

# THE VILLAGE HUG



Connecting Community Creatively

Issue 10 – 26<sup>th</sup> June 2020

“God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble.”

*Psalm 46, Verse 1*

**The Village Hug is a newsletter created by the young folk of Torrance Parish Church as a gift to the people of Torrance during the Coronavirus Emergency.**

**Please pass on this PDF to others who may enjoy it and print it off for people not connected by email or Facebook (whilst taking the appropriate social distancing precautions of course).**

**If you have any ideas for future content then please contact us at [thevillagehug@gmail.com](mailto:thevillagehug@gmail.com)**

## INTERVIEW – *International Development with Geoff Burns*

Have you ever felt helpless when you see images of poverty, hunger and deprivation in developing countries?

While we have this in some measure in the UK, it is relative, because in the end of the day we have a welfare safety net and free health care. Neither is present in most developing countries. This means that employment or work related income is the only way out of poverty there. About 700 million people live on less than 80p a day (extreme poverty). Another 2 billion (60% of the world's work force) are self-employed, under-employed or in the 'informal' work sector, and most of these live on under £5 a day, and are poor by our standards.

What is done about this? Aid is good, but it creates dependence, is limited, and is calculated to be less than the loss of income to the developing world resulting from world trade protections, and tariff barriers (unfair trade). An alternative is development investment (also known as 'sustainable' or 'impact' investment). This is where the expansion risk of small and growing businesses is shared through loans or equity (which leads to new jobs created). To get at even smaller entities, *eg* the 2 billion people above, micro credit institutions lend very small amounts, as low as £50, for instance, (to buy a sewing machine, solar battery charger, or stock for a food stall) to individuals to enable them to run tiny businesses which lift them out of extreme poverty. The lockdowns associated with Covid-19 mean that the income of most of these people stops dead, pushing many more into extreme poverty.

My job is to support investors in development investment (mostly governments and foundations because the risks are so high), and over the years I have worked in 45 countries helping to set up channels for this into small businesses and micro credit. But what can WE do from HERE to make a difference? There are now many products that are marked Fair Trade, and these pass more of the price you pay back to the farmer/producer by buying more directly from them, rather than through the global food supply chains. Apart from what you see in the supermarket we have local fair trade sources which you can support by purchasing from Gavin's Mill in Milngavie (formerly Balmore Coachhouse) <https://www.gavinsmill.org/>, or by donation to the likes of Traidcraft <https://www.traidcraftshop.co.uk/>. Another is Just Trading Scotland <https://www.totalgiving.co.uk/appeal/JTSsupportingourproducers> which is part of the Balmore Trust.

Tearfund is more of an aid provider. It has a very effective approach of distributing to projects via local churches in country, thus removing the expensive cost of Westerners doing the delivery. <https://www.tearfund.org/>. You can also do your own micro credit, giving as little as £20 to be lent to micro enterprises through Kiva. You can choose who, what and where you are lending to, and will hear back how they get on. <https://www.kiva.org/>

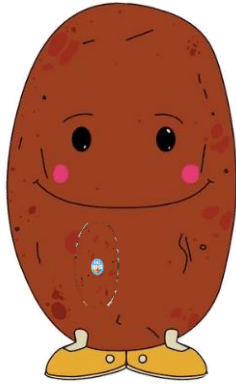


## People

Name these people who have become part of our lives over the last few months.



1.



2.



3.



4.

## Places

Name these places which have become important in recent times.



5.



6.

## Phrases

Complete these phrases and words that have come into common use since February.

T \_ \_ \_ W N \_ \_ \_ A L

7.

W \_ R K \_ \_ G \_ \_ R O \_ \_ O \_ E

8.

C L \_ \_ \_ O \_ \_ A \_ E \_ S

9.

\_ \_ O C \_ A \_ \_ I \_ \_ A \_ C \_ \_ G

10.

T \_ O \_ \_ \_ T \_ E \_ R \_ \_ E

11.

P \_ R \_ I \_ T \_ N T \_ \_ O \_ G \_

12.

# CIRCULAR WALK VIA THE STEPS OF KELVIN *by Dora Black*

This walk starts at the roundabout next to the garage on Main Street. Turn left to where the walk alongside the river Kelvin begins. Cross the road and enter the path via the walkway.

