



# CARLOPS CHURCH

In the community, for the community

## Newsletter

Volume 19, Number 2; February 2025

### Services, February 2025

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

:

- 2 February 10am: Kevin Scott
- 9 February 10am: Rev Dr Tony Foley
- 16 February 10am: Fiona Burnett
- 23 February 10am: Peter Worthington
- 2 March 10am: Rev Dr Tony Foley

**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



## 'American Dirt' – books worth reading

*"This path is only for people who have no choice, no other option, only violence and misery behind you... Many will be maimed or injured. Many will die. Many, many of you will be kidnapped, tortured, trafficked, or ransomed ... every single one of you will be robbed."*

The quote is a warning from a local priest ministering to those in the 'migrant caravan' from South and Central America. It comes from a novel I recently read called *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins. The tale centres around a horrific tragedy that forces Lydia, a young mother and her 9yr old son to join the migrant trail from Central America to the USA. The novel challenges you to check your moral compass and is a powerful reminder of the value and importance of kindness. There is a very poignant part of the story that tells of when Lydia begs for a ride with a busload of young American missionaries. They are initially met with hesitant resistance prompting one character to ask, "Are they just drive-by Samaritans?" ... "Do they just want to make pancakes and take selfies with skinny brown children?"

The hesitancy of those responsible for the young group of missionaries is not one of callous indifference but struggling with the dilemma of weighing up the risk and their responsibility. The encounter causes Lydia to remember a time when before the horrific circumstances that forced her to take such a desperate pathway to a hoped-for safety, she too was only superficially aware of the plight of migrants. When she half-heartedly listened to news items and wondered with the "detached fascination of the comfortable elite, how dire the conditions of their lives must be wherever they came from, that this is the better option." This novel is not an easy story to read but it is one well worth reading. It is rooted in real life interviews with migrants and that is what gives the story its visceral impact. In the present climate it is a powerful reminder that every migrant is a human being with their own story of desperation and longing.

*'you have to understand,  
that no one puts their children in a boat  
unless the water is safer than the land...  
no one crawls under fences  
no one wants to be beaten, pitied  
no one chooses refugee camps  
or strip searches ... [No one chooses]  
prison, [unless]...  
prison is safer  
than a city of fire.'*

Peace,  
Tony



## Meteorological Miscellanea

I woke at 2.45 to the sound of sleet on the Velux window. I knew that Eowyn was on the doorstep, then came the rising of the wind. It was time for some explosive cyclogenesis, a 'weather bomb'. We had been told to stay at home, there were to be no buses. It was to be an ugly day but let's start with Hogmanay.

31<sup>st</sup> December was wet, 1.3 in/29mm, the second wettest day of the year. The Carlops Burn was up. The year was the 8<sup>th</sup> wettest in 29, with 52.16 in/1325mm. The evening of the 31<sup>st</sup> was dry and mild (47°F/8.3°C), but windy. Edinburgh cancelled, Carlops did not.

New Year's Day was wet – 0.82 in/21mm – rain turning to snow, lying snow. The next 10 days were wonderful for winter lovers with more snow, and more sunshine than in the whole of December. Four of those had wall to wall sunshine. The Pentland Hills turned pink with each sunrise and sunset. Six days were "sub-zero". I recorded a minimum of 17.5°F/-8.1°C on the 10<sup>th</sup>. The following day Altnaharra in Sutherland recorded -18.96°C/-2°F – the coldest January night in 15 years.

On 13<sup>th</sup> January we got the big thaw and Carlops Burn was up again. Did anyone see the orange moonrise on the 17<sup>th</sup>? Snowdrifts by the A702 and on the Pentland Hills lasted until the 20<sup>th</sup>. Then we had a dull but dry spell until the arrival of Eowyn.

Eowyn was well publicised and well forecast – even a brief sunny spell around 3pm materialised. Southwesterly winds gusting to Beaufort Force 12 were to last for 12 hours. Force 12 is the highest figure in the Beaufort Scale – hurricane force. Drumalbin, which is just 20 miles from Carlops to the NW of Tinto, recorded 101mph. Stronger gusts were recorded in Ireland. As the storm peaked in mid-afternoon, the roar was awesome, the bending of the trees remarkable. You will all have your own tales to tell –

our greenhouse was demolished and two Scots Pine trees in our wood were flattened but at least we still have a roof over our heads.

*Peter Woolverton, Pyethall*

*25 January 2025*

## Global wind map

This is a very interesting webpage for weather watchers.

The wind map is mesmerising!

Click anywhere on the map to see wind speeds and direction or click on 'earth' at the bottom left to see other modes such as ocean currents, waves, CO2 levels and a map of the auroras.

You can go forward and backward in time too.

Zoom out to see the bigger picture, and click and drag to rotate the globe.

[earth :: a global map of wind, weather, and ocean conditions](#)

# News



## New events - Our Village Talks

### Monthly talks and a chance to chat

We are delighted to announce a programme of monthly talks drawing on expert speakers from the community of Carlops and the wider world. We aim to bring you talks of interest and relevance to our neighbourhood and beautiful surroundings, as well as a chance to chat and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee. Talks will take place at 7.30pm on the second Friday of each month.

Suggested donation of £5 to attend a talk.

### Raising funds for Malawi

As well as bringing you evenings of interest, we hope to raise funds for local charities and for Malawi. The country has faced famine and food insecurity in recent months. We are hoping to raise funds towards a kitchen space and two pit latrines as a contribution to a village hall. The hall will be used for early years learning and for vaccination programmes for children.

We will present a visual display of our progress with fundraising efforts to keep you updated.

