



CARLOPS CHURCH

In the community, for the community

Newsletter

Volume 19, Number 1; January 2025

Services, January 2025

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

:
12 January 10am : Murray Campbell
19 January 10am: Rev Dr Tony Foley
(Communion)
26 January 10am: Chris Levison
2 February 10am: Kevin Scott

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



Don't live the same year 75 times over and call it a life

I like that, don't you?

Each New Year is full of things that have not yet been and might never be. But a lot of what will be, will be determined by the decisions you and I make. In other words, a lot of what this New Year brings will be determined by what we bring to it. Every New Year we walk through our lives with our New Year resolutions as though we were walking through a house with a list of repairs and improvements. In other words, doing maintenance on what already is and has been. Maybe this year we could try focusing not on our faults and lacks and focus instead on our potential. I like what Emerson said, *'The person you are destined to become is determined by the person you decide to be.'*

So, what kind of person are you going to be in 2025? What kind of good things will you decide to bring into being in the lives of others by the decisions you make? Every one of us has the power to make a positive difference in somebody else's life in 2025, we just have to decide to make, and maybe be that difference. According to St Paul in one of his letters God has made it possible for us to make a positive difference in someone else's life by 'preparing in advance good works for us to do'. What are those good works God has prepared for you to do? To be honest I don't know, you will have to ask God about that. This coming New Year things around us may or may not get better, but we can be better.

I wish you and yours a peaceful and Happy New Year.

Peace,

Tony



Meteorological Miscellanea

First an update on the number of days without sunshine in the year. At the end of November we were in third place with a month to go. We now have a 30 year record of 87 with 3 days to go. That's almost 3 months! The dullest 3 years are now 1st 2024, 2nd 2012, 3rd 2023. We have to go back to 1999 for the lowest tally of 38. Note the bias towards the latter part of the period.

November 23rd saw Storm Bert blast through. The 7th December was shaken by Storm Darragh. During the evening of the 6th and through the 7th rainfall was 1.48 in (38mm). Sleet was sliding down the windows in the cold north wind. It was the wettest day since the 23rd of May. The total rainfall for this December looks like being about average at 4.5 in (114mm).

I hope all readers enjoyed a happy Christmas this year. It wasn't "white". It hasn't been white for 14 years now. It seems a long time since we enjoyed three consecutive white Christmases 1998-2000. In the last 30 years we have had lying snow on Christmas Day on just eight occasions. Santa had the mildest Christmas Eve on record – no ice hazard at 47°F (8.3°C). It was the third mildest Christmas in 30 years with 50.5°F (10.3°C). The mildest was 51.5°F (10.8°C) in 2011.

Well, it's not been much of a year most folk seem to agree. There have been a few nice days, let's be fair, and I was lucky enough to 'experience' the Aurora Borealis on 10th October – my highlight of the year. I wish you all the best for 2025.

Peter Woolverton, Pyethall

28 Dec 2024

News



Our Christmas Charity



The appeal raised a total of £525 for Women's Aid East & Midlothian. Reply from their CEO "Thank you so much! That's an incredible donation and will make a significant impact to our work. We are so grateful to the continued support provided by Carlops Church. I wish you all a restful and happy festive period. Please send my best wishes on to everyone."

Fundraising for children in Gaza, Sunday 8th Dec



Thanks for supporting Nico and Robin in their fundraising efforts for the children of Gaza. They raised £143.10 which was a great result for MAP.

Anna Woolverton

Mary's Meals Malawi - Collection at Christmas Eve Carol Service

A total of £303.40 was raised for Mary's Meals Malawi at the Carol Service.

Heartfelt thanks to everyone who donated to these causes

BEM Presentation to Murray Campbell



After the church service on Sunday 8th December the Lord-Lieutenant for Tweeddale, Catherine Maxwell-Stuart, presented Murray with the British Empire Medal for services to the Carlops Church and Community.


Gavin Marshall gave a glowing summary of Murray's hard work and the attributes we all recognise. A mention that there should be 2 recipients, alluding to Patsy of course, was roundly cheered! As always, we express our thanks to Murray for the energy he spends on church and community work.

Appreciation for he and Patsy led to a great turnout too!




Concert – Morag Brown and Lewis Powell-Reid Sunday 19th January 2025, 2.30pm

moragandlewis.weebly.com



Morag Brown & Lewis Powell-Reid




“notes like running water”
Irish Music Magazine

“phenomenal”
Celtic Music Radio

“wonderful”
BBC Radio Scotland

Join Morag and Lewis for an afternoon of traditional repertoire from Scotland to the Balkans and beyond, alongside compositions, sparkling improvisations, musical intuition, audience connection and a joyful spontaneity that digs deeper into the music at every performance.