Follow the course of the river until you come to the bridge. There hasn't always been a bridge here. There used to be stepping stones, but as the river was prone to flooding the stones were vulnerable to displacement during storms and were often covered in water.

My father remembers carrying his bike across the river via the stones back in the 1930s. In 1809 William Muir wrote a poem inspired by the losses farmers suffered at seed and harvest times when the river would flood. The first verse is shown below.

Once across the bridge follow the path until you come to the houses on the Old Balmore Road. Turn right until you come to Balmore Road. Turn right and head back towards Torrance.



## **KELVIN KEEP LOW.**

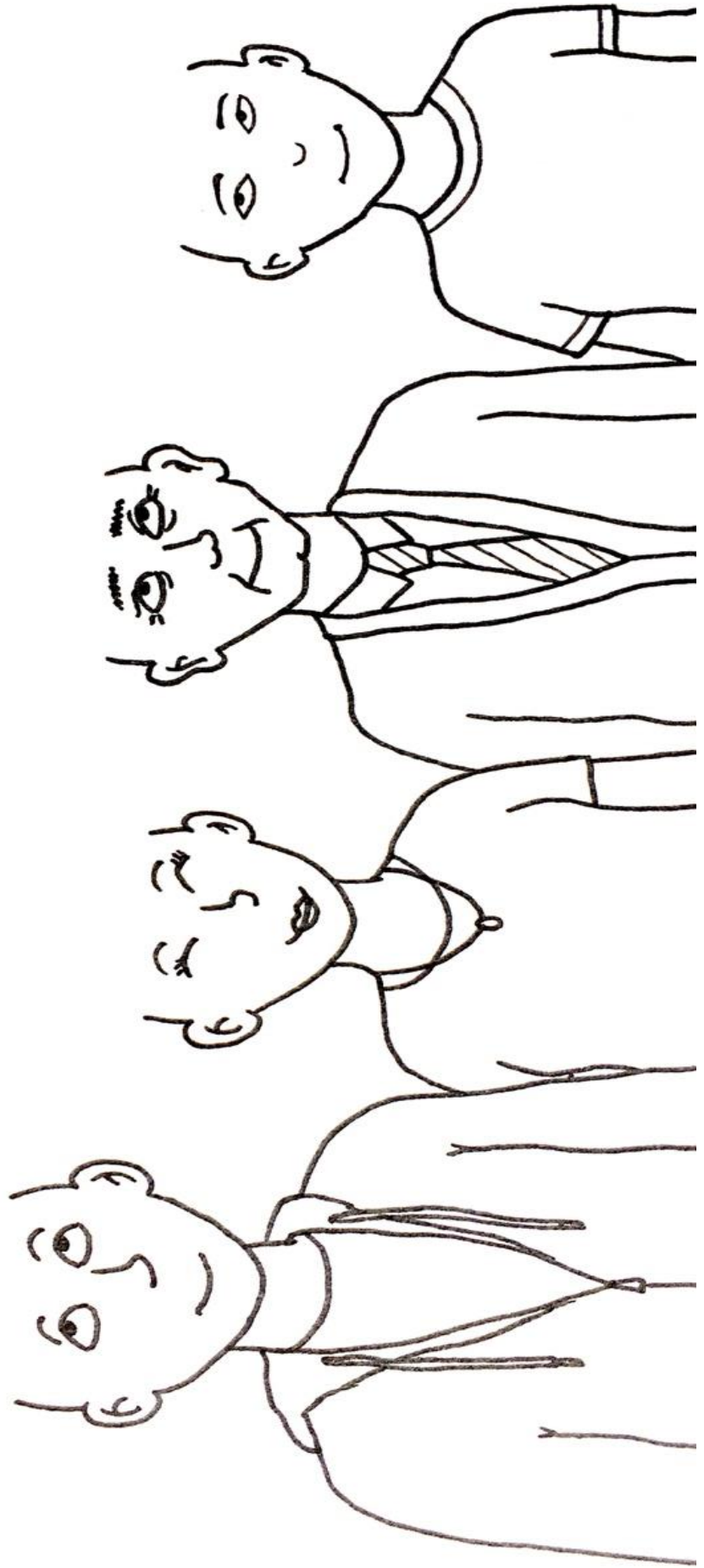
An invocation to that River, wrote during a heavy fall of Rain.