### 2025 events

#### **Friday 14th February, 7.30 pm *Can we slow ageing?***

Professor Tara Spire-Jones from the University of Edinburgh will present on developments in understanding the brain and reversing neurodegeneration caused by diseases such as Alzheimer's.

**Friday 14th March, 7.30 pm *Love Plants?*** Rona Dodds will talk about creating Quercus Garden Plants, a beautiful garden centre at Macbiehill which specialises in hardy plants for our Pentland Hills climate.

**Friday 11th April, 7.30 pm *The Philosophy of Rudolf Steiner*** Colin Third and colleagues will talk about the philosophy of Rudolf Steiner and how his gentle approach influences the care of adults with learning disability who live at Garvald West Linton.

## **New readings and prayers rota**

Murray has produced a new readings and prayers rota running up to end of May 2025. If you're on there you will have received an email.

If you'd like to be added to the pool, please let Murray know.

Thanks to all who contribute in this way.

## **Pudding night at Newlands Church, Friday 7<sup>th</sup> Feb 6.30pm**

You are warmly invited to our Pudding Night on Friday 7th February at 6.30 in Newlands Church. As you know we serve soup and bread, and everyone brings a pudding to share. There will also be a raffle in aid of Shelter Scotland.

Tickets are £5 a head and children under 12 are free. It's always a fun evening and the puddings are amazing! I really hope that you can come. If you do want a ticket can you let me know in the next week or so as tickets tend to go quickly.

Jean Howat  
(01968 660677) [howatjean@gmail.com](mailto:howatjean@gmail.com)

## **Heriot-Watt Chaplaincy Annual Public Lecture 2025 - Are Humans Unique? Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb 6.15pm – 8.15pm, James Watt Centre, Heriot-Watt campus**

A neuroscientific exploration of mind, soul and consciousness  
with Dr Sharon Dirckx.

Each year, the Chaplaincy hosts an annual public lecture that looks at a current issue or scientific development and explores the relationship of science and faith. Are they mutually exclusive, or might they combine to offer deeper insights into the world as we know it?

This year, we are delighted to welcome Dr Sharon Dirckx, speaker, author and former brain imaging scientist, to give the lecture.

Dr Dirckx will consider different philosophical and scientific approaches to the essence of humanity. Taking a materialist approach to mind, soul and consciousness; realising that matter is not all you need to explain everything about understanding humans. She will show how clinical neuroscience shows a complex picture together with theological considerations.

The lecture is **free** and open to the **public** and will be interpreted into **British Sign Language (BSL)**.

If you would like to attend, please follow this link to register on Eventbrite : <https://bit.ly/4gNW28O>



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

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)

## Our regular events

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






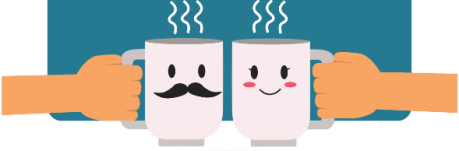
**Monthly Drop in  
Coffee Morning**

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

**Cuppa &  
Company**



**Carlops Church  
Thursdays  
2-4pm**



*Caelic Psalm Singing*

**Weekly on a Tuesday**

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

# The Column

## ***A lovely prayer from the Armstrong children***

Dear Lord,

Thank you for the world.

Thank you for night and day.

Thank you for heat and cold and all the seasons.

Thank you SO MUCH for the snow!

Thank you for flowers, and for trees to climb.

Thank you for hope.

Thank you for all the water and food and shelter.

Thank you for books that tell us about the world.

Thank you for all our friends and family - our grannies and grandpas and uncles and aunties.

Thank you for our feelings - happiness and sadness and nervousness and being annoyed and excitement.

Thank you for love.

We pray for people who are unwell, please help them to feel better.

We pray for nurses and doctors.

We pray for people in troubling times, like in Ukraine and the Middle East.

We pray for people whose families are far away and they miss them.

We pray for people that don't have food.

We pray for people who don't have shelter, or toys, or other things that they need.

We pray for children who have less than we do.

We pray for people who have lost people that they love, and they miss them.

God please hear our prayers. Amen.

## 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 4 February 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**, Wednesday 12 February 2025, 12-1.30pm

**Cuppa and company**, Thursday 13 February, 2-4pm

**Our Village Talks, Professor Tara Spires-Jones on the subject ‘Can we slow ageing?’**  
Friday 14 February 2025, 7.30pm – 8.30pm

**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

**Cuppa and company**, Thursday 27 February, 2-4pm

**Gaelic Psalm Singing**, Tuesday 4 March 2025, 7.30–9.30pm

**Cuppa and company**, Thursday 6 March, 2-4pm

**Gaelic Psalm Singing**, Tuesday 11 March 2025, 7.30–9.30pm

**Soup Lunch**, Wednesday 12 March 2025, 12-1.30pm

**Cuppa and company**, Thursday 13 March, 2-4pm

**Our Village Talks, Rona Dodds from Quercus Garden Plants**  
Friday 14 March 2025, 7.30pm – 8.30pm

**Gaelic Psalm Singing**, Tuesday 18 March 2025, 7.30–9.30pm

**Cuppa and company**, Thursday 20 March, 2-4pm

**Gaelic Psalm Singing**, Tuesday 25 March 2025, 7.30–9.30pm

**Cuppa and company**, Thursday 27 March, 2-4pm

**Coffee drop-in**, Saturday 29 March 2025, 10.30am-12noon

## Contacts

**Minister: Rev Dr Tony Foley**

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**Church Administrator: Kate Whalley**

Telephone 01968 733 112

Email [kate@westlinton.com](mailto: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](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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**Treasurer: Anna Woolverton**

Telephone 01968 660 382

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

## **Material for next issue**

To Julie Gamble by Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February