. Oh no – we’re only going to sing four! Where is the other half? *What about the coffee?*”

“Relief: here’s the other half. Back just on time. Huge sigh. Hymn ends. Benediction. ‘Amen, amen, a-a-a-men.’ Slip out to kitchen. Missing Murray’s mini-recital; that’s a shame. *But the coffee* matters and Murray will want some too.

“Just made it. Glad it was quite a long sermon this week. Phew!”

It goes to prove – a sermon *could* be too short – one day.  
Though, of course, this couldn’t really happen. Could it?

Rennie McElroy

## 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

**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

**General Kirk Session**, Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2024 7pm for 7.30pm @ Carlops

**Coffee drop-in**, Saturday 30 November 2024, 10.30am-12noon

**Advent Garden**, Sunday 1 December 2024, 3.45pm for 4pm start

**Gaelic Psalm Singing**, Tuesday 3 December 2024, 7.30–9.30pm

**Cuppa and company**, Thursday 5 December 2024, 2-4pm

**Gaelic Psalm Singing**, Tuesday 10 December 2024, 7.30–9.30pm

**Cuppa and company**, Thursday 12 December 2024, 2-4pm

**Gaelic Psalm Singing**, Tuesday 17 December 2024, 7.30–9.30pm

**Cuppa and company**, Thursday 19 December 2024, 2-4pm

**Carol Service**, Tuesday 24 December 2024, 7pm



## Contacts

**Minister: Rev Dr Tony Foley**

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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**

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

**Coffee drop-in and Cuppa & company: Mary Levison**

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**Session Clerk and Organist: Murray Campbell**

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

**Soup lunch: Nan Buchan**

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

**Treasurer: Anna Wolverton**

Telephone 01968 660 382

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

## Material for next issue

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