13th August, 1809.

**THE** rain pours in torrents, the soil is afloat,  
A rapid stream runs ev'ry rill,  
Its ancient limits the brook has forgot,  
A liquid sheet covers the hill.  
The crops in the vallies dejectedly weep,  
A deluge seems working their woe,  
Already the furrows brimful are, and deep,  
Then **Kelvin**, I pray thee **keep low**.



It's been a while since hairdressers and barbers have been open, so people have been cutting their own hair. Design some lockdown haircuts for this bunch and colour them in! Send in your finished designs to [thevillagehug@gmail.com](mailto:thevillagehug@gmail.com)



"I'll maybe think about getting some bees" - a throw away comment I made after watching a programme on the decline of bees in the UK. Several weeks later along came my birthday and with it a beehive from my husband and a "Beekeeping for Dummies" book from my brother in law, Bill! It was too late in the year to get a swarm of bees, so they were duly ordered for collection the following spring.

That probably all sounds a bit of a rash thing to do but it's not quite as bad as it seems because I had been brought up with bees. My grandpa Sutherland had several hives at Ferguslea and I was about 12 when the bees moved down to our house. I remember being tasked with sitting in the back of a van holding onto the hives to make sure they didn't fall over as we made our way down through the village, and yes, the hives were full of bees at the time! Fortunately, the event passed off without incident and for about the next 15 years we had bees at the bottom of the garden.

Having read the book Bill gave me, I realised I wasn't as much of a "dummy" as I thought I was. Crown board, supers, brood boxes and porter escapes all sounded very familiar. Obviously over the years and without me realising, my child brain had soaked up what dad and grandpa had been telling me as I watched them go through the hives and I had stored it all away just for this moment!

That was 7 or 8 years ago and since then beehives have been a fixture in our garden. Strange as it may seem, going through a hive of bees is a very calming experience. Like most insects, bees like to keep themselves to themselves and only get upset if they feel under threat. The trick is to remain calm and move very slowly. Rush things, and they get stressed and frightened. Being stung is a bit of an occupational hazard but on the odd occasion when that has happened, it has been my own fault.

From May to August the bees are at their busiest. Each bee will live for 6-8 weeks and in that time, it's estimated they will fly up to 375 miles in search of pollen. Given that it takes about 12 bees to produce a teaspoon of honey, please make sure you use every last drop from the jar. You could easily be throwing away a lifetime of work if you don't!

September is the time to harvest the fruits of the bees' labours. Depending on the weather over the summer each hive will produce 12-18lbs of honey. It's important only to take the excess honey. The bees have worked hard all summer to build up their stores to see them through the winter months, so it's vital to make sure they have plenty left for themselves.

Bees hide away for the winter months. They huddle round the queen in the centre of the hive to keep her warm and move from the inside of the huddle to the outside in the same way penguins do. However, come March or early April, as the sun comes out and the flowers open up, the bees emerge, and the annual cycle starts all over again.

### How to help bees and insects

Try planting bee friendly flowers in tubs or straight into the ground. Most seed packets will state if the flowers will attract bees or butterflies.

Insects need water to drink but can drown in the deep water of a bird bath or even a puddle. Put small stones in a shallow saucer and add water making sure the top of the stones is left uncovered and dry. The insects can then land on the stones and drink the water without having to swim!

If a bee buzzes round you, try not to swipe at it or flap your arms. It really isn't interested in you and doesn't mean any harm. Stay still for a few seconds and it will happily fly away! If you are unlucky enough to be stung by a bee, remove the sting with tweezers if you can, mix some bicarbonate of soda with water and apply the paste to the sting. A bee sting is acidic so the bicarbonate of soda will neutralise it. Note, a wasp sting is alkaline so put vinegar on it.