Carlops Parish Church



Sunday 19th Jan, 2.30pm


Advance tickets: [trybooking.com/uk/EEXM](https://www.trybooking.com/uk/EEXM)

Full price - £12
Under 26 - £8
Under 12 - free

Tickets £12/ £8 (under 26) may be booked online via <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/EEXM> or bought on the night. Under 12s free.

Our regular events

(Please note that w/c 22nd Dec and 29th Dec these events will not go ahead)




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

Your help makes a difference

The new year is a perfect opportunity to say a huge thanks to every single person who has laid a table, served coffee, pulled a weed, arranged flowers, baked, washed and ironed, manned a stall, moved the chairs, shovelled the snow, made soup, given a lift, gone to the shops, not to mention the countless other things that happen from week to week.

It makes a difference to have this support. If you recognise one of your strengths in the list above, don't be shy – if you can lend a hand just consult the Diary and Contacts later in the Newsletter and let us know when you can help.

Words of encouragement come from a card addressed to Cuppa and Company before Christmas.

“Wishing you all a Christmas of fun, joy and contentment shared with family and friends, and peace and love in 2025! With grateful thanks for all your support and kindness.”



Messy Church will take place on the following Sundays at the New Church Hall in West Linton:

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

The Guild – January 15th 2pm Broughton Village Hall

Advance notice is given of the January meeting of The West Tweeddale Guild. On Wednesday January 15th at 2pm in Broughton Village Hall Nicola Campbell will be talking about 'Wanderings' which she has been developing as an alternative way of worship as folk enjoy walking in Broughtonknowe Wood. Come and find out more. As usual, we will begin with a short act of traditional worship, and end with tea and cake.

New events planned for 2025

In the next issue of the newsletter, I hope to be able to confirm dates and details for some Friday night talks that are in the planning stages.

We will welcome engaging speakers on a range of topics, so please do keep an ear and an eye out for updates.

The Column

(The following lyrics were written by John Bell of the Iona Community in 2015 and read as poem during the Carol Service at Carlops this past Christmas Eve)

If My Name Was Mary

If my name was Mary
(just sixteen with a child)
trying to flee my country
(a failed state turning wild)
-would you find a place for me?

If the town I came from
was today occupied
by a nation's soldiers
at whose hands my dad had died
-would you find a place for me?

If that nation's air force
dropped their bombs on my street
on the wrong presumption
that was where rebels meet.
-would you find a place for me?

If I'd learned *your* country
both saw and heard *our* plight

but yet remained persuaded
we were wrong and you were right
-would you find a place for me?

If the boat I paid for
was unfit to set sail
and if my seeking refuge
was now certain to fail
-would you find a place for me?

If my name was Mary
(just sixteen with a child);
if his name was Jesus ...

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

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

Gaelic Psalm Singing, Tuesday 7 January 2025, 7.30–9.30pm

Soup Lunch, Wednesday 8 January 2025, 12-1.30pm

Cuppa and company, Thursday 9 January 2025, 2-4pm

Gaelic Psalm Singing, Tuesday 14 January 2025, 7.30–9.30pm

Cuppa and company, Thursday 16 January 2025, 2-4pm

Concert – Morag Brown and Lewis Powell-Reid, Sunday 19 January 2025, 2.30pm

Gaelic Psalm Singing, Tuesday 21 January 2025 7.30–9.30pm

Cuppa and company, Thursday 23 January 2025, 2-4pm

Coffee drop-in, Saturday 25 January 2025, 10.30am-12noon

Gaelic Psalm Singing, Tuesday 28 January 2025, 7.30–9.30pm

Cuppa and company, Thursday 30 January 2025, 2-4pm

Gaelic Psalm Singing, Tuesday 4 January 2025, 7.30–9.30pm

Cuppa and company, Thursday 6 February, 2-4pm

Gaelic Psalm Singing, Tuesday 11 February 2025, 7.30–9.30pm

Soup Lunch, Thursday 13 February 2025, 12-1.30pm

Gaelic Psalm Singing, Tuesday 18 February 2025, 7.30–9.30pm

Cuppa and company, Thursday 20 February, 2-4pm

Coffee drop-in, Saturday 22 February 2025, 10.30am-12noon

Gaelic Psalm Singing, Tuesday 25 February 2025, 7.30–9.30pm

Contacts

Minister: Rev Dr Tony Foley

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Church Administrator: Kate Whalley

Telephone 01968 733 112

Email kate@westlinton.com

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

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Eco Group: Anna Woolverton

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Flowers: Hilary Watt

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Newsletter and website: Julie Gamble

Telephone 01968 661 042

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Session Clerk and Organist: Murray Campbell

Telephone 01968 660 530

Email d.m.campbell@ed.ac.uk

Soup lunch: Nan Buchan

Telephone 01968 678 352

Email nan.buchan@hotmail.co.uk

Treasurer: Anna Wolverton

Telephone 01968 660 382

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Material for next issue

To Julie Gamble by Saturday 25th January 2025