### Bee facts

*-There are around 2000 known bee species in the world, with 270 different species of bees in the UK.*

*-A honeybee hive can be made up of up to 60,000 bees, although 40,000 is a more average size.*

*-There are three types of bee in the hive – one queen which is the largest bee, a relatively small number of male drones which are slightly smaller than the queen and thousands of female worker bees (the girls!)*

*Male bees, or drones, only exist to mate with a new queen.*

*-The queen can live for 5-6 years and is the only bee to lays eggs, up to 2000 eggs a day over the spring and summer months.*

*-Worker bees will fly up to 3 miles from the hive to collect pollen which they gather in sacks on either side of their body, known as pollen baskets.*

*-Honey production is similar to whisky – the product takes its unique taste from the area where it was produced. The area around Torrance produces a very light, clear and delicate honey, probably because of all the garden flowers in the village and surrounding fields.*

## CROSSOVER -INVITATION

Crossover is a youth club for children in P7 to S3, run by volunteers from Torrance Parish Church. During lockdown, it has been meeting online. **As usual, all P6 pupils are warmly invited to attend our end-of-term event. P7-S3 pupils are very welcome too, even if you haven't been before.**

Crossover is holding a special online transition event to mark the end of the school year. This will feature games, a craft-a-long activity and paper airplane competition. We will also have a special guest speaker!

It takes place using Zoom on **Saturday 27 June 2020 from 7pm to 9pm.**

To find out more, and to get a parental consent form, please contact the Church Office [office@tpc.org.uk](mailto:office@tpc.org.uk) or phone Iain Nisbet on 07774 545065



## CROSSOVER –WORD CLOUD

The young people in Crossover were asked “How would you describe the Coronavirus in one word?” Their responses are below. How would you respond to the same question?



You can travel short distances for outdoor recreation, but stay local – roughly 5 miles is a sensible guide – and where possible get there by foot or bike.

**KNOW THE CODE**  
 outdooraccess-scotland.scot

COVID-19

Physical distancing is crucial when outdoors.

Try to avoid busy paths or places. Be prepared to slow down or stop to help keep your distance.

**KNOW THE CODE**  
 outdooraccess-scotland.scot

COVID-19

Follow the Scottish Outdoor Access Code when you are out and about. Keep your dog under proper control, especially on farmland.

Don't let your dog approach people, livestock or wildlife.

**KNOW THE CODE**  
 outdooraccess-scotland.scot

COVID-19

Social distancing is crucial when outdoors.

Avoid touching gates as much as possible – plan a route without them if you can.

**KNOW THE CODE**  
 outdooraccess-scotland.scot

COVID-19

Take extra care to follow the Scottish Outdoor Access Code when you are out and about.

Avoid fields with young calves or lambs. Keep your dog under control, especially on farmland.

**KNOW THE CODE**  
 outdooraccess-scotland.scot

COVID-19

Follow the Scottish Outdoor Access Code when you are out and about.

Please respect others as you enjoy our outdoors and nature – take away all your litter and leave gates as you find them.

**KNOW THE CODE**  
 outdooraccess-scotland.scot

COVID-19

<https://www.outdooraccess-scotland.scot/practical-guide-all>

## ANSWERS TO THE SCOTS ON SCREEN QUIZ FROM ISSUE 9

1a. Montgomery Scot 'Scotty'  
 1b. Star Trek (1966-1994)  
 1c. James Doohan  
 1d. Canadian

2a. Connor Macleod  
 2b. Highlander (1986)  
 2c. Christopher Lambert  
 2d. French

3a. Shrek  
 3b. Shrek (2001-2010)  
 3c. Mike Myers  
 3d. Canadian

4a. Professor McGonagall  
 4b. Harry Potter Films  
 4c. Maggie Smith  
 4d. English

5a. Rob Roy MacGregor  
 5b. Rob Roy (1995)  
 5c. Liam Neeson  
 5d. Northern Irish

6a. Mrs Doubtfire  
 6b. Mrs Doubtfire (1993)  
 6c. Robin Williams  
 6d. American

7a. Robert The Bruce  
 7b. Outlaw King(2018)  
 7c. Chris Pine  
 7d. American

8a. Captain Haddock  
 8b. Tintin (2011)  
 8c. Andy Serkis  
 8d. English

9a. Montgomery Scot 'Scotty'  
 9b. Star Trek (2009-present)  
 9c. Simon Pegg  
 9d. English

10a. William Wallace  
 10b. Braveheart  
 10c. Mel Gibson  
 10d. Australian

11a. Jean Brodie  
 11b. The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie (1969)  
 11c. Maggie Smith  
 11d. English

12a. Groundskeeper Willie  
 11b. The Simpsons (1991 – present)  
 11c. Dan Castellaneta  
 11d. American

Outlaw King was partly filmed in Mugdock Country Park in Autumn 2017.

*Those readers who have been desperate for live sport to start again will have been delighted that the English Premier League has restarted, with a number of games announced on Free-To-Air channels:*

<b>Sunday 28 June</b>	Watford v Southampton (4:30pm), Pick TV
<b>Monday 29 June</b>	Crystal Palace v Burnley (8pm), Amazon Prime
<b>Tuesday 30 June</b>	Brighton v Manchester United (8:15pm), Pick TV
<b>Wednesday 1 July</b>	Bournemouth v Newcastle (6pm), Pick TV
<b>Saturday 4 July</b>	Leicester v Crystal Palace (3pm), Pick TV
<b>Sunday 5 July</b>	Burnley v Sheffield United (12pm), Pick TV
<b>Sunday 5 July</b>	Southampton v Man City (7pm), BBC 1
<b>Tuesday 7 July</b>	Watford v Norwich (6pm), Pick TV
<b>Thursday 9 July</b>	Bournemouth v Tottenham (6pm), Pick TV
<b>Thursday 9 July</b>	Everton v Southampton (6pm), Amazon Prime
<b>Saturday 11 July</b>	Watford v Newcastle (12:30pm), Amazon Prime
<b>Sunday 12 July</b>	Wolves v Everton (12pm), Pick TV
<b>Sunday 12 July</b>	Bournemouth v Leicester (7pm), Pick TV
<b>Monday 13 July</b>	Man Utd v Southampton (8pm), Pick TV



## PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Please join us as we pray each week for the needs of our Village.

*“Jesus*

*We thank you that you treasure just knowing and hearing each one of us and your greatest desire is for a real honest relationship.*

*We thank you that you do not back away when we cry out in fear, anxiety, anger and all manner of emotions that arise within us at this time.*

*May our ears be willing to hear your voice in the midst of our distress: 'Come to me all who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest'.*

*May that rest bring great peace and strength to us all.*

*Amen”*

Are you in need of help, prayer, to be listened to in confidence?

Please don't hesitate to contact the following number by phone call, WhatsApp or text:

**07788 797238**

This is a dedicated phone number, used only by the Prayer Ministry Team.



## SHORTBREAD RECIPE *from Liz Capie*

Read on to learn how to make 'Aunt Annie's Fool-proof Shortbread'!

### Ingredients:

6oz plain flour  
4oz self raising flour  
2oz cornflour  
4oz caster sugar  
8oz butter

### Method:

1. Lightly grease a tin. I use 12 in x 8½ in
2. Sieve dry ingredients into bowl.
3. Gently melt butter in pot.
4. Add to dry ingredients , mix with wooden spoon then use your hands to bring together.
5. Put into tin and using palm of your hand press and spread over tin.
6. Using your index finger go round the border pressing down.
7. Then using a fork go over the finger marks and then prick the mixture all over.
8. Bake in centre of oven for approximately 45 minutes or until golden at Gas Mark 3/ 325°F/170°C. I like mine a little darker and bake longer.
9. Cut into fingers in tin and sprinkle with caster sugar. Leave to cool before removing from tin.



Do you have a great recipe worth sharing with the Village? – Send it to [thevillagehug@gmail.com](mailto:thevillagehug@gmail.com)

## NEW SUNDAY MORNING VIDEOS!

## CHRISTIANITY|EXPLORED

### SUNDAY GATHERING 10:30-11.00AM EVERY WEEK DURING THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

During the Coronavirus Emergency you can listen to and watch a service using the Zoom webinar conferencing app. As a viewer you won't be seen or heard on screen at any time.

**During the summer holidays the teaching will be based on the 'Christianity Explored' videos which give an overview of Mark's account of the life of Jesus.**

<https://zoom.us/j/462751387>

The Meeting ID is: 462 751 387.

**OFFICE** Email [office@tpc.org.uk](mailto:office@tpc.org.uk) Phone 01360 620 970  
Website <http://www.torranceparishchurch.org.uk/>



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